

NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

1 FEBRUARY 2021

Question submitted to Councillor J Kenyon, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Transformation and Climate Change from Anne Thoday:-

The North East Derbyshire Climate Action plan 2019 contains a promise to develop a Climate Change Communication Strategy. As we know good communication is a process of sharing information and also of listening to other points of view. I have been very disappointed in this council's inability to consult and listen to the people of North East Derbyshire on the subject of local climate action.

To date your communication with the public on the topic of climate change has consisted of one short online 'snap survey', an information piece in the 'News' publication on what individuals can do to reduce their carbon emissions and a one page climate change statement on the council website that has not been updated for a year.

You have previously used the covid pandemic as a justification for your lack of action in this area of public consultation but other local councils are successfully engaging with their local residents on climate action despite the covid restrictions.

Derbyshire Dales District Council is appointing a climate officer who will work with partners, businesses, residents and the wider community to influence positive environmental action. This council is has also welcomed involvement from 'The Hub' a group of residents who have come together to offer help and support to the Council in developing strategies to address climate change issues.

Chesterfield Borough Council held a process of public engagement earlier this year with a series of meetings where a cross section of local residents were involved in consultation about the development of the climate plan and they already have a climate officer in place. Chesterfield Council have created an active webpage sharing information about climate strategies and a long-term communications and engagement strategy is being developed with an emphasis on partnership and collaborative working. The council have consulted the residents group Chesterfield Climate Alliance on both the above actions.

As the North East Derbyshire Climate Action plan (theme 6 Community and Collaboration) clearly recognises the role of community engagement on this issue, can you explain how you propose to improve your process of consulting and working collaboratively with the wider community on this very urgent issue of the climate emergency?