

 **Date of Release:**  20 June 2024**Ref:** 4335

**People are asked for views on Climate Change projects**

Residents and workers across Chichester District are being asked for their views on climate change projects as part of a major public consultation taking place from 1 July until 30 September.

Chichester District Council will be holding four in-person drop-in events and three online sessions to help people find out more about the consultation. The events will provide the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the proposals with council officers. People will also be able to find out about the work that others are doing to help tackle climate change in the area.

The consultation events will begin with an online session on **Monday 1 July** from **7pm to 8.30pm**. Later that week, the first in-person event will take place at Leconfield Hall in Petworth on **Wednesday 3 July** from **3pm to 7pm**, with people welcome to drop in at any point during this time. Refreshments and a children’s colouring competition activity will be provided at all of the in-person events, and people will also have the opportunity to fill in the council’s online survey and enter a draw to be in with a chance of winning a sustainable living prize worth up to £500.

More information about the events, including links to the online meetings and details about the prize draw — including terms and conditions — can be found on the council’s Climate Change hub at: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange>

As part of the consultation, people will be asked their opinions on potential projects that could help individuals and communities in the district to reduce their emissions. This information will be used to help inform Chichester District Council’s new climate emergency action plan.

“As a council, it’s vital that we play our part in helping to fight climate change,” explains Alison Stevens, Divisional Manager for Environment and Health Protection at Chichester District Council. “The council’s emissions are only about 0.5% of emissions in the whole district, but since we declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, we have been working extremely hard to cut our own emissions, for example in our buildings and in our vehicle fleet. We have a clear idea of what we need to do, so this consultation focusses on helping individuals and organisations of all kinds in the district to cut their carbon emissions.

“This is a really important opportunity for residents and businesses across the Chichester District to help shape the plan and for us all to come together to help tackle a crisis that affects everyone. The ideas that could potentially be included in the new action plan have been put together after working with teams across the whole council, and now it’s over to our residents to see what they think. Some carbon reductions can only be successfully accomplished at a national or international level, so the emphasis is on the areas where we believe we have the most influence and can make the biggest difference.

“So far, we’ve helped some people to make their homes more energy efficient and generate their own energy through renewable energy measures, but there is a lot more that can be done. We’ve worked with a range of businesses to help them become more sustainable and we’re also part of a government-funded project that has led to over 50,000 trees being planted in the district. In addition, we’ve installed electric vehicle charge-points in our car parks and we successfully bid for £1.3 million to help reduce carbon emissions at our Westgate Leisure Centre. We have a number of projects that are still in progress, including work to reduce emissions from homes in the district. We’re now looking ahead to see what else we can do to cut carbon emissions.

“Although we are asking people to help shape the plan, I would like to stress that many of the projects will depend on council resources and external funding, so at this stage, we can’t guarantee that they will go ahead, even with public support. Even so, it’s important that residents know what the potential options are and can feed into the strategy.”

The survey will be available online from 1 July 2024 at: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange/participate> with videos that help to explain each project. For those who do not have access to a computer, a pull-out paper version will also be included as part of the council’s residents’ magazine, ‘initiatives’, which people will be able to fill out and post to the council when it is delivered from Monday 8 July.

The council is also encouraging people to join its Let’s Talk Panel so that they can be notified as soon as the consultation goes live. There's no commitment — people can choose which consultations they wish to take part in. To sign up, you can visit: [www.chichester.gov.uk/letstalkpanel](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/letstalkpanel).

Once the results have been examined and the final plan written up, it will be discussed by Cabinet and Full Council for approval in summer 2025, when the current plan ends. The new plan would run until 2030.

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact Terri Foster, Senior Communications Officer, on 01243 534537 or by emailing** **tfoster@chichester.gov.uk**

**Notes to Editors**

The consultation events are on:

**In-person:**

* Wednesday 3 July: 3-7pm; Leconfield Hall, Market Square, Petworth, GU28 0AH
* Wednesday 17 July: 3-7pm; The Grange Community & Leisure Centre, Bepton Road, Midhurst, GU29 9HD
* Thursday 25 July: 3-7pm; The Assembly Room, Chichester City Council, The Council House, North Street, Chichester, PO19 1LQ
* Tuesday 13 August: 3-7pm; Selsey Centre, Manor Road, Selsey, PO20 0SE

**Online events** (the links are available at: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange>):

* Online Launch Event: Monday 1 July, 7-8.30pm
* Online Event focussed on Housing, Planning, Transport and Energy: Tuesday 9 July, 7-8.30pm
* Online event focussed Nature and Adaption Event: Thursday 12 September, 7-8.30pm

In addition to these events, we will be attending a variety of other events throughout the district. These will include UK Harvest's Community Food Hubs, libraries, farmers’ markets and leisure centres.

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| A logo with text on it  Description automatically generated | **Terri Foster**Senior Communications OfficerCommunicationsChichester District Council |

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| Ext: 21226 | Tel: 01243521226 | tfoster@chichester.gov.uk | Fax: 01243776766 | <https://www.chichester.gov.uk> |
| East Pallant House opening hours: 9am-4pm Monday to Friday |
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contact@chichester.gov.uk