

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL PROPOSES TO CREATE A GODALMING CLIMATE FORUM**

At the Environment & Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday, 13 February, Councillors agreed to establish a Godalming Climate Forum (GCF). The Climate Forum is in keeping with Godalming Town Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and the Council's aims and objectives as set out in its Programme for 2019-2023. The GCF will aim to seek ways to facilitate and encourage our community to reduce direct and indirect CO<sup>2</sup> emissions as well as the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity to encourage resilience to changes caused by the changing climate. The GCF will seek to protect natural habitats, promote strategies to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, and to provide information to promote understanding of our individual and community impacts on climate change.

The Town Council nominated Cllr Jo Purvis and Cllr Shirley Wardell as group co-ordinators. It is hoped that the Godalming Climate Forum, which will meet quarterly to share ideas, goals, knowledge and expertise will be an umbrella group attended by representatives from local environmentally concerned groups. The GCF will aim to bring together the sharing of ideas together with the opportunity for joint funding applications for environmental projects. The GCF will also look at regenerative business ideas and widen the opportunity for public awareness events on environmental matters. Such events would aim to increase public participation and engagement on environmental strategies in support of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency. The GCF will seek to liaise with Waverley Borough Council and other town and parish councils across the borough who are committed to carbon reducing strategies and biodiversity improvement ideas across a wider community area.

Cllr Jo Purvis said that "the aim of this forum is to share ideas and publicity across local environmental and other interested groups, assist practical action, focus effort, reduce duplication and encourage grant applications, perhaps made jointly by groups working together."

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For more information on this release or images,  
please contact: Suzie Gortler  
Email: [community@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community@godalming-tc.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01483 523075  
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