

14 June 2021

**REPORT TO:** Climate and Environment Advisory Committee

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Cllr Bridget Smith

**LEAD OFFICER:** Head of Shared Waste Services and Environment

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## **Climate and Environment Fortnight of Online Events Update**

### **Executive Summary**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the recently held Climate & Environment fortnight of online events.

### **Key Decision**

2. This is not a key decision. The purpose of this paper is to provide members with an update on the Climate & Environment fortnight of online events held in February and March and to provide an opportunity for the Committee to comment.

### **Recommendations**

3. The committee is invited to review and comment on the update provided and agree the recommendation to repeat the Climate & Environment fortnight of events next year.

### **Details**

4. As part of the actions listed in the corporate business plan, Action C2 states to 'Work with partners to protect and enhance the environment with the aim of doubling nature' Holding a climate summit in quarter 3 was the measure put in place to fulfil this. However, due to the disruption caused by Covid, it was decided to hold a series of one-hour online events for the general public instead.

5. The free events, aimed at a variety of audiences took place from 25<sup>th</sup> February until 5 March to help people think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and in turn help tackle climate change.
6. In order to achieve the best possible results, we partnered with various organisations who were able to offer their expert advice and tips while also allowing for audience participation. This method of delivery did not require extensive resource to put on and demonstrates the benefits of online events in terms of Officer time and accessibility.
7. Feedback from all events has been very positive and to allow those not able to attend to still benefit, a recording of each event has been uploaded to the Council's [Nature and Climate Change webpages](#)
8. The first online event, **Open For Business Greener Businesses** was aimed at those people wanting to reduce the carbon footprint of their business while saving money at the same time. Chaired by the Council's Commercial Development & Investment Project Officer and expert panellists from Bouygues, Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership, Investors in the Environment and Peterborough Environment City Trust, advice was given including:
  - How to become more energy efficient through investment in capital infrastructure.
  - Case studies from businesses that have identified ways to reduce their impact on the environment.
  - What schemes are available across the region to help access renewable energy sources and reduce costs.
  - The environmental and social benefit of reducing carbon footprints and becoming more sustainable.

This event attracted 66 attendees and has since had 161 views

9. The '**Sustainable farming in Cambridgeshire**' organised by Carbon Neutral Cambridge was the most popular event- attracting over 500 attendees. Chaired by John Shropshire OBE, one of the commissioners of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Change, the event shared the experience of five commercial farmers from the Cambridgeshire region on how they are adapting their farming practices to help cut carbon and double nature. The event included a film (funding for which was provided by both the Council and the Combined Authority) which has been recognised globally achieving 1370 views. There was also a Q&A session to allow farmers, rural landowners and policy makers to find out more information.
10. '**Shrinking your carbon footprint**', from Cambridge Carbon Footprint was an event aimed at residents, which provided an opportunity for learning about carbon

footprints, reducing carbon emissions and living more sustainably. 33 people attended the event and the recording has achieved 77 views on YouTube to date.

11. Cambridge Sustainable Food presented **Food for our Future- Whose responsibility is food waste?** This workshop tackled the question of ‘Whose responsibility is Food Waste?’ and included talks, discussions and an update on their recent Food for our Future campaign which was funded through our ZCC grant scheme. 23 people attended the event with a further 47 people having viewed the recording after.
12. **School Streets- a greener way to travel**-was a lunchtime event, introduced by Councillor Bridget Smith and chaired by [Camcycle](#) who talked about their Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Transport Committee approved [School Streets scheme](#) (another project given ZCC grant funding), to encourage safer environments around schools to enable more people to walk and cycle on the school run. The event, which attracted 20 people and has had 82 viewings to date, covered what was needed to get schemes up and running and how to overcome obstacles.
13. The **Greening your older home, tips and inspiration** event was aimed at those people owning an older or listed property. In this event, The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service provided up to date [guidance](#), hints, tips and local case studies on making older or historic buildings more energy efficient, without damaging their historic significance. Unfortunately, the original planned event was hijacked by zoom hackers and needed to end abruptly. However, the event was rescheduled as a zoom webinar as opposed to a zoom meeting and ran very smoothly. The event had double the attendees second time around, with 65 recorded and has since achieved a total of 135 views.
14. When planning the fortnight of events, an initial idea was to include a **Young Persons’** event. However, due to Covid and safeguarding issues this proved quite a challenge. Instead, it was decided to signpost schools and communities to the work being done by the shared waste team in terms of providing talks to schools on reducing waste and recycling.
15. Recordings and information from the events, indicating the Council’s involvement were featured in the Solutions Fair part of the prestigious [Earth Optimism event](#), organised annually by Cambridge Conservation Initiative, which ran from 26 March - 4 April 2021. Figures for these viewings are shown below:

<b>webpage</b>	<b>Video views</b>	<b>Page views</b>
School Streets: a greener way to travel	13	44

Greening your older home, tips and inspiration	44	155
Greener businesses	17	80
Regenerative farming in Cambridgeshire	35	148
Shrink your Carbon Footprint	50	181
Food for our future	35	556

### **Options:**

16. Climate and Environment Advisory Committee could:
- a. Note the delivery of the Climate and Environment fortnight of events and/or
  - b. Highlight any concerns or comments
  - c. Agree to repeat the fortnight again next year.

### **Implications**

17. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

#### **Financial**

18. The events recommended are within the Council's proposed budget for 2021-22.

#### **Effect on Council Priority Areas**

19. Climate & Environment fortnight of online events has attracted significant interest.

#### **Growing local businesses and economies**

20. Investing in renewable technologies

#### **Being green to our core**

21. Supporting community groups to promote behavioural change and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels

22. Helping communities to secure grants to fund green projects

23. Protecting and enhancing the district's heritage and environment

#### **A modern and caring Council**

24. Funding community and voluntary groups that benefit local people

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