

Thame COP - meeting with Thame Town Council

Introduction

Thame COP began at the time of the COP26 events in Glasgow. It aims to connect Thame to the international COP events and bring local organisations together in action on climate and biodiversity. The campaign has generated commitments to act from over 50 organisations, these can be seen on the Thame COP26 website: <https://thamecop.co.uk>. Thame COP26 completes its first round of activity with a 'COP Social' event in the Town Hall on 10th March.

Thame COP's activities created considerable feedback from local people and benefitted from practical support from many parties, including Thame Green Living, Friends of the Earth, Cuttle Brook Conservation Volunteers and 21st Century Thame. We are keen to share our learning with TTC and put forward ideas for consideration.

These ideas have been developed in conjunction with TGL to ensure consistency with Thame's Green Living Plan, and in appreciation of TCOPS and TGLS complimentary approaches to creating a cleaner, greener Thame and an active environmentally conscious local community. This is part of a wider commitment to ensuring a good flow of information between TCOP and TGL for community benefit.

Requests to Thame Town Council

1. TTC is asked to strengthen its recognition of the vital importance of a co-ordinated approach to environmental issues, and reflect this in its current review of working arrangements. We ask that this includes a senior council officer role to provide a clear environmental focal point and strengthen community communications.
2. TTC is asked to convene and support a "Thame Environmental Forum" (a working title) which would:
 - a. be a contact point for environmental issues, helping promote connections and communication between local people, organisations and the council
 - b. hold quarterly meetings between organisations and with TTC, to report and receive feedback on progress, and offer mutual advice and support
 - c. bring together voluntary, business and statutory representatives in a collaborative, responsive way, that can evolve over time according to the availability and interests of all involved
 - d. if requested, work together with TTC to hold an annual environment-themed event for TTC, interested organisations and the public

Although the above proposals are quite detailed, they are intended as a starting point for TTC to shape as they feel appropriate.

If the council are in agreement with the above we propose the next step is to approve this as a way forward, and give the clerk permission to action this.