Item 5 refers

Question submitted by the public

1. QUESTION TO COUNCILLOR JONATHAN BATEMAN (PORTFOLIO HOLDER PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & WASTE)

Submitted by:

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Request for Information

I am sending this request on behalf of the Sustainable Harborough Community, a local organisation working together with environmental groups and concerned individuals in the Market Harborough area. Our aim is to effect change in relation to the Climate and Ecological Emergency at the individual, local, national and international level.

We are pleased to see that the Climate Action Group, originally set up by HDC in Dec 2019, but which has not met since March 2020, will be starting up its activities again on April 29th. We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

- Who will be on the group, and in particular will there be any representation on the group from individuals or groups other than councillors and officers of HDC?
- When does HDC hope to deliver a Climate Action Plan, including milestones and targets, that will achieve the commitment of reducing its own emissions to zero by 2030?
- What plans does HDC have to ensure all carbon emissions in the district, and not just those they are directly responsible for, will be tackled?
- How does HDC plan to ensure that residents of the district, and groups such as ours, will have the opportunity to have their thoughts taken into account as the Climate Action Plan is developed?

We do recognise that funding cuts, and reacting to the Covid Pandemic, have severely restricted the activities that HDC has been able to focus on in the last year. However we would now urge you to act with urgency in responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency we are all facing. We would also commend you to consider the Climate Action Plan recently published by Stroud District Council, which we feel acts as a good exemplar of what HDC could be aspiring to.