

KALC Meeting March 25th 2021

Inspector Elizabeth Jones. Dog thefts. Puppy Breeding. A problem across the country. Have carried out 2 warrants.

Catalytic converter thefts. Made 8 arrests on one day.

Burglaries from sheds and outbuildings.

Speeding. PCSOs being trained with speed guns. Wateringbury and similar. Do about 2 visits per month.

Operation Heart. Aim to increase patrols when people can go out to pubs again.

Question about electric scooters. Answer, report it if somebody doing something dangerous.

I mentioned e scooters in Walderslade, also fly tipping and drug taking in woods and rural areas.

Answer: Please report all incidents. Multiple reports justify sending officers out. As regards teenagers on e bikes, why are they not in school? Want to try and keep young people from getting into trouble.

Tricia Marcouse. Reading Climate Action Network Board.

<https://readingcan.org.uk> In their 3rd cycle of their Action Plan. The public bodies cannot change everything on their own. Reading would require £3 billion to make all their housing carbon neutral. There is not enough money to do this. Have been doing geological research re which areas are suitable for ground source heat pumps. Budget for Network is £30,000 which comes from solar panel installation. The council provides a free office and one part time member of staff. Volunteer members on board. Would like to be at least be able to offer expenses. This has not been achieved yet.

I asked if they had drawn up a priority list of cost-effective projects, perhaps starting with green building codes for new build houses and other buildings. Every journey starts with a single step.

Answer. We put a lot of work into the Reading Local Plan. She mentioned green building codes for new build houses and adapting existing buildings. I strongly agreed with this.

Robin Betts talked about his cheese factory and the TMBC Forum. He said there were 4 challenges. 1. Everyone to limit their energy use. 2. Make use of renewables. 3. Transport: Everything measured in KWh. 4. Tree planting. He asked if Reading had been able to access grants.

Answer. There is quite a lot of money within the community. Community projects. E.g. solar panels on community buildings. Community ground source heat pump. Small scale hydro. Oxford low carbon hub.

<https://www.lowcarbonhub.org> . 4% return on investment. Have projects ready for government grants. All government money presently going on Covid. Government is talking about setting up projects in which the private sector can invest.

Harry Rayner. Made the comment that all the projects Tricia mentioned are with Unitary Councils. Thought local government in Kent was too fragmented and inefficient.

Tricia said that she had a spreadsheet of projects and where each had got to. Complained there is no push from the public. Only about 220 activists. Need to educate through schools.

Harry Rayner. Asked Robin how we could include carbon neutral housing. Robin Betts said we could have been looking at carbon neutral housing. We may now get to revisit the local plan and could insert it. Sarah Barker has gone to developers at Kings Hill on this issue and they are responding.

Jenny Bate. Said TMBC had been very resistant on this issue.

Tricia said she has a carbon zero house. She said the first zero carbon houses were expensive but costs are now less and technology has progressed so they now cost about the same as conventional houses.

I was elected by 18 votes to 2 to be the climate change rep on the TMBC Forum.

I shall attend the quarterly Forum meetings and report back and represent the views of the parishes.

The setting up of a KALC climate change working group was agreed.

As regards the TMBC local plan, the inspectors cannot rectify the lack of cooperation of other councils at this stage. TMBC may be going to judicial review. Local authorities pursuing this strategy have failed against the inspectors on every occasion. The sense of the meeting was that going to judicial review would be a waste of time and money.

Fly tipping. Jacquie Westwood asked for statistics. Robin Betts said he would dig out the information. Said he was recently shown a particularly badly affected road. He had spoken to the Director of Street Scene. Cameras have been discussed but CCTV images show that fly tippers are using false number plates.

Tim Shaw said it the matter would be on the next Street Scene agenda.

Would anyone like to bring anything up at the next Parish Partnership Panel?

The ward boundaries are going to change.

The meeting ended at 10pm

Tom Shelley