

Sustainability Forum: 22nd October 2024

Theme: Environmental Strategy Annual Report

The evening consisted of a presentation with question and answers. The presentation is attached.

The next Sustainability Forum will be on the evening of Wednesday 5th March 2025 (6:15pm for a 6:30pm start). Please add the date to your diary.

Update since 10th July meeting:

- The Green Spaces Strategy consultation, which we had a presentation on in July, is now complete.
- St Mary's Church ran a successful Eco conference on 5th October.
- The Council held a successful first Sustainability Symposium on 8th October.
- Veolia has launched their Schools' Orchards programme. Applications are open until 8th November for schools who would like to create an orchard as a school resource. For further information: <https://www.veolia.co.uk/veolia-orchard>

Environmental Strategy: Addressing the climate and ecological emergency – Annual report 23/24

Please see the attached presentation. If anyone would like to discuss the contents of the annual report or would like a presentation to their local group as part of an approach to encourage people to take action, please email sustainability@watford.gov.uk

The Executive Summary, full document and associated documents will be included on the Watford Council website. In the meantime, the documents can be found at: <https://watford.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=4878&Ver=4> see item 33 and attachments. For ease, the Executive Summary is also attached.

Questions included:

- A request for information and costs of work for the Town Hall Decarbonisation works
 - Information on this can be found <https://www.watford.gov.uk/news/article/402/town-hall-and-colosseum-s-better-energy-efficiency-and-solar-panels-advance-net-zero-goals> and <https://www.watfordtownhallquarter.com/carbon-neutral>
- What is happening to the museum building, Benskin House?
 - See <https://www.watfordtownhallquarter.com/faq>
- What is the evidence of climate change locally?
 - Information on a local weather collected by Rothamsted Research, from data in Harpenden and Silsoe, can be found at: <http://resources.rothamsted.ac.uk/environmental-change-network/rothamsted-weather-charts#loaded>. Rothamsted have been collecting data for about 150 years and show comparison with 30 year averages.
 - Extreme years locally: <https://www.era.rothamsted.ac.uk/info/rms/extreme>
 - State of UK climate: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/about/state-of-climate>
 - Information on species change and loss
 - Change in species activity:

- plants flowering early
<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2021.2456>
- nature's calendar :
<https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>
- Hertfordshire state of nature report:
<https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/stateofnature>

Roundtable Discussion:

The roundtable session was not run due to the number of questions in the presentation section and time constraints.

AoB:

None.

Post meeting note: An attendee asked if they could see the document produced by another attendee Ms Clarke, which she agreed could be shared with the Forum. This is attached.