

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Chair: Peter Baranek

Website: www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Email: clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk



DRAFT NOTES of a meeting of the Matlock Bath Parish Council Climate Advisory Group held on Wednesday 24th July 2019

Present: Kate Gard Cooke
Sally Dixey
Peter Dargavel
Paul Richardson
Cllr Dave Mowle
Cllr Helen Keay

Different Groups - The Group discussed the different groups already active in Matlock Bath and what their roles/focus were. This includes the Parish Council, Matlock Bath Development Association, Town Team and the Pavilion Group. There were questions around how the Parish Council and MBDA differ and why the projects they have undertaken did not come under the remit of the Parish Council.

Cllrs Helen Keay and Dave Mowle to confirm but think the focus of MBDA is working with businesses, eg Heights of Abraham, Hodgkinsons, New Bath Hotel etc.

It was suggested that a mapping exercise would be useful to help the community better understand how all the different groups operate, what their focus is etc.

Air Quality – The Group discussed air quality in Matlock Bath. Peter agreed to investigate the possibility of an air quality meter but stressed the need to be cautious as we don't want to put people off coming.

Neighbourhood Plan – There is a lot of interest in this. The Group discussed why the neighbourhood plan had not yet been done. Cllr Dave Mowle explained the massive resource implications for the Parish Council. It was agreed to explore if anyone in the Community Group has got the skills to lead or assist with this or if there is an existing Parish Councillor prepared to take the lead on it. To be explored further. Everyone agreed that it would be a really useful long term tool for making Matlock Bath a greener village.

Allotments – The Group asked whether this could be explored again if there was enough community interest or has all possibilities already been explored.

Community Group – It was reported that so far there is a sub group looking at thermal water. The Parish Council Advisory Group and, it is hoped that a group of people, will form another sub group to look at businesses in Matlock Bath and what they could do. Discussion took place around the Community Group and how the structure will work. Further discussions will be required with the Community Group. Kate suggested that it could be possible for all the sub groups to feed into the Parish Council Advisory Group who could then investigate the routes and who to approach through the different authorities.

Tourism – The Group discussed what could be done to make Matlock Bath a greener destination, how to encourage more use of public transport and what businesses could do. It is hoped that if a business sub group is formed these are the sorts of things they could look at. Food waste and recycling is a big issue.

Subject to approval at the next meeting

Thermal Water – The report from Nottingham University which MBDA commissioned is due by the end of August. On the gov.uk website it states that “*Parish Councils have the power to utilise stream, well or spring water to provide facilities for use.*” This would require further investigation as to what it actually means. If using the thermal water proves to be viable then a business or organisation would need to be approached and the funding options looked at.

Social Media – It was agreed that a Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram should be set up. It was hoped to encourage some of the younger residents to do this.

Climate Event – A climate event was discussed to launch the group to residents and businesses.

Nature Reserve – It was discussed if it was feasible to have some allotments on the Reserve but it was thought not. However, it was discussed as to whether it would be possible for it to be turned into a Forrest Garden. There would need to be a lot of interest and volunteers from the village as it would involve a lot of work and clearing. Funding would also need to be sourced for fruit trees.

General – A final discussion was around the fact the climate change is an emergency but none of the ideas/plans are going to be a short time solution and will take time. Direct action and lobbying upwards are the actions that can have an impact quickly. It was suggested that the Group lobby neighbouring Town and Parish Councils that have not yet declared a climate emergency. There is already a Derbyshire Climate Coalition Group that the Group could look to join.

Action Points/Questions to Raise at Parish Council Meeting

- Mapping exercise
- Do we know where responsibility for air quality lies – DDDC or DCC
- Neighbourhood plan
- Allotments – is this something we can explore again or have all possibilities been exhausted?
- Climate event
- Is there any funding available for small grants for community groups

Discussion Points for Next Community Group Meeting

- Neighbourhood plan – Cllr Dave Mowle to give summary of the skills required
- Allotments – how many people would be interested (it is thought at least 6)
- Nature Reserve – would anyone be interested in volunteering to help maintain the Nature Reserve?
- Is there any interest in hosting a climate event in the village to launch the Community Group to residents and businesses and volunteers to help organise it?
- Lobbying local Town and Parish Councils to declare a climate emergency to help increase the pressure on DDDC and DDC.
- Social media
- Business sub group
- Funding – possibly
<https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-council/news-and-publications/latest-news/2124-funding-boost-for-dales-community-projects>
- How will the Group be structured/decisions be made.

Subject to approval at the next meeting