

Question to the public session of the Community and Environment board meeting on Monday 25th July 2022.

'In 2021 only 5 out of the 69 projects funded from the first Green Shoots Funding scheme were based in North Warwickshire - 3 of these were based in Atherstone. Given the Council's commitment to tackling climate change and the opportunities which this new round of funding presents [up to £25 K each] there is clearly a need, not only to sign post but also, to actively encourage and support organisations in North Warwickshire to apply for this funding. In particular, where it takes forward commitments made, and targets set out in the Borough Council's Climate Change Action plan to achieve a net gain in biodiversity and support our communities to deliver low carbon projects and climate adaptation initiatives.

Can this council commit to engaging, encouraging and supporting community organisations, schools, Town and Parish councils to apply for the next round of WCC Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund 2022 and actively work with them to develop and submit these applications before 19th September .'

Cllr Jacky Chambers and Cllr Jodie Gosling

Response from Councillor Margaret Bell, Chair of Community & Environment Board

The Council very much supports the Green Shoots scheme and had been encouraging the County Council to focus on projects in the North of the County following the success of the first round of funding. Warwickshire County Council has acknowledged the need to support greater engagement from within our area as highlighted on its website where it states:

“Due to less funding being awarded to organisations in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire Boroughs in the first round of funding, the second round of funding is seeking to attract more applications from projects that support providing benefits to these areas.”

North Warwickshire Borough Council has been actively publicising and promoting the second round of Green Shoots funding. Information on the scheme was sent to all Borough Councillors, Parish Councils and schools. The Council's Community Development team has also been actively engaging with organisations developing or running specific projects.

We are already aware of potential projects in Kingsbury, Piccadilly and Hartshill. A Green Shoots event organised jointly by WCAVA and WCC was held at Wood End Village Hall in mid-June, and the Borough Council continues to work closely with WCC and WCAVA to signpost any interest. Officers are in further discussions with colleagues at WCC to organise further drop-in sessions in our area. NWBC will continue to promote the scheme and the Corporate Director (Streetscape) will be asked to work with the all-party Climate Change Member Group to see what further support can be given to schools, community organisations and other groups in the borough wishing to make bids to the fund.

Further information on the Green Shoots Fund can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/greenshootsfund