



DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

BACKGROUND

The intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) special report on global warming published in October 2018 describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to 1.5°C rise and reported that we have 12 years to limit climate catastrophe. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and subnational authorities, civil society, a private sectors, indigenous peoples and communities.

Local authorities have an important role in delivering carbon emission reductions, particularly in transport but also in other areas such as buildings as well as highlighting the wealth of medical benefits to public health. It is therefore easy to see that addressing climate change addresses all areas of public concern; from infrastructure, transport to health.

Councils around the world are responding by declaring a “Climate Emergency” and committing resources to address this emergency. The City Council states it is committed to tackling climate change and to making a major contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the city. Coventry was one of the first cities to produce a Climate Change Strategy. The City Council Climate Change strategy published in 2012 set a target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 27.5% by the year 2020. Coventry achieved this in 2014 (6 years early). The current City Council [Climate Change Strategy](#) for the City ends in 2020 and is now under review and needs to reflect current UK and global policy and the urgency of the climate crisis that we face if no action is taken. To strengthen the global response to climate change, 185 parties have ratified the [2016 Paris Agreement](#) which aspires to keep global warming between 1.5oC and 2oC and prevent the widespread effects of climate change.

THE PROPOSAL

That Keresley Parish Council declares a Climate Emergency.

In keeping with other councils nationally that have taken this step we suggest that our declaration would be more than a statement and incorporate plans to develop local actions. It is so important that all councils commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

In Declaring this climate emergency – Keresley Parish Council agrees to:

- a. Commit to an accelerated reduction of our carbon emissions with the aspiration to become a carbon neutral community by 2050 at the latest in accordance with Climate Change Committee (CCC) recommendations.

- b. To work with local partners to produce a carbon reduction plan and an action plan covering all relevant council strategies within the next two years.
- c. Create a task force to establish a green agenda in Keresley.
- d. To work with our local community to enable them to take all possible measures to match or better our efforts, and to support our community at both an individual and business level to demonstrate, inspire and share best practice – within the Parish and further afield.
- e. To work towards any future community buildings only using 100% renewable energy and lowest carbon where not possible.
- f. To focus on local key issues, including public and community transport, recycling, management of our own open spaces to protect and enhance biodiversity, and other areas where we have a positive role to play.
- g. To strongly encourage Coventry City Council, and departments within it, to act in accordance with wider international agreements relating to climate as an absolute minimum. For example – planning conditions for all new developments in Coventry, both residential and commercial, should be as close to zero carbon or passive house standards and include renewable provision.
- h. To help provide the necessary resources to deliver on this carbon reduction commitment, and to monitor and report annually on our progress.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS: WHAT WE WILL DO

A way of working to achieve our targets is perhaps simplest to organise our actions into three categories:

- Actions that will be best achieved by the Parish Council;
- Actions that can be championed by local community with special interest groups;
- Actions that could be implemented by us all as individual households.

The working group, when established, will seek to inform Full Council on actions that could be taken and by which category.

CLOSING STATEMENT

The above marks the first step that Keresley Parish Council will take in its effort to mitigate its impact on the environment. We endeavour to establish the task force as quickly as possible and will work with the group to support their recommendations where possible.

There are lots of websites and organisations offering ideas about ways we can save energy as individuals, and these ideas generally result in saving money and make your lives and homes healthier, convenient, and comfortable. Many actions are simple and cost free to initiate, such as switching off plug-in appliances when not in use or switching to a green energy supplier.

Over the coming months the Parish Council Facebook page and Website will include regular updates about actions we can implement in our day-to-day lives so that we can find support from friends in the local community as we all start to make changes.

Signed and agreed by Keresley Parish Council

Chair

Date