

## **Report on WCA Progress 2020**

Thanks to you all for your actions and support over the past year. It's been an incredible journey.

### **The WCA Steering Group**

Wiltshire Climate Alliance has achieved a huge amount in its first year, as may be seen by the following timeline. Although WCA as an organisation is only one year old, its origin goes back more than two years, to before Wiltshire Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in February 2019.

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## **Secretary Report -Eva**

Wiltshire Climate Alliance membership currently stands at 307 individual members with 25 member groups from across Wiltshire. On our social media we have 368 followers on our public Facebook page, 136 members of the closed community group and 469 Instagram followers.

We currently have on average an increase of 20 members a month and hope to keep growing at this steady pace. We issue a monthly newsletter which includes relevant information about WCA topic groups, events & campaigns from members groups, information on Wiltshire issues and also national campaigns we believe to be relevant.

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## **WCA Treasurers Report -Chris**

One of the first challenges that WCA came across was to open a bank account. Since the pandemic started it has been practically impossible to open new banks and this has been particularly the case for business accounts which is type of account the WCA would require.

Thankfully, Wessex Community Action have agreed to house funds for us. This enabled us to open an account with People's Fundraiser so that we can raise funds and now have a 'donate' button on the website. This went live on 03/11/20 and since then we have received a total of £220.50 through 17 donations ranging from £2.50 up to £50.00.

Up until this point and expenses such as website hosting fees and zoom accounts have been absorbed by steering group members but future such expenses will be paid through funds raised. The steering group has authorised some payments to be made to enable WCA members to go through DBS checks as part of our safeguarding policy.

We have ambitious plans for holding events once Covid restrictions allow and funds will be needed to enable these become a reality.

## The WCA Journey -Bill

### 2018

#### November

WC Executive are asked to acknowledge a Climate Emergency by 2 young people demanding a commitment to get the County to net zero by 2025.

The Executive refused and a grass roots organisation started to move.....

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### 2019

#### February

WC voted to Acknowledge a Climate Emergency with a commitment to get the County to net zero by 2030

Throughout the year, various individuals continue to take the Council to task on lack of progress and act as critical friends to the newly formed Wiltshire Council Climate Task Group.

#### December

First meeting to discuss an action on 25<sup>th</sup> February, one year on from WC CE motion passing  
Agreed to have a wider meeting in January

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### 2020

#### January

- **First meeting** on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan in Trowbridge of 40 interested people, some representing 18 separate groups.
- **Outcome** -a plan for the 25<sup>th</sup> February action PLUS a name, selected by the meeting, for a new climate and ecological emergency group to be formed for the County

## Wiltshire Climate Alliance (WCA) concept is born

### February

#### ➤ 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary actions

After frantic planning and preparation and thanks to a concerted effort by lots of people, the action on 25<sup>th</sup> is a great success.

**Outside:** a samba band, marches, tents, renewable bicycle energy, placards, speakers to the crowd.

**Inside:** lots of questions to Council (took 3 hours) Thanks to Adrian Temple Brown for his brilliant co-ordination



March -membership 50+ /+20 groups

# WCA Annual General Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Report from the Steering Group



- **12<sup>th</sup> March -first meeting of WCA** on what we might look like as a group and how it should work. Covid was creeping up and attendance was small BUT we came out with the start of a vision.
- **By the end of March** we were on Zoom and developing ideas on how to get WCA into action. Our Vision, Objectives and Strategy were forming.

## April-May -membership 75+/**+20 groups**

**Zoom was our office; Mailchimp and Facebook our noticeboards**

- **A draft constitution**, approved by online poll, and what the group was about becoming clear; a group of groups and individuals all coalesced around our joint vision of a **climate and nature friendly, net zero carbon and ecologically sustainable Wiltshire by 2030**
- **WCA Committee (Steering Group)** was formally set up, with four members elected unopposed and four co-opted. Steering Group comprised Bill Jarvis (Convenor), Christian Lange (Treasurer), Eva McHugh and Jessica Thimbleby (Secretary job-share), Nick Murry, Brig Oubridge, Andrew Nicolson and Katharine Wale.  
Jane Laurie and Adrian Temple-Brown, who had both been prominent in the setting up of WCA, decided not to join due to pressure of other commitments. Big thanks to them for all their help.
- **WCA Vision and Strategy** was issued to members.

## June -membership 120+/**+23 groups**

- **Things are taking off.** Meetings with the Council, WCA Newsletter kicked off
- **First big workshop** planned with Wiltshire Council Councillors and Officers
- **WCA Website went live** <https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/>

## July -membership 150+/**+23 groups**

- **Poppy Taylor joins Steering Group** as Youth representative.
- **Jessica and Katharine** both step down due to personal circumstances. Thanks for all their efforts.
- **First WCA Topic Group** To focus on specific areas of climate and ecological impact. We started with the two biggest CO2e emitters in the County. **-Energy** was the leader.

## August-October -membership 200+/**+25 groups**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Monthly Members meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> August -over 50 people attended**



- **WC-WCA Workshop.** Excellent comms with both Councillors and Officers of the Council. 50+ attendees
- **WCA Youth started up**
- **2nd Topic Group.** Energy and **Transport,**
- **Writers Group** set up to develop articles, general and specific about climate and ecological issues.

## **November-December -membership 250+ /+25 groups**

- **WCA Youth now** 50 strong, with its own identity and developing a youth meeting schedule, with Sustainable Talks
- **WCA Youth Group-WC** workshop took place in November with 40+ attendees. WC Councillors and Officers attended.
- **Now 5 Topic Groups**; Energy; Transport; **Land Use; Waste and recycling; Business engagement**

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## **2021**

### **January -membership 300+ /+25 groups**

- **Up to 6 Topic Groups!** Energy; Transport; Land Use; Waste and recycling; Business engagement; **Sustainable Development**
- **Wiltshire Times:** Agreement with WT for a monthly WCA Environment page. Starts February
- **MP Meeting: WCA "Question Time"**. Zoom meeting with John Glen, Salisbury MP and Richard Clewer, Deputy Leader Wiltshire Council. Very informative

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## **2021 Annual General Meeting**

### **This brings us to our first AGM.**

Despite the difficulties imposed by the COVID pandemic, we have achieved a great deal and established a great team.

In particular, we have established a position of influence in regard to Wiltshire Council, and whilst there is still a long way to go, we continue to work forming closer links with the Council. A lot more needs to be done towards achieving its declared objective of seeking a carbon-neutral Wiltshire by 2030. And we need to be there, helping them to achieve that aim, supporting and challenging them through all our groups and business contacts.

## **Committee and Constitution**

### **Members of the Committee (Steering Group)**

Because we have taken on much more as the year has progressed, we are proposing to increase the size of our Committee (the "Steering Group") from 7 to 11, this including 2 places for Youth Group representatives.

We also ask Members to support giving the Steering Group (SG) the ability to co-opt additional members as it sees fit, rather than only when there is a vacancy.

These require a change to our Constitution. The changes are in the proposals [HERE](#)

### **Committee (Steering Group) appointments for the year ahead.**

The current members have all indicated a willingness to continue (if the AGM agrees), The proposed expansions of the Steering Group means there will be at least four more places to fill. At the moment we have had 3 people putting themselves forward, Julian Jones (Swindon CAN), Adam Walton (Transcoco). and Graham Martin (Sustainable Devizes). We would appreciate a Youth Group nominee also.

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## **WCA Topic Groups**

The Topic groups are vibrant areas for sharing experiences, discussion and support in the development of ideas and actions across the County.

Each Topic Group has a facilitator from the Steering Group as its lead but we also hope that other Topic Group members take on bigger roles in running those groups in the year ahead, helping to broaden and strengthen our overall organisation.

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## **Looking Forward to Actions in 2021.**

**We have 5 targets in the year ahead.** We'll be setting up focus groups to co-ordinate action across the County for all of them.

**Anyone who's interested**, please register on our website for any or all of them.

### **1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Wiltshire Council's acknowledgement of a Climate emergency**

This has already kicked off. More detailed planning on this in the AGM meeting.

### **2. Local Plan Consultation -Link [HERE](#)**

It's incredibly important that we respond constructively to the Local Plan consultation. We're developing a WCA response in the Sustainable Development Topic group, led by Nick Murry. Responses are due in by 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

It would be great if member groups and individuals all responded in, hopefully, a similar vein. A draft of WCA response will be put up on the website so you'll be able to plagiarise that.

### **3. Danny Kruger Climate Summit**

Danny Kruger, MP for Devizes, is holding a Climate Summit on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020. He is expected to bring other Wiltshire MPs to the meeting. Richard Clewer has been invited also. It's our chance to carry on the MP debate started in our Zoom meeting [Link HERE](#) to register. WCA and local Devizes groups have had an initial discussion with Danny about format and content. Sounds like he's taking some up, but we'll see.

WCA will be issuing more on this shortly.

### **4. Local Elections**

Although there is a chance that the local elections will be postponed, we need to start planning how we want to influence the outcome as soon as possible.

### **5. COP 26**

Plan at present is being developed to organise a COP 26 Festival event in Wiltshire. This would be before the COP as some might want to go to Glasgow, travel restrictions permitting.

WCA will be issuing more details in this shortly.