

Notes from the meeting

Simon Reybould opened the meeting and spoke about PHGS having a careers advice meeting on the 19th October.

There are training grants available for Chamber members of 50%

And First Aid courses are available too

Councillor Richard Hughes was our main speaker regarding Street scape for the centre of Otley. The council are trying to make Otley Carbon neutral by 2050. There is a bid for the government to to give financial help. They want to make the streets safer and more pleasant for pedestrians. Recently funding has been successful for Manor Garth and for cyclists. Development is in progress for Wharfe meadows and for cyclists for pupils to use a route to PHGS, which will help to relieve traffic over the bridge.

2 new schemes. Pedestrianisation of Mercury Row and for a crossing at the bottom of Bridge Street.

The new 20 mile speed limit seems to be having an effect on making pedestrians feel safer, there have been a few objections. We still have anti social motorist but it is felt that there are benefits. LCC will be advised on what OCT would like and although OTC have funds, LCC will help out.

Cllr. Colin Campbell . An experimental traffic order is for 18 months and it prevents cars parking on the East of Kirkgate. We will see what happens if parking is restricted. There maybe a possibility to restrict parking on Kirkgate to 30 minutes . From discussions, short stay parking is favourable.

The top of Station Road was the designated parking spot for those who work in Otley but people who work here like to park near to where they work.

Encourage more people to use the bus service which it has been pointed out that the present service is not good enough. Unfortunately OTC have no control over this. Although OTC are having discussions with the bus service X84 and the 34

We are assured that the planters on Kirkgate are temporary .

There was much discussion about the 20 mile speed limit. LCC are confident that the 20 limit does make a difference, they do have evidence . Although the Police are reluctant to monitor those who break the limit. This 20 mile an hour limit is not just here in Otley, it is happening all over the country.

Our other main speaker was Andrew Howarth from the 2030 group.

This was a very quick update as Andrew would like to come back and be our main speaker possibly in January (TBC)

The Government has outline zero carbon emissions by 2050 (we will see) Andrew would like this in Otley by 2030

It is believed that this transition can be achieved by local businesses starting to make a difference themselves. It is hoped that there can be Pop Up hubs to give advice to businesses on how to reduce their energy consumption.

It is also hoped that we can have less food waste from food manufactures , to be redistributed to those families and individuals who are struggling with their food bills.

Ecargo bikes are an idea which has just started for deliveries around Otley which effectively means less vehicles and consequently less carbon emissions .

If you would like to get intouch with Andrew, get in touch in the usual way, "2030" or contact the Chamber and we will guide you in the right direction.

A full transcript of Andrews presentation is available below.

Martin Fuller from the Carnival committee gave a short presentation. The Carnival Committee are looking for new ideas for this coming year. They are aware that people like to see Floats and for anyone interested, these are free. He asked if the chamber would be interested in a float. He would also like to come back at a later date to do another talk to us.

Meeting closed just after 7pm and refreshments were served

Otley 2030 Notes

This will be a very quick update from me, as I'll be coming back in January to give a broader presentation on the work of Otley 2030.

For those of you who don't know us, we're a community group that was born out of the climate emergency declarations by LCC and OTC in 2019.

The UK government has set a target of reaching net-zero by 2050 across all sectors, including business. The science indicates that this really isn't soon enough and if 2050 is the target, then most of the action needs to be front-loaded and happen as early as possible.

There is quite often a negative spin on this, and often, what I believe to be, a fabricated stand-off between the business community and environmentalists, but it is our belief that this transition can be positive for all concerned, particularly local small and medium sized businesses, who have a more direct connection with their customer base than the global corporations. For example, we've already had really positive discussions with Tate Oil about their future direction. After all, we all want to secure a healthy and safe future for our children and future generations.

So, we would like, wherever possible, to support local businesses to become more sustainable and benefit from this transition.

I won't go into too many details, but a few ideas that we're currently working on are:

- Pop-up hub – Where home/business owners can drop in to get advice on how to reduce their energy consumption and save money. We're also working closely with WYCA and LCC to develop a retrofit strategy for Otley and the wider region. This will require the training and employment of many local people and hopefully great business opportunities.
- Community Larder – As the cost of living increases, more and more people will struggle to feed their families. At the same time, a lot of good food is being sent to landfill. We're currently mapping local cafes, restaurants, supermarkets and shops to see what kind of surplus is available in Otley and how it could be redirected to people who desperately need it.
- Ecargo bikes – Climate Action Ilkley currently have a couple of these available for rent and we're currently looking into funding to secure one or more for Otley, with the hope of setting a young person up in business as a courier.
- Refill – We're shortly going to start mapping which cafes, takeaways and shops offer refills for drinks and food. Obviously we have the amazing LND that leads the way on this and has already saved something like 12,000 plastic bottles being thrown out and Coffee Station give you 30p off for bringing your own cup, but we'd really like to encourage more businesses to offer this service.

All great ideas, but we are working across many sectors: education, food, energy, waste etc, and we are stretched, so our output is only as good as the quantity and quality of volunteers who get involved. We did have a few people from businesses attend some of our meetings earlier this year, but we've recently taken a bit of a break for summer, so we'd really like to get those going again.

If you're interested in getting involved, or would just like to learn a bit more about what we do. Please put your details on one of the forms that are circulating. That doesn't commit you to anything, other than receiving our monthly newsletter that will tell you when upcoming meetings about business and other things are happening.