

Climate Change Mitigation Advisory Group Report for April 2024

Completed training to run a Repair Café and will now aim to do so in mid-September (recommended lead time is c.3 months). To be advertised in the Roundabout along with a request for help with both organization and repairers.

Budget for Group agreed at April's Finance and Compliance Advisory Group Meeting.

Attended online Webinar for "A People's Microgrid". The idea would be to put forward a Local Area Energy Plan to generate and use energy locally thus avoiding energy losses in transmission. Whilst in essence this seems like a sensible idea, the scenario put forward, generating electricity using solar and wind power to be stored using a BESS (battery energy storage system) which could then be used by local people to charge electric vehicles or in a Village Hall, begged many questions. Funding and maintenance for example did not seem to have been considered by the speaker. Something to be aware of but not for us at present!

Attended Community Carbon Footprint Calculator Webinar run by The Centre for Sustainable Energy. This looked at the actions other parishes have taken as a result of calculating their carbon footprints. The most successful Groups are either small villages where everyone seems to be involved or those where the tool has been used to focus Neighbourhood plans on carbon reduction as ours has been and will be. Other keys to success are drip, drip, drip communication and holding several events over the year to raise awareness. This also recommended Carbon Literacy training for Parish Councils (as do NALC) so I have signed up to do this. <https://carbonliteracy.com/local-authorities/>

HDC are launching an Online Climate Hub which is a platform that holds an abundance of information about Climate and the environment relevant to Huntingdonshire. It is designed to "be a starting point for local people to find out about local Climate actions, how to join local community groups, find resources to help in applying for funding, celebrate what we are all achieving and so much more!" I have fed back to them and also asked if they would be prepared to make a short presentation at our Parish Assembly. I am awaiting a response to that request from their new Climate Coordinator who started in post this week.