



## **Council**

**Monday 24 February 2020**

### **Agenda Item 9, Motions**

**(To be debated in the order submitted)**

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Hugo Brown**

**Motion Seconder: Councillor Sean Woodcock**

**Topic: Tree Planting**

#### **Motion**

CDC acknowledged a Climate Emergency and pledged to make the Council carbon-neutral by 2030.

First steps include assessing the Council's own emissions, down 32% since 2008, and Officer teams have been tasked with exploring opportunities to further reduce the Council's own and also District-wide emissions.

One strategy to support the achievement of the 2030 target, promoted by all major political parties, is tree-planting. Tree cover in the District, County and Nationally falls short; Cherwell District's is estimated at 5.2% of land mass and with County's at approx. 9% both are below the UK figure of 13%, itself about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the EU average of 35%

There are many competing interests for the available land mass, including housing and development for economic re-generation, but these need not be mutually exclusive. They can co-exist, and tree cover should be encouraged to shield building developments from view, masking light and noise pollution, and absorbing many of the emissions generated by those economically necessary developments - and, as importantly, providing habitat for wildlife, aiding with flood management and enhancing the beauty of the environment

Council therefore:

- commits, as far as possible, to double tree cover within the District by 2045
- requests that Officers identify, and secure, funding opportunities from Central Government and other sources in furtherance of the commitment
- requires developers to demonstrate how they will be improving biodiversity, specifically through the planting of more trees

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Hannah Banfield**

**Motion Seconder: TBC**

**Topic: Peat-free Compost**

**Motion**

This council agrees to use only peat-free compost for our horticultural procedures. In making this commitment we will conserve this diminishing natural resource, as our UK peatlands and the peatlands located within The Republic Of Ireland, play a vital role in absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide and thus help to mitigate climate change.