Letchworth Town Talk Post-it Notes

16th October 2019

* Instead of doing a recycling machine that results in people getting more stuff- why can’t you do a recycling machine that gives out train tickets [or cinema]? They are expensive machines- why couldn’t independents and chains get together and pay for one- stronger business communities.
* How does the council plan to engage schools and youth groups?
* You need to make grant applications easier! Schools don’t have the time to fill in grant forms.
* Expand foil package recycling to Letchworth.
* Encourage businesses to become teracycle points.
* Designated recycling bins for pedestrian rubbish in town (very patchy provision across North Herts).
* Recycling bins in public- used to be one outside Jackman’s shops.
* Additional electric car charging points.
* Council to fund and support a Repair café type thing weekly to stop some things going to landfill.
* Local businesses should have designated recycling bins.
* Work with Woodland Trust and public to create a forest of new trees.
* Explore cycle scheme for Letchworth.
* Facilitate setting up hydrogen filling stations for bin lorries, buses and private cars.
* Wildflower planting on the road verges.
* Tree planting- can we organise autumn tree planting? (I used to do this on Remembrance Day with the Scouts in Howard Park).
* Could we do a wildlife survey (birds, bees etc) and involve schools in this as a citizen science project (to track biodiversity)
* Increase building standards to Level 6, zero carbon and limited water
* Totnes held a day to generate ideas with a broad cross section of local people/council etc. Could we have more sessions like this with elderly, schools etc?
* Development have to offer carbon offset of building.
* Subsidies for retro-fitting old properties to reduce Co2 impact?
* Can we have a room/building dedicated to a ‘One Stop Shop’ advertising all services in Letchworth e.g. Black Squirrel, CAB, youth groups etc
* How can the message be spread about ways for ordinary people (individuals)to make a difference? (Where to start?)
* The Council are taking action and helping to advise local people to take action. Are local businesses making any commitment too?
* Can we encourage the use of electric cars through planning changes e.g. charging?
* What’s the council view of nuclear power to help provide low carbon electricity?
* Can the council encourage the development of green skills in the area?
* How can the Council move to non-fossil fuel forms of heating?
* Has the Council considered District Heating concepts for planning?
* Should we dis-allow building new houses/businesses with gas boilers?
* Have we assessed the waste issues behind solar power?
* Can Council assist with energy saving improvements for houses?
* Biodiversity: Please make it illegal in LGC to use pesticides and herbicides on public land.
* Does NHDC have any influence over the cycle routes in the town or is it just HCC? Cycle routes are broken and spasmodic and do not encourage wary cyclists.
* Design Standards for existing housing
* Dialogue with LGCHF to avoid fuel poverty?
* Can we find ways and locations to plant more trees?
* Transport- without a Town Council, how can a team be set up to develop a sustainable travel plan for Letchworth?
* What are we doing to take readings of air quality?
* Are there any ‘emergencies’ that are unique to our area that NHDC is addressing in its plan? E.g. the drying up of the River Ivel and what Affinity Water and the local population can do.
* At a town level Letchworth could reduce its carbon emissions by creating and delivering a Sustainable Travel Town Plan (to comply with HCC’s LTP4). I believe that town and parish councils are working on sustainable travel town plans. Given Letchworth does not have a Town Council how can a team be set up to develop a Sustainable Travel Town Plan for our town?
* We are aware of the difficulties in the past where Heritage Foundation (HF) design standards have prevented energy efficiency improvements to the existing housing stock, in particular, housing associations being unable to roll out external cladding projects in Letchworth. Are the council willing to enter into a dialogue with the HF to ensure their planning guidance is not unnecessarily prohibiting home owners from achieving energy efficiency improvements? For information I have attached Transition Town Letchworth’s latest letter to the HF asking for them to review their design standards to help mitigate climate change.