

**Climate and Nature Emergency Plan Comments**

**Riverside Community Council**

**Vision and Objectives**

Riverside Community welcomes the CaNE Plan proposal and recognises the importance of a community approach from the top levels of the Scottish Government to the choices individuals can make.

**Energy Use and Generation**

We feel it is important to recognise that making sustainable choices, such as solar panels, can be prohibitively expensive. This can result in a disparity between the aim of being a carbon neutral community and the average household being unable to make changes and achieve this goal.

Community Owned energy was suggested as a consideration for some areas, particularly with regards to fuel poverty. Further information on this would help show communities that there are alternatives to the big power companies.

**Low Carbon Transport**

Riverside Community Council is a supporter of active travel, sustainable transport and infrastructure improvements to make it easier to journey safely without a car. We feel community consultation and engagement is essential to achieve these goals.

It has been our experience that when businesses and commercial properties make sustainable choices there can be an adverse consequence to the local communities. In Riverside we have become the parking area for commuters and for buildings with no on- site parking.

Residents have raised the issue that electric vehicles have lesser known negative environmental impact and that being fully educated on this would allow people to make informed choices.

Charging points for electric cars are currently insufficient for an increase in electric car use. People may have to make the choice to convert gardens into driveways to get access to power, and this is less than ideal environmentally.

**Resource Efficiency**

It is important to recognise that it is expensive to consistently choose sustainable options, charities, community groups and average households may find this prohibitive when making choices on limited budgets. Options and information will be key to supporting these groups.

One of our concerns with resource efficiency is that non-digital communication could suffer and those without access to the online media lose out on opportunities and information as a result. This can often be vulnerable groups.

**Nature and Biodiversity**

Riverside Community Council is in strong support of the plan to protect and develop our green spaces with biodiversity at the forefront of decision making. Education for communities on what that means would be invaluable.

Our experience has been that the Scottish Government Reporter can overrule decisions Stirling Council previously made. Our fear would be that this continues to happen and contradicts the CaNE Plan – developers need to be responsible for mitigating any environmental imbalance they cause within communities.

**Climate Adaption**

Flooding is a constant fear for Riverside and we want to be involved and consulted in all plans to protect our homes.

Community Resilience is something that is currently relevant to Riverside and having an understanding of what we could expect from Stirling Council in terms of resources and support would be beneficial.

**Enabling Actions**

Riverside Community Councils welcomes proposals to help engage and empower us to represent and support our community effectively.

The key points for us are information, communication and consultation.