

## Environment Report



The SSEG was formed following the 2021 AGM and is led by Diana Owen with Kevin Bond, Bob Bearman, Jann Tracy, Margaret Cund, Elaine Newbold, Jonathan Devereux, Steve Turner & Robin Sankey. The group has met three times, in October & November 2021 and in January 2022.

The SSEG has considered its scope and purpose and does not wish to duplicate the work of other Society sub-groups, principally planning and transport. The group recommended that the Society might consider expanding its remit to include 'the natural environment' and might lead a debate in the town to agree what sort of growth we wished to see in the area and how best to achieve a balance between economic growth, the environment and quality of life.

The SSEG recommends that the Stratford Society:

- support other local groups active in protecting the environment and promoting sustainability,
- should press for reinstatement of sustainable building standards in planning consents, and all new developments should embody the highest environmental standards,
- encourage SDC / WCC to meet climate change targets, and
- that the Society should support re-use rather than demolition and rebuild.

The SSEG looked for best practice in comparative towns in the UK but has not yet identified a good case study to learn from. The group also identified speakers for the Society and has contacted three local secondary schools to ask them if their young people might be willing to present to the Society their ideas for priorities and actions needed in a local climate change action plan. This schools project is on-going.

The SSEG is also a forum for the exchange of information and ideas including the lack of car charging points, the weight limit on the Clopton Bridge, the Riverside Scheme, solar panel 'farms', cycle routes and the possibility of community renewable energy schemes.

Finally, the group has agreed to prepare a set of guidelines for the Society outlining our position on a range of Environmental matters. Should the Society adopt these, we would seek to present these in all and any consultations.

Diana Owen