

The Kings Langley Parish Council Environment Group report

The Environment Group met online several times during the year covering a range of topics with stimulating and interesting debate.

Local recycling has been a key topic and I am very pleased to welcome Melanie Parr to the meeting tonight to give us an insight of Borough climate emergency and sustainability issue.

The Parish Council has signed up to the climate emergency pledge and has recently installed solar panels to the parish office to reduce the dependency on grid energy. The Parish staff continue to ensure that the recycling of parish waste is a key priority segregating many of the office waste streams.

The Environment Group has been in direct contact with the Borough in respect of wildflower planting encouraging and supporting DBC verge wildflower planting plan together with reduced mowing.

Initiatives to improve recycling in the village have also been discussed including a promotion of the local supermarket scheme to recycle soft plastic sleeve packaging, carrier bags and crisp packets. Please use these facilities when you do your regular shop as every little helps.

The Group has discussed the provision of a drinking water tap for villagers and visitors to refill reusable bottles to discourage one-use plastic bottles.

Unfortunately, this one is going to take a lot longer to develop as early investigation has shown up various issues not least of which is a fear of contamination whilst we have struggled through the COVID pandemic.

Grass verges damage and erosion has been a challenging to say the least. The large verge area opposite the football club has been the focus of the Group which has resulted in a round table discussion between the Parish Council, Borough Council, County Councillor Richard Roberts and representatives of the football club. Whilst no final plans have been drawn up it has been agreed to reduce the parking with a physical barrier to give the grass a chance to recover. However, this is not the only verge parking hot spot in the village and cones are being placed in other areas around the village. Please do your bit and avoid parking on the grass verges.

John Ingleby is working to secure funding for a heat pump initiative using the canal as a heat inverter source. As we move toward the Net Zero targets set by

the government, we must all start looking for alternative energy sources. We all look forward to hearing more about this interesting initiative.

Councillor Alan Johnson has been working with Waterside and local schools to build bee boxes that will then be placed around the village to encourage more bees. There is already a great example in the village garden so if you get a chance pop down and have a look.

The Environment Group is keen to encourage recycling within the village and has instigated the sustainability and environmental achievement award. The award will be presented to the worthy winner tonight.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the Environment Group. Your keen interest and diverse ideas are very interesting.

Howard Button
Chairman Environment Group