

Notes SLCC conference 2 and 3 October – Shona Bendix

There are only two main support sessions for clerks per year (November and February) and myself and the Deputy Clerk are heavily reliant on these in order to be trained and kept updated on the latest developments. Most sessions are useful to both of us but as it is not possible for one person to cover all the workshops and these have more specialist application, these are split in relation to their applicability to the work of individual staff members.

Notes SLCC conference – Shona Bendix

All PPTs provided by SLCC but notes taken, as below:

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth, Climate Change Emergency SLCC Conference 3 October 2019

Young people have put this issue on the agenda.

What is a climate emergency?

There are more disasters caused by extreme weather and the disasters are becoming more extreme. Tipping points are being neared and will be irreversible, such as melting of ice caps which increase sea levels.

Is the nature emergency being overlooked?

Significant threats of extinction and we do not know what impact this will have. Rainforests overseas and bee habitats here.

What can TPCs do?

Be a force for good – use influence.

- Encourage Climate Action Groups to be formed. If they care, they will do things as a group in their own right. They can do things which the TPC might not have the resource or power to do i.e. influence, protest, implement. FOTE have training tools etc.
- Declare a climate and nature emergency.
- Actively support planning applications for new renewable energy.
- Provide information about practical action.
- Bring people together for bulk purchases.
- Develop and promote life-sharing schemes.
- Use your voice – talk about the good things that are happening and the need to act.

Demonstrate action through your own actions

- Use green energy.
- Reduce pesticide use.
- Manage land for nature e.g. reduce mowings.
- Increase tree cover. Across Europe, we have one of the lowest tree coverage level. Helps for flood defences and shade when hot.
- Buy green.
- Use green transport.
- Minimise waste to landfill or incineration.
- Invest money wisely e.g. not in supporting fossil fuels.

Embed climate change and nature in decision-making

- Understand impacts before making decisions.
- Incorporate trees, renewable energy and nature restoration in neighbourhood plans.
- Use differential car parking charges to favour low-carbon cars.
- Develop safe walking and cycling routes.
- Address problems rather than rely on a presumed off-setting.

Encourage support

- Young people
- Health benefits
- Economic benefits and job opportunities

- Resilience is important
- Increase social cohesion

This conference has proved particularly valuable and included useful sessions on charity arrangements, meeting the insurer, obtaining the latest information for clerk's on law and procedure, meeting with Salix about interest-free loans for energy improvements, meeting with Town Clerks to discuss staffing structures, service delivery and service transfers, and a 90 minute one-to-one advice session on employment law with SLCC's expert.