

# **Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council**

**Full Council 29/07/21**

## **SMPC Climate & Environment Strategy**

**Agenda item 21/054 11. To receive a report and RESOLVE:**

- a. to form a Climate and Environment Working Party.**
- b. to formally respond to WBC to say SMPC are considering joining The Greening Campaign and need further information.**
- c. that the Climate and Environment Working Party will evaluate and make recommendations for SMPC to participate in Great Big Green Week, 18th – 26th September and that a decision on that recommendation to be taken by The Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice Chairman with a maximum budget of £500.**

## **Background**

There are multiple Climate & Environment programs and initiatives (district and national) currently running and this number will only increase as the focus on this critical issue intensifies. It seems that at present there is no body within SMPC with the responsibility of receiving and responding to relevant matters, resulting in SMPC not responding or deciding whether or not to take part in programs and initiatives.

SMPC needs to be proactive and responsive with regard to Climate & Environment matters. A dedicated Working Party would ensure SMPC is at least responsive.

In addition to the Working Party, there are two urgent matters that need attention:

1. Whether to participate in the Great Big Green Week (link for information below) which runs in September.

There is rich information available through the link. Although time is short the following indicates that participation should be viable:

- Events can range from small and simple (e.g . a bat walk) to large and complex (e.g. environment themed concert)
  - SMPC's role should be one of co-ordinator, not organising the events themselves
2. Whether to participate in The Greening Campaign (link for information below). WBC are pressing for a response. The information provided through the link is limited and therefore more research is required.

The Greening Campaign is a country-wide initiative to reduce carbon emissions and SMPC would liaise directly with the organizer. However, WBC will receive data on the carbon savings participating parish/town councils make through their actions, to include in their own measurements against their environmental targets. It is a Community based program comprises 4 phases each costing £50. WBC fund 50%.

## **Recommendation**

- Form a Climate & Environment Working Party
- Evaluate feasibility of participation in Great Big Green Week and make recommendations accordingly. Due to the tight timescales, the decision will be delegated to an Officer of SMPC, in agreement with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council. It is not expected there will be any associated cost but a budget of £500 is suggested as a precautionary measure.
- To inform WBC that SMPC is interested in participating in The Greening Campaign and require further information.
- Evaluate feasibility of participation in The Greening Campaign

### **Associated Documents/Information:**

Great Big Green Week	<a href="https://greatbiggreenweek.com">https://greatbiggreenweek.com</a>
Greening Campaign	<a href="http://www.greening-campaign.org">http://www.greening-campaign.org</a>