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## **Climate Change and Leisure Committee MINUTES**

**Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on  
Wednesday, 15 October 2025 from 7.30 pm - 10.00 pm.**

**Present:** Councillors

Chris Lloyd (Co-Chair) in the Chair, Jon Tankard (Co-Chair), Raj Khiroya, Abbas Merali, Mike Sims, Chris Whately-Smith (Substitute in place of Tom Smith, Chris Mitchell (Substitute in place of Cheryl Stungo

**Also in Attendance:**

Councillors

Andrea Fraser, Cheryl Stungo

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Emma Sheridan, Associate Director for Environment,  
Charlotte Gomes, Head of Leisure & Natural Infrastructure  
Jess Hodges, Natural Infrastructure Programme Manager  
Anita Hibbs, Committee Officer  
Alex Laurie, Principal Trees and Woodlands Officer  
Sally Riley, Finance Business Partner  
Elen Dolder, Climate Change, Sustainability, and Recycling Officer  
Josh Sills, Head of Customer Experience  
Judy Simpson, Marketing & Campaigns Manager  
Ben Terry, Watersmeet General Manager

### **13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cheryl Stungo, Tom Smith, Joan King and Reena Ranger. Substitutes were Councillors Chris Mitchell and Chris Whately-Smith.

### **14 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Climate Change & Leisure Committee held on 2 July 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

### **15 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair informed the committee that the Rickmansworth Aquadrome report was published late in order that officers could accommodate within the report details relating to the release of the EA flood modelling. Given the significant interest in this item, the Chair had agreed to its late inclusion. Furthermore, the Climate Change and Sustainability Bi-annual report was published late due to an administrative error. Due to the fact that this is a standing item for committee consideration every six month the Chair had agreed to its late inclusion to retain the reporting schedule for this important workstream.

The Chair informed the committee about a change in the order of proceedings to accommodate the officers who needed to leave the meeting early.

## **16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **17 TO RECEIVE A PETITION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 18**

Mr. Ash Patni presented the petition on behalf of the lead petitioner who was not able to attend the meeting. He urged the Council to reopen the path immediately and called for transparency by requesting the public release of the hydrological survey report. The speaker emphasised the critical importance of the path to local residents, noting his view that its condition is no worse than other paths in the area that remain open. He concluded by demanding prompt action from the Council to reopen the path without further delay.

The Chair asked the officer to respond to the technical question and advised Mr. Patni that a written copy will be provided to him.

The Associate Director for Environment responded by clarifying that what had been received is a flood model from the Environment Agency (EA) was a flood model for the Upper Colne Catchment areas and not a hydrological survey report. This model is owned by the EA and cannot be distributed by the officers. The flood model will be used to complete a hydrological study of the Aquadrome as part of the Aquadrome programme, it is expected that the study will be published by the end of the calendar year.

## **18 P3 BUDGET MANAGEMENT REPORT - CC&L**

The Finance Business Partner introduced the report.

Members enquired about staff vacancies indicated in the report. The Head of Customer Experience explained that a key vacancy arose in June, and efforts are underway to realign the staffing structure, with recruitment expected to complete by early next year.

Budget concerns were raised regarding discrepancies in forecast figures for the Watersmeet Theatre between different reports. The Head of Customer Experience clarified that the Watersmeet report is covering previous years in terms of the position currently, and the financial forecasting is for future years. The officer also highlighted the challenges in financial forecasting and the impact of mathematical predictions versus actual delivery outcomes.

Members raised questions about the underutilisation of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund grant, which the Associate Director for Environment explained, had eligibility constraints on properties and the rule that only spent amounts can be claimed.

In response to a question regarding Watersmeet budget differences for 2026-2028 compared to 2025-2026, the Finance Business Partner clarified that there was a £14,000 budget allocation for the maintenance and replacement of fire doors. The officer explained that this budget was a one-time allocation aimed at improving fire doors.

Councillor Chris Lloyd moved the recommendation as set out in the report. The Committee noted and commented on the contents of the report.

RESOLVED:

That Members note & comment on the contents of the report.

## **19 WATERSMEET ANNUAL REVIEW PRESENTATION 2024-25**

The Head of Customer Experience introduced Ben Terry, Watersmeet General Manager and Judy Simpson, Marketing & Campaigns Manager who presented the report.

Members enquired about the current utilisation of Watersmeet Theatre's venue capacity. The Head of Customer Experience explained that while some events sell out, others do not, which is a deliberate strategy to balance appealing to existing audiences and attracting new audiences. In terms of calendar availability, the venue is nearing full capacity towards the end of the week, particularly Thursday through Saturday, while earlier weekdays have lower demand and more availability. The officers mentioned that the team is exploring growth opportunities by creating attractive packages, such as a week-long hire option, to increase utilisation during less busy periods.

Members addressed the financial and operational performance of the theatre, which has successfully reduced its cost to the Council, indicating positive financial progress. The officer emphasised that compared to other similar event spaces in the southeast region, outside London, Watersmeet performs well, ranking in the top third nationally for venues of its size category. The venue is classified as medium-sized, which presents challenges in attracting national tours or week-long shows, unlike larger venues such as Watford Colosseum. Despite these challenges, Watersmeet performs competitively within its category with some larger venues operating at significant losses, while a few venues manage to operate at a surplus.

Members raised concerns about the impact of recent cost increases and budget constraints on future financial projections. The officer highlighted that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the theatre had generated a net surplus for 2 years running, which provides optimism for future financial stability. However, due to current budgetary limitations, it is a more cautious approach, with incremental improvements preferred over rapid progress, which would increase financial risk.

Additionally, staffing issues were also addressed, specifically the replacement of a technical staff member by January. The officer explained that while technical work is supported by casual staff and supplemented by partner organisations, this is only a short-term solution, and the permanent position needs to be filled to ensure long term operational stability.

Members expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the work that staff and volunteers do at the theatre.

The theatre's turnover was highlighted by Members, noting a total cost reduction of £34,000, and enquiring about the nature of these savings. The officer explained the complexity of the financial arrangements, emphasising that turnover includes all sales, such as ticket and bar income. Improvements are attributed to more favourable profit-sharing arrangements with promoters and more efficient bar operations, resulting in better markups despite increased spending.

Councillor Andrea Fraser spoke on the item addressing concerns about the current management of the Watersmeet Theatre. The Councillor highlighted successful models like the Queen Park Arts Centre and Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, suggesting that Watersmeet can develop its unique identity while learning from these examples.

The officer responded by highlighting that these venues, mentioned as examples, are not direct competition due to differences in size, operating models and financial risk. Larger theatres can host long-running shows with higher ticket sales, while smaller venues face physical and operational restrictions, Watersmeet specifically has limited stage height, affecting scenery movement, which presents a unique challenge. The officer emphasised the benefits of council-run theatres with experienced staff, familiar with local operations, suggesting that national operators of larger venues may not necessarily improve management of smaller theatres.

Councillor Chris Lloyd proposed an amendment to the recommendation to include a note of thanks to the staff and volunteers at Watersmeet Theatre, recognising their hard work as crucial to the current situation.

Councillor Chris Lloyd moved the recommendation with the proposed amendment.

On being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

That:

- i. The report be noted.
- ii. *The Committee thanks the staff and volunteers of Watersmeet Theatre for their vision and hard work.*

## **20 CROXLEY HALL WOODS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Principal Trees and Woodlands Officer introduced the report.

Mr. Barry Grant spoke on the item highlighting what he viewed as limited community engagement, noting only 13 consultation responses received, and a lack of detailed feedback in the committee report. Key concerns raised by the speaker included the control of invasive ivy threatening tree health, the necessity for collaboration with neighbouring woodland owners such as the parish council, and London Underground TfL's biodiversity plans, and opposition to proposed improvements to barrier access on Lavrock Lane, which residents feel is unnecessary. Additionally, the speaker sought clarification on the financial aspects of the woodland management plan, including budget specifics, reliance on external funding, and whether woodland maintenance is conducted by third-party contractors.

The officer acknowledged the points raised and expressed his preference to provide a written response. The Chair requested that the written responses be distributed to the committee members and sought input on whether to delay approval of the report until January or to partially approve it despite incomplete information. Officers confirmed that deferring the decision until January is feasible. The Chair also mentioned an alternative option of taking the report to the Policy & Resources Committee to avoid delaying work.

Members noted that a wider area of holly and ivy needing attention beyond what was initially mentioned in the report. It was also clarified that the access gate in question is located on parish council land. The Chair acknowledged the need to investigate the matter further and suggested noting the report and the questions raised. Councillor Chris Lloyd proposed that officers review the responses provided to residents and consider whether the matter should be taken to the Policy & Resources Committee or returned to the committee in January 2026.

Members expressed disappointment and raised questions about the consultation process, including how it was conducted, the time allowed for responses, and whether the low turnout indicated public disinterest. The Associate Director for Environment responded by explaining that the response rate was typical for such a management plan as residents tend to respond mainly when they disagree. Furthermore, the officer also assured that the consultation was conducted according to the usual consultation guidelines, promoted via social media and the council's consultation platforms. Additionally, the officer noted that the variability in response rates can be attributed to human nature, where agreement often results in silence rather than feedback.

Members enquired whether any aspects of the plan would be missed or affected if delayed until January, and whether approval of certain parts could mitigate these effects. The officer explained that any urgent tree works, identified through general tree surveys, would continue

as part of regular operations, ensuring critical tasks are not postponed despite the delay in approval of the plan.

Members continued to discuss the low response rates in certain consultations, contrasting them with more successful ones like the Eastbury play area. They advocated for more proactive engagement methods such as door-to-door outreach and physical presence in affected areas to increase participation and avoid costly rework. The officer defended the current consultation practices, emphasising that resources are allocated based on project scale, and that low response rates often reflect public agreement rather than failure. This view was supported by some Members who shared their experience of seeking feedback from around 200 residents, receiving mainly positive but limited verbal responses. Members clarified that they offered encouragement for ongoing review and improvement of consultation processes, and there was no intent to disrespect officers.

Members also offered praise to committee members on their efforts to engage residents and acknowledged the challenges in seeking responses from them.

The Chair proposed the following recommendation:

*That the committee acknowledge the officers for their work on the report and ensuring that all committee members, including substitutes, receive responses to the questions. The report will either be taken to the Policy & Resources Committee in November or returned to the Climate Change & Leisure Committee in January for further consideration.*

On being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

*That the committee acknowledge the officers for their work on the report and ensuring that all committee members, including substitutes, receive responses to the questions. The report will either be taken to the Policy & Resources Committee in November or returned to the Climate Change & Leisure Committee in January for further consideration.*

## **21 MOTION**

Mr. Graeme Dibb addressed the committee highlighting significant community disquiet regarding the boulders on The Green and emphasised that the issues relate to the visual impact, conservation and safety concerns. The boulders have raised health and safety risks for pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable users such as wheelchair and pushchair users, as well as children who might climb the boulders and fall into traffic. Alternative solutions proposed include reinstating posts or considering a bund and revisiting bylaws to allow traffic wardens to issue fines. The speaker questioned whether the boulders represent a material change to the Croxley Green Conservation Area's unique character, suggesting that a formal planning application should have been submitted. The speaker urged the committee to a properly funded solution to replace the boulders with sustainable, conservation friendly measures.

Mr. Barry Grant addressed concerns regarding the boulders on The Green, stating that the community has expressed widespread negative feedback about the boulders. The speaker advocated for reinstating timber stakes, which previously contributed positively to The Green's openness and heritage. The speaker highlighted the lack of cost assessment for replacing timber stakes and the Council's claimed budget constraints. The speaker requested information about any risk assessment conducted and noted the absence of a conservation officer at the Council as a factor in the current situation. The Croxley Green Residents Association seeks collaboration with the Council and parish to remove the boulder, reinstall timber posts and better manage parking.

Councillor Cheryl Stungo addressed the committee emphasising the significance of the matter by noting the unprecedented level of public stir it has caused, and appealed for a calm, clear-headed review of the placement of the boulders.

Councillor Chris Mitchell introduced the motion and explained the background of the recurring parking issues on The Green. Attempts to secure funding for replacement posts faced budget constraints and partial funding rejections. Subsequently, it was decided to replace the posts with boulders, paid for by the parish council using CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds. The Council has received mixed feedback from residents, with the majority opposing the boulders. The Councillor offered his apologies for underestimating the impact and called for a full review involving officers and local councillors, and community groups. He urged the Lead Member, Councillor Chris Lloyd to lead the efforts to address safety, aesthetic and community concerns.

Councillor Chris Lloyd responded and proposed an amendment to the motion, emphasising collaboration between the parish council and district council to avoid impacting other ongoing district projects. The Councillor acknowledged community frustration and suggested a pragmatic approach that balances addressing the concerns with resource management. The amendment aims to keep costs lower for the district, involve councillors more directly in community engagement, and delay officer involvement until a clearer agreement is reached. Due to upcoming personal commitments, Councillor Lloyd will be unavailable for meetings until November and asked other councillors to engage with residents and the parish council.

The Associate Director for Environment read out the advice from the Head of Planning Policy & Conservation explaining that the Croxley Green Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the Three Rivers Development Plan and is relevant only to the assessment of planning applications. Similarly, the conservation area appraisal is considered a material factor in planning applications. However, the placement of boulders on The Green was not considered to constitute development and therefore to not require planning permission. Consequently, neither the neighbourhood plan nor the conservation area appraisal applies to the act of placing boulders on The Green.

Councillor Chris Mitchell emphasised the Council's ownership and responsibility for The Green, opposing the amendment to the motion that appear to shift accountability to the parish council. Councillor Chris Lloyd acknowledged the concerns but stressed the importance of timely action to avoid delays, proposing collaboration between Lead Members, parish council, district councillors and residents to explore viable alternatives that preserve The Green's conservation characters.

Councillor Chris Mitchell proposed the following amendment to the wording of the motion:

*Proposer: Cllr Chris Mitchell*

*Seconder: Cllr Chris Lloyd*

*This Committee notes:*

- 1. The widespread concern among Croxley Green residents about the installation of boulders on The Green funded by Croxley Green Parish Council through the CIL and installed by Three Rivers District Council*
- 2. That The Green is a Conservation Area and valued community asset, owned and managed by Three Rivers District Council.*
- 3. That questions have been raised about the safety, heritage, environmental, and amenity impacts of the boulders, as well as the lack of public consultation.*
- 4. That TRDC officers have advised that a full review of the matter would constitute new work outside their current programme.*

*This Committee resolves to recommend:*

- 1. That a site visit be arranged with ward councillors, Croxley Green Parish Council, Croxley Green Residents Association, and the Copthorne Residents Society.*

*2. That the Lead Member for Climate Change as co-Chair of the Climate Change and Leisure Committee write to the Parish Council to request that they work with Three Rivers Councillors to review the current arrangement and any viable alternative solutions, consistent with The Green's conservation character.*

*3. That the relevant Lead Members for Leisure and General Public Services (Cllrs Lloyd and Nelmes) lead and work with the Parish Council, to oversee this process to ensure accountability.*

*4. That the findings of the review and options appraisal be brought back to the Climate Change and Leisure Committee for scrutiny and decision.*

The Chair confirmed that officers will prepare a report presenting options without recommendations, leaving the decision-making to the councillors.

Councillor Chris Mitchell moved the amended motion, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd.

On being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being by general assent.

## **22 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received and noted the work programme

RESOLVED:

To receive the Committee's Work programme.

## **23 OTHER BUSINESS - IF APPROVED UNDER ITEM 3 ABOVE**

### **23a RICKMANSWORTH AQUADROME PROGRAMME**

The Head of Leisure & Natural Infrastructure introduced the report. The Associate Director for Environment provided the most recent update on Ebury Play Area, informing the committee that the Council and its contractors continue to work together to agree a remediation plan, and as soon as a programme for that is agreed, it will be published to the public.

A Member raised concerns regarding the lack of communication on the continued closure of the Ebury playground and stated that the Japanese knotweed was spreading through the playground and the water due to it flowering. They emphasised the need for political leadership to resolve the issue, enquired about costs, potential litigation, and urged reopening the playground promptly to provide children with play facilities. The Associate Director for Environment responded by clarifying that the knotweed is not spreading through flowering due to the absence of male plants in the UK and as a result the Knotweed does not spread through flowering it spreads through rhizomes and it was confirmed that specialists have verified this. Furthermore, the officer stated that the playground will reopen only after successful remediation of the knotweed, with efforts focused on a quality solution minimising financial and maintenance risks. The officer also acknowledged the public's desire for the playground but noted that alternative play areas are available in the area.

Members also expressed concerns regarding the lack of detail in the report on the woodland path's continued closure and requested specific timelines for reopening. They also sought assurance about insurance coverage to protect officers from personal liability. The officer responded by explaining that the path is structurally unsafe due to flood damage and that the interim repairs would be costly and potentially temporary. A long-term sustainable solution is being designed as part of wider site improvement works, but the timeline is uncertain due to dependencies on flood risk assessments and environmental permits, which take six to nine months to obtain from the Environment Agency. Additionally, the officer emphasised the Council's duty to use public funds wisely and to prioritise safety, stating that they will not

reopen the path until it is safe, and confirmed that the Council's insurance is adequate but due diligence is required to ensure public safety.

Councillor Andrea Fraser spoke on the item in her capacity as a District Ward Councillor, stating that decisions are being made behind closed doors, excluding ward councillors who represent local residents, and explained that the Aquadrome Steering Group meetings are not public, limiting transparency and participation and that she is invited as a Batchworth Community Councillor and not as a ward Councillor. The Councillor raised concerns regarding the neglected state of the Ebury play park, including the unresolved knotweed issue and ongoing closure, impacting families. The Councillor further raised concerns that improvement works would not commence until 2027 and not be complete until 2030. Additionally, the Councillor stated there has been a lack of consultation with ward councillors over signage placement and the cancellation of the Canal Festival due to an overly strict and misguided and unnecessary approach to and over cautious stance in relation to asbestos, and called for greater transparency, inclusion of elected councillors and urgent action to address these ongoing issues.

In response, the officer clarified the roles and invitations concerning the Aquadrome Steering Group meeting, emphasising that Councillor Fraser had been invited in her district capacity not as a parish councillor. The officer refuted claims that they refused to answer questions, explaining that certain topics were not listed items of the meeting agenda, but open for discussion outside the meeting. The officer highlighted ongoing investments in the Aquadrome, noting that significant funding from the lottery will only be available in 2027, but that maintenance and improvements continue with substantial expenditure made in just the past 6 months detailed in the report. The officer disputed assertions about a lack of engagement with ward councillors over signage and the Canal Festival arrangements, clarifying that the festival cancellation was due to the organisers' decision related to asbestos concerns, not Council action and that the designs for signage had been shared in advance and for comment with ward councillors. The officer stressed the seriousness of asbestos contamination at the Aquadrome, legal obligations on the council to manage it, and the Council's adherence to health and safety guidelines to avoid legal and personal liabilities. Furthermore, the officer emphasised that there was transparency over decisions in relation to the Aquadrome with regular reporting to committees and all actions being those contained within the Council approved Management Plan for the site.

Mr. David Holdstock spoke on the item raising concerns about the Council's management and communication regarding the Aquadrome, specifically the play area and woodland path. The resident criticised the Council for requesting significant expenditure despite unresolved issues and accused the Council of misleading residents and dismissing their concerns. The speaker highlighted a specialist knotweed treatment report from May indicating a 12-week removal plan, contrasting with the Council's public claim of a five-year timeline, and questioned whether councillors had reviewed or made this report public.

The officer responded by explaining that the five-year remediation timeline is for chemical treatment, and the 12-week timeline is for mechanical excavation, confirming that the mechanical extraction is the Council's preferred method. The officer also explained the necessity of confidentiality in certain legal and contract negotiation matters to protect the Council's interests, emphasising that this is not due to a lack of transparency or intent to mislead. The officer team is committed to resolving these issues. The funding for wider Aquadrome site improvement primarily comes from the lottery, which is fully aware of the challenges currently faced particularly with the woodland path, and is supporting various stages of work, such as hydrological studies, detailed designs and material reviews to ensure long lasting solutions. The Lottery Fund is not involved with the Ebury play area; therefore, no discussions have occurred with them regarding that.

Members also questioned inconsistencies in reported repair costs, citing figures ranging from £60,000 to £198,000, and urged clarity and a political decision on whether to patch the path for public use. The officer explained that precise cost cannot be provided without a detailed



procurement process due to multiple variables such as path materials, flood resilience requirements, labour and material costs and location specific factors.

In response to an earlier question, the officer acknowledged that the Ebury play area does not look as it should, clarifying that the issue is not simply related to Japanese knotweed. The officer confirmed that a Notice had been issued to the contractor responsible in relation to (non-Japanese Knotweed) weed management, and the ongoing negotiations and legal actions are underway to address concerns.

Councillor Chris Lloyd proposed an amendment to include the word 'external' in front of 'funding agreement' in the recommendation, and another amendment to thank the officers for the detailed work that has gone into this project.

Councillor Chris Lloyd moved the recommendation with the amendment, seconded by Councillor Tankard.

On being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being For 5, Against 0, Abstention 2.

RESOLVED:

That the Climate Change and Leisure Committee:

- i. Note the content of the report
- ii. Give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or *external* funding agreement above the value of £25,000, subject to securing external funding, or where a project is in existing/agreed budgets.
- iii. *The Committee thank the officers for the detailed work that has gone into this project*

## **24 CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY BI-ANNUAL ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

The Climate Change, Sustainability, and Recycling Officer presented the report.

Members expressed gratitude towards the team for their continuous efforts and innovation, emphasising that their work is part of a broader, evolving strategy rather than a standalone document. The team is actively pursuing new contracts and advancing initiatives aimed at addressing climate requirements, with a particular focus on alleviating fuel poverty among families. A recent engagement with the UK100 conference reaffirmed the Council's position as one of the most progressive councils in climate action. Additionally, there is a strategic approach to utilising heat from a forthcoming data centre in Abbots Langley, aiming to distribute this source across the network, including Watford. The team has secured a grant for a feasibility study related to this initiative.

The Chair highlighted the challenge of having to refer back to the detailed papers when reading the recommendation and proposed an amendment to the recommendation to include a bullet point summary of the new actions for easier reference, and for them to be captured in the minutes.

Members raised concerns regarding the wording of the recommendation relating to the delegation of authority to the Director of Finance for managing funds exceeding £25,000. The main issue highlighted was the lack of clarity on the ceiling limit for such delegated authority and the need for proper scrutiny to ensure accountability of taxpayers' money. The officer responded by clarifying that the delegation relates only to externally secured grants linked to approved projects, not the Council's own budget. The ceiling for delegated authority is governed by the Council's standard procurement regulations, and all financial activities under this delegation are subject to regular reporting and auditing through the Council's finance reporting, Policy & Resources Committee and Full Council meetings.

Members argued that the current wording of the recommendation is too open-ended, potentially allowing the Director of Finance to enter into contracts of any size without Council approval. In response the officer reiterated that the delegated authority pertains specifically to accepting and spending external funds, such as a lottery fund, which must be used according to the grant condition. It was suggested that the word 'external' should be inserted in front of 'funding agreement' at iii. in the recommendation.

Councillor Jon Tankard moved the recommendation with the proposed amendments, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd.

On being put to the Committee, the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- i. Notes the progress made in delivering the strategy.
- ii. Agrees to the addition of new actions as outlined at paragraph 3.27:
  - *Support the delivery of the Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy as a member of the Hertfordshire Retrofit Partnership agreed by this Committee in July 2025.*
  - *Build a network of local businesses and support them to decarbonise non-domestic buildings with technical and financial support where possible.*
  - *Work to secure feasibility funding for a Heat Network powered by the recently approved Data Centre in Abbots Langley.*
  - *Develop a sustainable travel communications plan for encouraging active travel, EVs and public transport.*
  - *Facilitate the establishment or re-invigoration of at least one community garden or biodiversity hub on non-Council-owned land in each parish in Three Rivers, maintained by volunteers.*
  - *Support Services for Young People to create and maintain gardens/growing spaces in West Hyde Youth Club. Explore opportunities with Three Rivers local schools, youth councils and scout groups, as part of Community Growing Spaces Working Group.*
  - *Re-design Environmental Forum with residents and key stakeholders to maximise participation and engagement with hard-to-reach groups.*
  - *Establish a "Three Rivers Green Champions Awards" and a prize for winners and nominees, annually until 2028.*
  - *Encourage and promote environmental and sustainability focused volunteering by promoting the GoVol Herts volunteer database to potential volunteers and charities seeking volunteers, and signposting opportunities clearly on TRDC website.*
  - *Embed Climate adaptation consideration into procurement tenders.*
- iii. Give delegated authority to the Director for Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member and Director of Finance, to enter into a contract or *external* funding agreement above the value of £25,000 for delivery of actions within the strategy, Public Document Pack subject to securing external funds to facilitate projects and budget being agreed to support the implementation of the Committee agreed Climate Action Plan.

**CHAIR**