

General Questions
Separate to this event, would be possible for the participants to meet, sponsored by RBC and begin the process of making that Difference we are going to talk about today?
Yes. Rugby Borough Council would be keen to facilitate such an event.
Ironically, whilst listening to this I've just received a letter through the post regarding electoral register information. Is there a plan for this to go paperless?
Whilst this would be desirable, current legislation does not allow. Should legislation change, then Rugby Borough Council would like to move to a paperless system.
Question for Rugby Borough Council – doesn't having everyone responsible for responding to the climate emergency mean that no-one is?
The Council considers the Climate Emergency to be relevant to every officer and every department, requiring ownership across the entire organisation. Our Climate Change Strategy and associated action plans will provide clarity over responsibilities and accountability.
Can the Council publish a list of tree protection orders?
This matter is being progressed as a response to the summit, however there are several challenges which need to be overcome.
Questions Following Nik Spencer's Presentation
How much for a domestic Heru unit "ish" ?
The desire is that the technology comes in at a similar cost to other renewable technologies, so approximately £6,000
Many of the proposals made in the presentations appear to be based around the current model suited to modern society which is consumerism and buying stuff. Would it be appropriate in the near future, to work towards winning hearts and minds in changing the way we live and in what we value?
Yes, it would be appropriate, and the Council will support this, winning hearts and minds is key as is communications as seen during the pandemic. Nik suggested that we need to look more holistically, recognising the wider goals of society, such as valuing the resources around us.
How do we stand up to the mammoth challenges of COP26? Would RBC work with developers to display current technologies available to homeowners
It is essential that we engage and work with developers who are active in the Borough – to ensure that their climate change values and aspirations match our own. We can do this through relationship building and dialogue, but we also have the ability to set out requirements more formally. The Council would be keen that with partners, we should look into other suitable locations which can be used to demonstrate the current technology and environmentally sustainable solutions which are available to residents. HERU have a current planning application for 40 affordable homes integrating the HERU technology. If this can be delivered then this would provide a solid basis. HERU would be keen to work with RBC and developers and the Council's own housing stock.
Will HERU be able to use all plastics?
Yes. The HERU unit will take all plastic packaging
How long do you think before it will take to get this HERU system into people's houses in reality?
HERU aim to begin commercial production in 2022 Other frequently asked questions can be found at https://www.myheru.com/faqs/

Questions Following Ridhi Kalaria's Presentation
It would be great to aim to make Rugby a more 'liveable town' as outlined by Ridhi. Why was the Drive-thru McDonalds being built in the town centre permitted? There are several obvious reasons why this will not be good for the environment or the local economy.
The planning application was considered in line with local and national planning policy. It is not possible to comment further on an individual application
Do you have figures for the use of cycles purely for pleasure and exercise as opposed to cycling to get to and from a place of work?
A range of cycling statistics can be found via the following link https://www.cyclinguk.org/statistics
How might we win 'hearts and minds' with regard to encouraging more sustainable travel?
It doesn't have to be 'all or nothing'. We need to focus on the fact that every little helps and individual journeys taken in a more sustainable manner will help with the bigger picture. There are a number of schemes to encourage such changes for example 'the moment of change' where joint work can be done with businesses, schools and local authorities. We need to work together to help people to make small changes.
Warwickshire County Council recently asked local people to add comments to a local map with ideas about how to improve provision for cyclists and pedestrians. In what ways is Rugby Borough Council using this info?
The Council will ensure that such information is considered when producing a Climate Change Strategy and associated action plans. We will also progress discussions with Warwickshire County Council as a result of this Climate Summit
How can Rugby Town Centre maximise the opportunities of pedestrianisation and bus transport to ensure cleaner air around the Town Centre?
The Council is currently consulting on a Town Centre Strategy which will include measures to encourage sustainable transport. Through this consultation we would like to hear how residents think we could do more to encourage sustainable transport in the Town Centre. There are other initiatives such as the development of a parks connector network, discussions regarding very light railway and the development of a local transport plan, which will all serve to encourage more sustainable transport in the Town Centre.
Really safe cycle & walking routes to schools are vital for behaviour change. Many routes in our area are currently not safe enough for an 11 year old to use on their own or they are blocked by parked cars. Can Rugby Borough Council work more closely with WCC, police, Sustrans and others to make this happen?
Yes. Through the emerging Climate Change Strategy, we will be working with partners to improve cycling and walking provision throughout the Borough.
Where can you find out about planned improvements to the local cycle network, like the lias line between Rugby and Leamington Spa that was mentioned in the presentation?
Rugby Borough Council publicises such improvements when made aware of them. We recognise that more could be done regarding this and will take this forward as an action from the summit.
Is the council planning on doing anything for pedestrian safety on Church St? Pavements both sides have become parking and delivery vehicle drop-off points. I was saddened when one of my favourite shops along there closed for good last year but I had been avoiding walking that way.
This matter is currently being investigated with local partners such as Warwickshire County Council.

In the rural areas there are networks of footpaths and bridleways, which require improvements for safe walking to school, for example, will WCC be supporting any such improvements?

A discussion regarding this matter will be taken forward as a result of the climate summit.

There are lots of local small cycle routes that local cyclists know about and use - any plans to map these and spread the knowledge?

It is acknowledged that more could be done in relation to publicising cycle routes and this will be taken forward as an action following the climate summit.

Questions Following Alex Backer's Presentation

Can the Transition Town presentation be made available after the event?

Yes. These will be posted on the Council's website

Will the Council implement a citizens panel to support the development of future plans?

Yes, the Council will progress this.

How do you think that the local and global Rotarian movement can support action to address climate change?

The opportunity to enhance the Council's joint working with Rotary and other third sector partners would be welcomed, recognising that to be successful in addressing the Climate Emergency, we must all work together.

Alex Becker highlighted the challenge of sharing information and requested a channel which could facilitate the sharing of information and collaboration between third sector groups. This would help to amplify the collective voice.

Question's Following Ian Jelley's Presentation

What role does farming have to play in helping to address the biodiversity crisis? How can local communities work with farmers to help improve our local habitats and soil health?

Farming policy has a significant influence on the impact on nature of the farming community. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust work with local farmers, many of whom have made changes which integrate nature and conservation into their farming practice. Legislation and Policy now needs to support this. The Environment Act and Agriculture Act give the opportunity to set such a policy context.

At a local level, communities can incorporate sustainable practices into their own gardening. Resources to support this are available via the Wildlife Trust website

Question for WWT - what would you like to see Rugby Borough Council doing to support this vision?

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust are keen to build on the existing partnership with RBC, for example by looking at how to work together for biodiversity net gain on Council owned sites.

WWT would like to understand how RBC can integrate the natural environment across all policy, rather than being seen as a standalone subject matter.

Cllr Lowe reaffirmed the Council's commitment to work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to progress this.

Will the council be engaging in the Severn Trent Commonwealth Legacy Forest project

Yes, Council Officers are in discussion with Severn Trent in relation to this to understand how the Council can support the project

Our inner town communities have a disconnected relationship to natural spaces. How can inner city spaces contribute to the 30 to 30 concept?

The Wildlife Trust's agenda moving forward is a holistic approach, ensuring that nature is a consideration of everyday life in urban and rural settings. Bristol provides a good case study of how this can be achieved, with the economic benefits of investing in the natural environment being realised.

Cllr Lowe highlighted that such considerations can form a key part of the Town Centre regeneration work