**Addingham Environment Group**

**Zero Carbon Addingham**

**For the attention of Addingham Parish Council, December 19th 2018**

**Background**

As the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has highlighted, there is an **urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** nationally and internationally to avoid major changes to the global climate system and minimise serious problems for human society.

Governments must act decisively and set the agenda, but **local communities need to play their part** by reducing their dependence on fossil fuels and minimising their carbon footprint.

**The magnitude of the changes required is huge** affecting what we buy, how we heat our homes, how we travel and what we eat.

In the Environment Group we have started to measure our individual carbon footprints in the village. We have only 17 results in so far but they show that each of us in 2018 is on average responsible for emitting **11 tonnes** of carbon into the atmosphere.

This latest report, produced by the world’s most respected climate scientists, is saying that those 11 tonnes per person need to be down to **six tonnes by 2030 and zero by 2050**.

How can we do that? **What can we do as a village**? For sure we can’t delay! Here we list some of the initiatives that the Environment Group is taking in the village.

When time allows we would appreciate a full discussion with the Council hopefully early in the New Year so that together we can design **a plan of action** that commands acceptance across the community as a whole, as envisaged in the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Current initiatives**

1. **Carbon footprint measurements:** Using the WWF carbon calculator to measure individual carbon footprints to: (i) estimate the average for the village; and (ii) raise awareness about the ways in which carbon footprints can be reduced.
2. **Solar panel demonstration:** Developing a project that would capture the attention of young people to demonstrate how solar panels work.
3. **Solar panels on the school roof:** Researching the possibility of installing solar panels on the Primary School roof to be discussed at the next Governors Meeting in January. The objectives are: (i) to save money on energy bills; (ii) to reduce the schools carbon footprint; (iii) to raise awareness about climate change within the school community, including parents; and (iv) to help staff deliver the science curriculum.
4. **Energy efficiency of public buildings:** Researching measures that can be taken to improve the energy efficiency of public and community buildings, especially older buildings within the Conservation Area, such as the Hub. We have already approached the Memorial Hall Committee who have invited us to present our ideas at their next meeting. The objectives are to explore ways of reducing carbon emissions and making cost savings on energy bills.
5. **Electric vehicles:** Exploring where charging points for electric vehicles could be installed within the village, on the premise that cars need to be left for a minimum of 30 minutes to reach a full charge. Possibilities include the Memorial Hall car park, Public House car packs and Church car parks. The lack of charging points is seen nationally as a limiting factor in the uptake of EV ownership and there is strong Government support for their installation. The availability of charging points in the village might help tourist footfall.
6. **Carbon sequestration**: Whilst reducing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel usage is essential, it is also important to capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. One of the objectives of the 4Becks project is to slow the flow of water and reduce soil erosion by planting trees along our becks. These measures also contribute to carbon capture.

**We welcome comment on any of these initiatives, we welcome further ideas and we invite a member of Council to join our Zero Carbon group.**

**Rick Battarbee, on behalf of John Sykes, Norman Jones and Richard Walton**

**13th December 2018**