

GWYNEDD COUNCIL



Report to a meeting of the Council

Date of the meeting: 19 December 2019
Report by Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader
Title: Climate Change Emergency Plan

Background

1. At its meeting on the 7 March 2019 the Council considered a motion relating to climate change and it resolved to do our utmost to ensure that the county remains a vibrant, viable and sustainable home for our children and their children for generations to come. In order to do this we would:
 - Declare a Climate Emergency
 - Commit to taking decisive action to reduce carbon emissions and strive for a zero-carbon future
 - Look for innovative means to achieve zero carbon targets.
 - Report back within 6 months on positive steps the Council has taken to reduce carbon emissions.
 - Call on Welsh Government and the Westminster Government to provide the requisite powers and resources to achieve the target of a carbon-free Gwynedd by 2030.
2. In accordance with the request, this report outlines the steps which the Council has taken to date.
3. **It is important to note that this report is merely where we have hitherto reached and does not reflect where we wish to be.** However, in the current financial climate it is important that we take some time to establish those actions which will have the greatest impact in order to achieve the greatest benefit from any investment we will need to make.
4. Attached at Appendix 1 is a table noting the activities already undertaken by the Council to reduce our carbon footprint and to adapt our communities to protect them from the effects which are likely to arise.

5. In relation to the footprint itself, the graph in Appendix 2 shows the reduction already achieved since we started our plan in 2010.
6. By the end of 2018 we had reduced our footprint by 39%. This varies according to the source of carbon use, with the footprint arising from street lighting reducing by 59%; the footprint arising from buildings by 43% but the footprint from our fleet only falling 20%.
7. It can be seen that the Council has already undertaken a considerable amount of work to reduce our carbon footprint and to adapt our communities to meet the future consequences of climate change.
8. However, despite these efforts, we know that there is much more to be done if we are to achieve the aim of a zero carbon county.
9. The Cabinet has established a task force to consider what more needs to be done in order to achieve that aim and the intention is to establish a Climate Change Action Plan which will detail those additional actions which we would wish to take beyond those actions already undertaken by us. This will include what we can do to reduce the county's carbon footprint as well as the Council's own carbon footprint.
10. In order to give structure to our consideration of what more we could do, we are considering a document which was released by the Friends of the Earth, and we will also be considering work being undertaken by Natural Resources Wales at a regional level to illustrate the further opportunities which are available to us.
11. The document in Appendix 1 follows the headings contained in the Friends of the Earth document and it notes our current position in relation to that document. It is effectively a baseline of where we are today.
12. The intention for the next 3 months is to consult on the potential content of the Climate Change Action Plan before the end of the financial year so that the plan can be included as part of the Council's Corporate Plan.
13. Each member of the Council will have a role to play in considering how best to reduce our carbon footprint and how to adapt in order to cope with the consequential effects of climate change and as we conduct those conversations with our communities we look forward to everyone playing their part in that process.
14. The Council is asked to receive the report, noting the steps taken so far and our intentions for the future.

Statutory Officers' Observations

Monitoring Officer

The report provides an appropriate up date to the Council following its decision in March. No observations to add in relation to propriety.

Head of Finance

It is clear that what Gwynedd Council needs to do to tackle the Climate Change Emergency will mean significant and significant changes in behaviour. This may, in the long term, involve a change in direction in our day-to-day expenditure as well as investments in capital schemes. Of course, the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act already compel us to think about the long-term effects of our decisions, including spending decisions. As this report is intended to set a benchmark, it does not place an additional spending commitment on the Council in and of itself, but the impact of the climate crisis will be an ongoing consideration when preparing future financial strategies

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH : Developing and Nature Emergency Action Plan

PUTTING OUR CLIMATE AT THE HEART OF DECISION MAKING

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
1	Require councillors to identify whether the recommendations put to them would help or hinder climate, air pollution and nature plans.	It is inevitable that Councillors consider the consequences of climate on the environment when making decisions and the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act mean that we must consider any decisions in the context of whether they are sustainable or not. We need to consider further whether and how to place the same emphasis as we place on equality issues say.
2	Identify both a councillor at cabinet level and a lead officer as Climate and Nature Champions who are required to publish a bi-annual independent and audited report to the public on progress in meeting climate change and nature targets.	The Council has an Environment Department with a cabinet member responsible for leading the activities of that department. However it is recognised that having declared a climate emergency all Council Department will have to play their part and we will need to consider the arrangements for ensuring that it happens. The task force will need to consider the appropriate management arrangements to fit in with the Council's recognised procedures. The Council's current activity to reduce carbon and adapt communities is reported through our performance management arrangements rather than by reporting separately.

3	Use additional decision-making approaches for complicated or contentious choices (such as representative Citizen Assemblies/Citizen Juries, participatory mapping and budgeting, etc).	Our current representative democracy works on the basis that it is elected representatives who are responsible for representing the wishes of their constituents. That said, we use Citizen Panels and consult widely on issues where there are far reaching consequences on the decisions that need to be made. Obviously, in this field we will need to include our communities in any discussions if we are going to get the county's citizens to own any activity which will need to be undertaken if we are to reduce the county's carbon footprint, but ultimately the elected members will have to take the necessary decisions.
4	Set interim and measurable targets for Gwynedd to achieve net zero greenhouse reductions and meet nature restoration goals.	Our aspiration is to reach net zero greenhouse reductions and meet nature restoration goals, but the Ffordd Gwynedd principles encourage us to not set a specific target by a specific time (as one cannot reasonably anticipate how long it will take to do the right things). However, our principles also note that we should measure our progress towards achieving the aim and periodically assess whether progress is sufficient. This should not affect our ambition in this area.
5	Align all Gwynedd statutory and non-statutory plans, policies and guidance with respective carbon reduction pathways and nature restoration plans, including procurement.	<p>Our procurement deliberations always consider the impact of our purchases on the environment. In addition, there is scope here, by means of the planning policies of our Joint Local Development Plan, which presumes in favour of sustainable development, to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to all environmental matters, where relevant, so that other developments do not have a detrimental impact on our environment and climate. See sections 6.2 and 6.5 of the Joint Local Development Plan:</p> <p>See also the link to Supplementary Planning Guidance - Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities. Also, there is a need to consider national and European guidelines and legislation in the context of our environment and climate change. Robust arrangements are in place to ensure that statutory bodies such as the Council act in a responsible way themselves, but can also ensure the compliance of others.</p>

6	Review and improve how we involve citizens in our existing decision-making processes.	Understanding our residents' needs and priorities is an important issue for Gwynedd Council. As we develop the action plan we will ensure that we include our communities in the necessary conversations which we will need to have in order to gain that understanding, and as we are aiming to reduce the county's overall carbon footprint, ensuring ownership of our programme by the county's residents will mean that they will have to be part of the process. Ultimately however, the elected members will have to make the decisions.
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RAISING MONEY

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
7	Introduce a workplace car parking levy and/or similar initiative to fund sustainable transport.	The Council did consider charging officers for parking several years ago and it was very difficult to implement at the time as the Unions did not agree to its implementation. Having said that, there is nothing wrong if we as a Council encourage our officers to use more environmentally-friendly ways of travelling to work. Indeed, the Departments have a great deal of influence to ensure that journeys for work purposes are only undertaken when it is only absolutely necessary and in an environmentally-friendly way. In addition, the Council is looking to change its fleet of small travelling vehicles, within the next five years, to electric cars. The Council's first electric car was officially introduced on 14 November 2019. Charging points are being installed at the Council's offices and depots. Therefore, plans are in place to ensure a more environmentally-friendly Council fleet.
8	Raise money from the UK Municipal Bonds Agency for low carbon infrastructure.	If we need to invest, there are a number of funding sources available to the Council and the real matter to be considered is that we are able to repay any loan rather than the source of that loan.

<p>9</p>	<p>Use legal and planning mechanisms such as Section 106 agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy and other mechanisms to fund climate actions and nature restoration projects.</p>	<p>106 Agreements enable planning authorities to restrict land use / development (e.g. for affordable housing), and to ensure financial contributions to mitigate any negative impact as a result of a development. This could include a contribution towards local services or environmental restoration work, where planning reasons provide justification. See section 6.1 of the Joint Local Development Plan, which refers to Infrastructure and developer contributions.</p> <p>See also a link to the Supplementary Planning Guidance on Planning Obligations:</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Implement licensing of the private rented sector to cover enforcement costs of minimum energy efficiency standards</p>	<p>When new houses are built, a definite standard is set under building control legislation. The Council can verify these standards to ensure that the new buildings are insulated to the highest standards. It is a different matter when a building already exists, and although the Council itself ensures that its buildings are insulated to the highest standards, it is very difficult for the Council to force landlords to insulate their properties. The Council intends to encourage landlords and residents in general to insulate their houses, not only to have a positive impact on the environment, but also to save our residents a great deal of money. Plans exist, such as “Cynllun Nyth”, which is run under the auspices of the Welsh Government and there are opportunities for landlords and residents here to obtain more effective boilers that insulate their homes relatively cheaply.</p>

PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
11	Identify the most vulnerable people in the areas most at risk of flooding and high heat levels and target adaptation policies, actions and spending to these areas.	Climate change has a major impact on our weather of course and on sea levels, the effects of which are already apparent to us now. It is likely to become worse in the future. Flooding is obviously one substantial area of risk for citizens in the most vulnerable areas and the Council is doing considerable work on the issue in conjunction with National Resources Wales, to plan for those communities under threat. Considerable public attention has been given to the pioneering work undertaken in Fairbourne of course but that work will have to be extended to other areas in due course. One of the lessons learned in Fairbourne is that the current legislative framework is inappropriate to enable us to deal with the problems faced and we will be campaigning to change that position. It should also be noted that the Council is also the statutory flooding authority that reports on the practical and physical steps that could be taken to protect property and communities. The service is also working on a risk management plan for the rest of Gwynedd, based on river catchment areas. Over the next 10 years we intend to invest over £2m of our resources to try and attract Government Grants in order to undertake works on defences in 6 areas in Gwynedd. Water shortage is an issue that needs to be considered, as well as fires that ignite on lands that are unusually dry. There is a need to be alert to these issues. It is likely that we are going to experience extended periods of higher temperatures as seen in France during the summer of 2019. Some people find it very difficult to cope with this, in particular young children and the elderly, and therefore, there is a need to consider the Council's role in this and how we can act alongside others to care for our residents.
12	Ensure that voices of the most vulnerable communities are also represented in council decision-making and council-citizen deliberations	The Council holds information on the locations of our vulnerable adults, and the Adults, Health and Well-being Department and the health service maintain contact with them. The Council therefore feels that these people's voices are being heard.

BUILDINGS

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
13	Retrofit council-owned properties with high levels of insulation.	The Council has taken action to insulate the majority of its buildings to a high standard, including schools. Most of the work was carried out between 2011 and 2017, including bedroom insulation at 300mm, wall cavities, heating and hot water pipes. The cost comes to £344,293.11. We are still working on upgrading the insulation of boiler houses (valves etc.). We cannot separate the savings from the impact of other schemes but it has certainly made a substantial contribution to a 43% reduction of in our buildings' emissions.
14	Help energy companies target fuel poor or vulnerable households with energy efficiency measures.	The Council needs to consider how we can work collaboratively with companies to be more effective in this area
15	Enforce minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector.	The Council is unaware of any powers it has to compel the private rented sector to insulate their properties, as this does not appear to be one of their current requirements. Having said this, of course, this sector will be encouraged in respect of the schemes available to assist them from Welsh Government, via the Nyth scheme.
16	Require higher standards than current national standards for privately built new homes.	It is very difficult for the Council to demand standards that exceed the required national/legislative requirements. Having said this, there is a real need to attempt to influence developers to build to the highest possible standards in terms of the quality of the houses they build, and certainly the insulation standards and modern heating techniques that do not use fossil fuels.
17	Enforce building standards.	This is most certainly being done through the Building Regulations Service.
18	Require homes built on council land to be extremely energy efficient, using the Passivhaus standard or similar.	There has been no significant building of houses on council land for some time, but with the advent of our new Housing Strategy, we will need to ensure that any housing built on our land in future meets the highest possible practicable energy efficiency standards.

19	Develop a heating and energy efficiency strategy for the area.	We are on the verge of the third phase of the Carbon Management Programme originally drawn up with the Carbon Trust during 2008-09, which began in 2010. Phase 1 of the Carbon Management Programme was completed in 2015, securing a 26% reduction in CO2 emissions compared with the baseline for 2005 - 06. Phase 2 will be completed at the end of March 2019 and to date, it has led to a 39.3% reduction in our CO2 emissions, compared with the 2005-06 baseline. In the third phase, emphasis will be placed on large-scale renewable energy generation. An area heating plan was considered as part of the original Carbon Programme in conjunction with other establishments but it proved uneconomically viable to implement in even our most populous area.
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TRANSPORT

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
20	Enable the rapid shift to electric vehicles by installing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points.	The Council is pursuing grant aid and intends to invest its own resources in establishing charging points across the county. A start will be made in 2020 by investing £465k to establish 84 charging points across the county in the first instance.
21	Prioritise transport investment into cycling, walking, trams and public transport, such as electric buses.	Welsh Government is certainly encouraging more plans in relation to Active Travel and Gwynedd Council, over the years, has been very successful in creating cycling and walking paths across the County. In terms of public transport, the Council has not seen direct investment from Welsh Government; however, the TrawsCymru Service has indeed improved throughout the County in terms of its quality and frequency. Having said that, these buses are not yet electric; plans are being considered in relation to using hydrogen vehicles with a report commissioned to consider the use of hydrogen vehicles for the Sherpa bus services in northern Snowdonia.

22	Put in place Clean Air Zones, with charging if needed.	This is an issue that should be considered by the Council, but as it does not have very large towns and cities, air quality is not a significant issue, and this may well be unnecessary at the moment.
23	Reduce car use through measures such as promoting car-sharing. Re-regulating bus services and constraining road space.	The Council certainly sees a role for itself in this respect, in encouraging residents to car share, use buses, etc. For the Council's business journeys, we are already encouraging officers to reduce these journeys, if possible by reducing their travelling budgets and ensuring that greater use is made of facilities such as video conferencing.
24	Require all taxis to be electric through licensing.	The Council is unaware of any powers it has to enforce taxis to be electric vehicles. In this respect, the Council's probable role is to ensure that charging points are available across the County in order to enable businesses such as taxi companies and residents to invest in electric vehicles in the confidence that they will have a place to charge their cars.
25	Deliver a rapid transition of the council's own fleet to electric.	As noted in number 20, the Council is in the process of installing charging points and in time the fleet vehicles and vans will be replaced with electric vehicles. It is an interesting issue to consider in terms of larger vehicles, e.g. bin lorries, gritters, etc. and the solution here may be hydrogen vehicles. The Council, along with other partners, is already considering the practicality of this.
26	Require deliveries to the council to be by electric vehicles.	The Council does not demand that goods deliveries are made by electric vehicles, but the hope is that this will become more cost-effective for companies as time goes on. The Council is aware that there will not be a substantial change in carbon emissions from using electric cars, and there are other, less desirable environmental side-effects to electric vehicles. The Council is in discussions with electricity companies in terms of the challenges facing us to ensure that there is enough electricity available when there are more electric vehicles on our roads.
27	Introduce differential charges for parking permits or other car related charges.	Vehicle tax certainly charges a differential cost for users of vehicles that pollute more. Currently, it is very difficult to differentiate between vehicles in our car parks based on pay and display; however we could look into other situations where we could consider a differential fee.

28	Reduce the need to own and use a car through managing developments in the local plan	This is obviously going to be more difficult in a rural area. Reducing the need for car ownership is a very interesting issue and innovative schemes have been developed in at least two communities within the County; in the Ogwen area and in the Abergynolwyn area, where community electric vehicles are available for hire at a relatively reasonable price for use on occasions when people genuinely need a vehicle. This may be one model that the Council could influence and encourage other communities to follow.
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POWER

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
29	Identify areas suitable for renewable energy in the local plan.	The process of assessing the Joint Local Development Plan has included research to assess the capacity of the landscape in terms of developments such as renewable energy and the Plan includes specific policies relating to renewable energy and sustainable developments. See section 6.2 of the Plan:
30	Switch street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights.	70% of street lighting has now been replaced with LED lights and plans are afoot to replace the remaining 30%. This would mean a reduction of 1,540 tonnes of carbon emissions after the completion of all work. The Department will then consider replacing illuminated signs.
31	Reduce energy used by the local authority in its own estate.	<p>An ambitious project to significantly reduce carbon emissions and energy costs has saved Gwynedd Council over £4 million since it was established in 2010. The Council's Carbon Management Plan has seen a number of improvements across the authority which has led to huge reductions in CO2 emissions as well as delivering £4,062,958 in savings.</p> <p>Now, thanks to a combination of different projects including installing more energy-efficient lighting in buildings and street lights; insulation projects; fuel cells and a number of energy saving technologies for IT equipment, its carbon footprint has reduced by a phenomenal 39.3% during this period. Since 2010, there has been particular focus on cutting CO2 emissions in Buildings' energy, which are down by 43%.</p>

32	Require the integration of renewable energy such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps in local authority developments and, as much as possible, within private sector developments.	We have already installed PV systems on 58 of our buildings, in addition to the installation of Biomass Boilers in 5 Buildings.
33	Support the development of renewable energy and energy storage.	The Council has already invested in electricity generation as noted above. We intend to identify further suitable sites within the Council's ownership for new proposed renewable energy schemes in order to proceed with further investigations for undertaking such schemes.
34	Oppose fracking and other fossil fuel extraction, and where opposition on fracking has been overturned, support peaceful protest.	Not applicable.
35	Divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy projects.	The authority does not invest its own money in corporate entities. The Pension Fund has to comply with strict investment rules but they have recently decided to invest 12% of the Fund in a Low Carbon Investment Fund.

WASTE

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
36	Send zero waste to landfill or incineration.	Since August this year, all of Gwynedd's residual waste is sent to a waste treatment site (Parc Adfer). Therefore, nothing is sent to landfill. The site is in the commissioning phase, but when fully operational it will generate 17 MW of electricity for the national grid and enough power to run the site itself.
37	Use food waste according to the food waste hierarchy of prevent, reuse, recycle, and ensure remaining non-recyclable biodegradable waste to generate biogas.	For seven years, the GwyrAD anaerobic digestion site has been treating food waste collected from the homes and businesses of Gwynedd. This local site in Gwynedd treats the food and generates 0.5 MW for the National Grid. The site can handle 11,000 tonnes of food, with 7,500 tonnes collected by Gwynedd. We still have room to improve in order to divert more food as only approximately 60% of food is collected.

38	Adopt circular economy waste policies in relevant plans and contracts.	It is most certain a Council priority to have a circular economy.
39	Promote community sharing and reuse.	The service promotes re-use in our recycling centres by working locally with the third sector and with the private sector. An innovative plan is being implemented this year on extending the materials that can be recycled.
40	Ban the use of single-use plastic in council offices and premises	The Council has a policy on the use of single-use plastics

INFLUENCING OTHERS

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
41	Ensure the Sub-national Transport Body strategy is in-line with carbon budgets.	The Council is represented at a Cabinet Member and Head of Department level on the Regional Transportation Groups for North and Mid Wales. Certainly, the issue of low-carbon vehicles and transportation is very high up on the agenda and taken seriously by Welsh Government.
42	Use council memberships of Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure all their decisions are in-line with the climate reduction pathway and nature restoration plans.	There is no LEP in North Wales but the North Wales Economic Ambition Board has the opportunity to invest in order to facilitate economic growth across the region. One of the programmes is the Smart Access to Energy programme which includes a package of projects which position North Wales as one of the UK's leading areas for low carbon energy creation and production, along with innovative small scale smart local energy networks. Delivering these projects should ensure that North Wales has high quality modern infrastructure in order to facilitate sustainable growth in the low carbon energy sector.

43	Provide particular support to SME businesses to access funds and expertise for reducing carbon pollution.	We will need to investigate the opportunities that exist for financial aid. The County Council has collaborated with businesses in Gwynedd to encourage less plastic as part of the 'Plastic-free Towns' scheme. A positive response was received, e.g. from Bonta Deli and Palace Street Pantri, to cut down on their plastic use. There is a new business on Castle Square, The Sustainable Weigh, which is completely plastic-free and sustainable and sets a great example to other businesses.
44	Use influence with schools and others to ensure that meals are delivered in accordance with the official Eatwell Guide on healthy eating and the majority of options on menus are healthy and plant-based, with less and better meat.	Buying local is a matter of high priority for Gwynedd; reducing food miles is something to encourage and having local and seasonal produce is seen as sensible and healthy. The Council's Keeping Benefits Local plan tries to maximise the contracts that are awarded to local companies by helping and encouraging them to tender for food and other contracts

LAND USE

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
45	Double tree cover on council-owned land, update local planning strategies to double tree cover across the Local Authority area, and ensure existing trees are properly protected in order to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design.	<p>The Council has prepared a Biodiversity Duty Plan which meets the duty to sustain biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. Projects and work programmes are being established and implemented in accordance with the principles of Natural Resources Management and an ecosystems mindset.</p> <p>The Tir a Môr Llŷn project is an example of such a scheme, which combines habitat management, collaboration with landowners to reduce the pollution that reaches rivers and ends up in the seas, piloting sustainable farming methods and improved access opportunities. The project is innovative as it integrates the work on the land and on the sea, thus it is possible to expand and strengthen partnership working across the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC. Link.</p>

		<p>The Council owns substantial lands, including woodlands and lands that have been identified and designated as nature reserves and wildlife sites. Woodlands are important assets for recreation but a lack of resources hinders effective management. Through the Planning process and Tree Preservation Orders (link), the Council preserves trees and woodlands of biodiversity and landscape value.</p> <p>Recently, the Ash Dieback disease has spread to Gwynedd which will lead to the loss of a large number of mature trees, thus having a detrimental impact on species and the landscape's appearance. In 2020, the Council will prepare an Ash Dieback Action Plan (link) in response to the challenge and to prepare for replanting and restoring habitats.</p>
46	Protect existing local green spaces, green belt and locally designated nature sites.	<p>Green spaces and lands designated as nature reserves and wildlife sites are ways to reconnect people with nature and they are resources that contribute to the physical and mental well-being of the County's residents. Nevertheless, it is a challenge to maintain and manage them effectively in the current financial climate with greater emphasis being placed on engaging with organisations within local communities to encourage them to take "ownership" of the lands. The grant-funded Community Woodlands project has shown the appreciation within communities of their natural assets, and the interest they have in caring for them. See progress report.</p> <p>The Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation enables the Council to take steps to protect and maintain the quality of the landscape and environment and through the Sustainable Development Fund, communities and local organisations receive support to implement projects that are important to them. The Snowdonia National Park Authority also has a key role to play in this respect of course as it covers a significant part of the county.</p>

47	Manage council-owned land and road verges to increase biodiversity and drawdown carbon pollution, including through reduced pesticide use and increased planting of wildflowers.	In terms of managing our own lands, cutting grass verges is work that needs to be done in order to ensure safety; however, this has been adapted to ensure that biodiversity is protected so far as reasonably possible. In 2020 the Council will start to adapt their cutting programmes in order to promote biodiversity and wild flowers at the side of our county roads. WE are also developing an exciting project in partnership with the Community Gardens and Farms Charity which will facilitate communities' ability to grow indigenous wild flowers to be planted on our road verges (subject to a succesful grant application)
48	Develop new quality green spaces in areas where they don't exist, particularly in neighbourhoods where people are particularly vulnerable to heatwaves and/or are deprived of nature.	Grants become available occasionally to create green spaces, and Gwynedd Council does indeed take advantage of these. Of course, these spaces also need to be maintained and a resource is needed to do it, and this issue would be addressed when applying for the grants in question.
49	Produce a nature and ecosystem restoration plan to reverse and restore habitats and species and ecosystem quality and function.	There is a need to protect the landscape of Gwynedd and its special environment. Our eco-systems are facing substantial challenges, not only from the climate, but also due to disease. One disease that currently exists is Ash Dieback.

CAMPAIGNING

NUMBER	Action/Description	Comments
50	Work with other local authorities and allies to secure more regulatory powers, fundraising powers and finance to deliver on our aspirations (for example, as those identified by Friends of the Earth), and join forces with others to push for a national climate action plan that is commensurate with the climate and nature emergency.	Gwynedd Council works with many other bodies to ensure that we care for and protect our important environment, and attempt to reduce the impact on climate change. As a member of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Sector Board we have established a Climate Change Sub Group to assess whether there are things which we could as public sector bodies do better together and we will also try and influence projects being undertaken at a regional level through our membership of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and the North Wales Leadership Group. We will continue to do so democratically and will continue to seek resources to ensure that we are able to act alongside others to reach this important goal.

