# **Notes of a meeting of the Greener Woking Working Group**

Held on 18 September 2023, virtually via Teams

## **Woking Net Zero Climate Change Strategy**

The Woking Net Zero strategy was presented as a follow-up to the Woking 2050 strategy which had been adopted in 2015.  The Greener Woking Working Group and the Executive received a draft copy of the strategy in February and March respectively, which was followed by a six-week public consultation in May and June 2023.

Residents and stakeholders had the opportunity to review the strategy and fed-back views online via the Woking Community Forum and roadshow events. The consultation had informed the direction of the strategy and helped to further develop its themes and actions. This also provided opportunity for awareness raising on local climate action.

## **Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP)**

A verbal update was made including the following projects being undertaking by Council.

* + The energy monitoring software system Energi Raven pilot was continuing;
  + The identification of a new energy contract for communal areas of council owned housing stock;
  + Identification of locations for additional secure cycle storage close to Woking Railway Station, funded by the Council’s successful bid to South Western Railway’s Customer and Communities Improvement Fund;
  + Various works regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points.

It was reported that the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) would be considered by the Local Development Framework Working Group on the 13 November 2023 and then brought to the Greener Woking Working Group meeting on the 15 November 2023, ahead of consideration by the Executive on 16 November 2023.

Surrey Environment Partnership had launched a new waste reduction initiative, Rethink Waste, in partnership with Green Redeem.  Surrey residents could win prizes for reducing waste.

## **Planet Woking Wildlife Gardening Guide**

The Wildlife Gardening Guide was inspired by a Planet Woking presentation given by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) entitled ‘Invisible Gardens Wildlife Havens’.  The guide had been put together following a resident request for advice and guidance on best practice for gardening specifically to encourage biodiversity. It includes tips on how to garden to promote biodiversity, whilst also adopting eco-friendly and low carbon gardening practices.

The guide was subject to public and stakeholder consultation during summer 2023, feedback from which had been incorporated into the final document.

## **ThamesWey/Action Surrey Update**

The HUG1 (off gas) phase of the Sustainable Warmth grant scheme closed in April 2023, marking the end of another successful wave of energy efficiency retrofit for low income households in Surrey.  Work is still ongoing on the ‘LAD3’ phase of Sustainable Warmth with installations continuing until September.  The project would be fully closed by November 2023.

The HUG2 scheme for off-gas low income properties opened in May.  A total of 150 applications had been received to date for the scheme.