

Climate Emergency and Environment Working Group Sustainability and Wellness Weekend

1. Background

For the last two years, Calne Without Parish Council has staged successful Energy Saving and Local Environment Days, on 3rd September 2022 and 16th September 2023.

These events have included exhibitions from a range of green energy and environmental organisations, including WEC, the Heat Pump Federation, Armstrong Architecture, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Acon Needs Trees, Bristol Avon River Trust, Friends of the Marden, Calne Mens Shed, Sustainable Calne, Warm and Safe Wiltshire, Hedgehog Street, Potterne Honey, Eco Creations and the Wiltshire Scrapstore.

The exhibition has been accompanied by presentations and discussions on a range of topics. Both events have been well enough attended to be successful, with numbers somewhat lower in the second year.

A provision of £1,000 has been included in the budget for 2024/25 for a similar event.

2. Discussion

Although the second event was reasonably well attended, it was considered that something different would need to be done this year in order to sustain interest.

The Derry Hill and Studley Community Committee are also in the process of organising a Sustainability and Wellness Weekend in October. This is being planned as a similar event, with an additional “wellness” element, including the possibility of taster sessions, as well as with additional elements of litter-picking and bulb-planting.

It has been suggested that the Sustainability and Wellness Weekend is organised as a Joint Event between the Council and the Derry Hill and Studley Community Committee. This would have the advantage of drawing on the strengths of both organisations, and building on the experience and success of the previous events, whilst re-invigorating the format.

An initial meeting has been held between members of the Climate and Environment Emergency Working Group and the Community Committee.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Parish Council approves the principle of a joint Sustainability and Wellness Weekend, organised with the Derry Hill and Studley Committee. It is further recommended that the Climate Emergency and Environment Working Group is authorised to continue joint planning work and to return to Council in September with a budget for approval.

Cllrs John Barnes and Sue Deedigan
On behalf of the Climate Emergency and Environment Working Group