

## Open meeting of the Zero-Carbon Haddenham group 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 in Haddenham Village Hall

Kirsten Shaw opened the meeting by asking us to all imagine we were in a time machine travelling to the year 2030 – when in theory we would be a carbon neutral village. What could we see, hear, smell? What would the environment be like? Amongst other things people suggested were Ecologically managed land; Co-operatives; More food grown locally; more local shops and even pubs; Housing built to a better standard; The sounds of birdsong could be heard; and the smell of leaves again; no smell of car fumes but the sound of bicycle bells and more humorously it was suggested that we would still be talking about Brexit...

### reLEAF

Kirsten Shaw gave a talk on the reLEAF initiative whose aim is to double the tree cover in our parish. This is a Haddenham Parish Council supported project. Research suggests that if billions of trees are planted world wide it could have a big impact on CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere. Although there is little impact we can make on such a figure, we can show the way for other communities to adopt and create similar projects. Where can trees be planted? The Parish Council have some land and have responsibility for trees on their land. Roadside verges are the responsibility of Bucks County Council which will shortly become Buckinghamshire Council. Planting on verges would need their permission and the adoption of responsibility by the PC would be part of such permission. Private gardens are another option and also other privately owned land in the parish. Surveys of possible sites on public land will be needed and volunteers were invited to survey areas of the village for potential planting locations. Survey parameters were described – and an example was shared and has since been put up on the Zero-Carbon Haddenham website. An example plan of a site was shown. Kirsten invited those who wished to form a steering group for the project as all sorts of input will be needed in the areas of communication, planning, negotiation, fund-raising, seeking grants and liaison with other interest groups. Help is needed in these areas. Professional advice will also be needed around selecting and growing trees – a number of those present sounded notes of caution about the type of trees and locations:– native trees, ones thriving locally are likely to be best but there will be also be a need for after care of trees.

So a small team of people is needed to run this project. A first meeting of a steering group was advertised for 11<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. Please contact Kirsten to get involved

### Woodland Trust 30

This is a project by the Woodland Trust for a big climate fightback – the aim is to get 1 million people to pledge to plant a tree by November 30<sup>th</sup> this year. Perhaps we can get involved in this? There are some mass events to plant large numbers of trees in certain locations. Alternatively donations can be made.

After a refreshment break

Paddy Ford presented 5 little things which people can do to reduce their carbon emissions

Transport focus

As Transport accounts globally for 14% of Greenhouse gas emissions, ZCH chose to have a particular focus of this subject to get ideas from those present about things which could be done locally to reduce these emissions

The meeting divided into smaller groups to consider different aspects of transport:

- Cars and electric vehicles
- Public transport - Buses and trains
- Cycling
- Walking

Some of the thought and suggestions were:

#### Cars and Electric cars (EVs)

Number of charging points is thought far too low to promote the uptake of EVs.

Community based rental of EVs.

Could all deliveries to the community be made to a central “Goods inwards” and redistributed to the rest of the village by electric vehicle?

Suggestion of a campaign to stop idling vehicles.

Suggestion of fines for parking on verges and pavements.

“School run” – persuade the children to walk.

Encouraging Car sharing using car sharing apps

#### Public Transport

Dissatisfaction with the Bus services – changes to the route not made with the community in mind but with the wider interests of Arriva seemingly more important. 280 service now thought very poor.

A Community bus – was proposed by a developer at one time but not taken up as it was thought not easily sustainable. One exists in Princes Risboro however . Need to provide local public transport.

Haddenham Safe Walking And Cycling Group – exists to promote walking and cycling and is applying pressure for cycle routes to Thame and Aylesbury. Push to promote cycling now – some significant obstacles in the village. Haddenham PC will be having a transport review.

Double roundabout is a ridiculous thing in the middle of the village for children to safely navigate on a bike.

20's plenty campaign – has a big impact on the safety of cycling in the village.

Survey of parents and attempt to reduce the cars on a school run. Cycling day/week in the village next June.

#### Cycling

Main theme was safety – potholes, reduce the speed limit. More no through roads and cycle routes – more of a strategic approach is required from local councils. Promotion of cycling to schools.

Encouragement of cycling in the village - Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group are already have a plan to further promote cycling.

Cycle maintenance workshop has been held at Cafeplus+ in the past and could be again in late Spring.

#### Walking

There was concern about the state of pavement and roads.

Suggestion for a footpath map of disabled friendly /pushchair friendly routes.

Suggestion that there is a need for footpaths on roads where development is occurring - Stanbridge Road for example.

Suggestion that roads be converted for shared usage – cars not having priority or priority deliberately left undefined.

Suggestion for car free days/afternoons.

Reduction of speed limits from 30 to 20 might have a big effect on emissions and a campaign is under way – and has been for some time – to get this accepted.