

Dear Chris

Our next meeting is on 11 March 7.30–9.00 pm at our usual venue; Friends’ Meeting House, 43 St Giles, Oxford. **The first part of the meeting will feature a talk by Jamie Hartzell on ‘How do we double tree cover in Oxfordshire?’**. He has been leading development of a county-wide coalition to look at where the trees might go and how we do it (see below).

There will also be updates on our plans for climate action as the UK looks towards the UN Climate conference in Glasgow – what can we do locally, and on our work on air pollution. We will also discuss possible action around the City Council elections.

**Our headline news:**

* A Lush Tree Party! On 21 and 22 March, Oxfordshire Trees for the Future campaigners will be working with Lush Cosmetics in their Westgate store to talk to people about trees and to promote the campaign. Can you help for an hour or two?
* Two great pieces of national news this month – the legal victory over Heathrow and the government announcement that new onshore wind projects are now possible. THANKS to everyone who lobbied on these!
* A Tree Action Group: after the discussion at our ‘Step Forward’ workshop last month we are setting up one Action Group / network to take forward all our community level work. If you’re active on trees or would like to be, there’s more information below.
* Zero Carbon Oxfordshire: there’s plans for more work on homes and transport – the major sources of carbon emissions in our county. We also want to start a campaign ‘from Oxford to Glasgow’ around the UN conference. Join us in taking climate action now. We have a Climate Action Group meeting on 31 March.

***Want to know more? Read on!***

**Oxfordshire Trees for the Future**

Cherwell District Council have joined the City Council is supporting doubling tree cover in Oxfordshire and on 31 March, the County Council will debate this. Next week we will be emailing everyone to ask you to email or write to your county councillor asking them to support the motion. Watch for that mailing and please act! If you can please join us on the 31st at County Hall (see our Facebook page nearer the time for details).

Our petition has over 1,700 signatures and we’d like to get 2000 by 31 March! **You’ve probably signed (haven’t you?) but please ask your friends, family, colleagues, to do so – it’s easy** and it’s here: [https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/doubling-oxfordshire-tree-cover-by-2045](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h1/CA0gLXQEKb6jqGkD7RqZiVCso-2FILbuaAIEEtVZapgA8ZTGkxikGy73xdY6Qd217-2FvDlI-2FAkGBs41pPaqJ3jvLmAv9eV-2FfAeUA3yosttfiGw3pj8Qw45aNKhON1ekpWE5b6tiUNj6vqxmjepZccJvhze-2BFTO2FY6GF9tNHXUpcK5vGkAPNA5-2FoazabjYVHAqCX525Czwzgb8Lzl6VsWrrsau9ZnSaOneTxkv0mUtKR3fJydwgIIf-2BtJ2z84SsusV0UsfeKdR8QNzZN6zbgFWx1ZKjV7UQKa2Hq5YVmpzbnBbyV-2Bp92nXkudsWzh1-2Fn6iNPORi3GnnLRMFd59JeLYvW3Uj9LmC3Sot1m2NAOerSvI-3D/J-YV). Please share this link.

**The ‘Lush Tree Party’ is on 21 and 22 March** - we will be working with Lush Cosmetics in their Westgate store to talk to people about trees and to promote the campaign. We need people to help staff our display and talk to people visiting the store. No experience needed - we will give you a full briefing and you will be working with at least one other person. **If you can help** [**please register here**](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h2/CA0gLXQEKb6jqGkD7RqZieSiR1xt6h2zAPrrZKB7vwlSmGofDp1Z9CwVDRH6X1M4DuucYm2aIzqyKcWncH3pC5nZBKnmYqnGVDQAMVZxwqNQHn5EOGBuhINLlNA8RwPDkmZuHmPDYu7Tj1ea1Bk1AN3purEeFNadzoSSJXULMofYpsqu09rFgMsAgucJBfIA8RVqg1agvwDLh0MkXkeu5opIF9WqaH6pcbR1j-2FuU-2FmRJww3YIpbYmHwIU9wGffjFGIQlTw3v8PAwH30f9-2BAvqH9xpw8mEOnobpAYX1XOP3r3GJkFaDi059FuN6bnNtWdyYsBpIvm5CV1NJQ-2Bo6Ajeg-3D-3D/COUp) **and we will be in contact.**

**On 11 March we will discuss the Treescape Project**, the new Oxfordshire-wide initiative to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places. We have an ambitious target of doubling tree cover, but as yet no plan as to how this will be achieved. Without such a plan, there is a danger that we end up with the wrong trees in the wrong places, competing with existing land uses, or perhaps worse still, no more trees at all. The proposal is to create a ‘Tree Opportunity Map’ for the county of Oxfordshire to show where tree cover might be increased. This will recognise a wide variety of competing land uses, be that arable or livestock farming, conservation areas or recreational parks.

**Climate Action**

A timetable for our activity is taking shape after Step Forward, and if there’s people to help there’s plenty to be achieved!

* **April / May:** The County Council will be consulting on its new ‘LTCP’ Transport Plan. We need to ensure that this sets out a path to zero carbon (alongside the revised Oxfordshire 2050 plan).
* **May:** Council elections in the City – should we be looking to encourage candidates to support key policies? How do we best get to all those standing?
* **June:** We would like to use Oxford Green Week to develop an ‘Oxford to Glasgow’ programme to send messages to our political leaders about the critical need for success at the COP26 talks – we’ll need to start work in this very soon.
* **July:** Cowley Road Carnival has ‘Mother Earth’ as its theme – OxFoE are talking to the organisers about how a green theme will develop (and how the plastic waste is controlled!).

**With all this in mind we will have a ‘Climate Action Group’ meeting on 31 March.** If you want to help make change happen then come along – email climate@oxfoe.co.uk for details.

**Zero Carbon Homes (ZCH)**

The push for Zero Carbon homes is building – the Oxfordshire Growth Board are now discussing this issue. We need to see that this happens sooner rather than later and our ZCH group is working on this. We’d welcome your involvement. Are you an architect, planner, builder, housing association worker or anyone else working on housing? We are keen to talk with people across the housing industry – would you be willing to help with this work?

Our next meeting is on Monday 9 March – contact us at climate@oxfoe.co.uk if you can help. For more information, see our web page: [https://www.oxfoe.co.uk/oxford-friends-of-the-earth/climate-change/zero-carbon-homes-for-oxfordshire/](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h3/hFwCMwAUN-2BkDQcyohILv1KE8Av4GalBGD-2B0L6WSq-2B7AsCPzVF1Dj7S6hSwkYoZ47V1dSzErTiW1-2BWGj3f-2BXTWhBjnovcGpWHsDAIaWhC7ciPqdyQiTSVZCpDbBW7ET9aC02OXRSxuslQLusCn5H-2BG1yoP56Ed-2FlmuZ5K8jxxydvuauPEP4wk6m6Qt9wUQ6o3Xdcf6MtpLolx9QVodDa-2B65hmMdSgbS1j7H3HFiPD2i6A4-2FWeJzJvvUBNYmWQeKd1oop8UCXTQjSEkNgAmBu-2BBtkRelPrbHwZfmyd0ttFmTb8rabICQU09QC49s5tfbMLgwZT-2FTe2hA5ENI-2FpDglMDCg5Rk90wgZn2RfI7Tute3cJVgzYWwb0Q9Vxm4dwCXQ0356UsXwAKJ0i0nd4A-2BkdsA-3D-3D/mEdR)

**Air pollution**

Our new schools survey on air pollution and active travel is going out across the county to all head teachers. If you are involved in any school please encourage the appropriate person to fill it in.[You can see the survey here](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h4/HiipufzVan83Hryn5Mh8UVUvPi3m4NbfySyyWSCLgc-2FsNi03T27B6jnbJMpVobUfQECGU8qYp5RKGSLHY39QVsgANBgBwc4ZndR-2FnOwFiQerrikjfK9k2F-2BU2VALtCRwOGfrKnK3bfmLfgvKNPdWpaLG-2BIlB7yDtFt05Gvj1O2edG-2FedUNaU5btX2Rp87vvaJ3buPmk7QcJhWVBnQcaLykqkGwKrMMbq33aMaF79HHNOtBQY7lBWmuQwhzrHXYh3AdRMEq7TTJn8jv65vhTDQUqM7CcoorB5BHC5plqEPIs95aufvtjG9W9Og9xkYMA6/GPMf) but please do not fill it in unless you are the ‘appropriate person’ for a school. Our schools banner competition has now closed – we await the judging and results!

We are reviewing progress on the Oxfordshire Clean Air Charter – several of the key points are being addressed in the new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and work on the Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ). We are making progress! We had a good group of people from various parts of the county at the Step Forward air pollution session and will develop cooperation especially around anti-idling work.

We are starting to plan for Walk to School week (18 -22 May) – we’d like as many schools as possible engaged with this (see www.livingstreets.org.uk for more information on this) and also for national Clean Air Day on 18 June. If you have any bright ideas on what we should do to highlight poor air quality this year email us at cleanair@oxfoe.co.uk

**Step Forward – planning for action in 2020**

**Over 60 people took part in our workshop on 22 February at the Environmental Change Institute.** [**A full summary is on our website- click here**](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h5/hFwCMwAUN-2BkDQcyohILv1FWGC95ZayWwzWEtNJWVKXnZHwXneMuPqPOJgTzVi5UQZZ3Yya-2B1WYs7I5UTKRlewVda0spfVk2sFYB5XVEZMtr-2FMy3XRLo4-2F62sZIxHUjSPtmni2lVlXIlp0mJ353ps3cPjL27kqibX1y3EThMLENIhoevWoJs35yIbPK-2BbW4LL1k5HMwfEQ95ppCkhJhqL0Q2RpcvVlBU5E2vGOHxqrlQicBOf3SC9IH39-2BDrXAoTay1kZzYBtwaMyjagQafAUnhzdtoGKBB9Hz6w5YMkkIH0TcxGi1sB9bcMMtiq3jnDhmFedb1WW3duC8hGNaN0E6DuwT-2FFL-2BXl-2B-2BDleSPRxiNA-3D/A3BY)**, but some key points include:**

***Oxfordshire Trees for the Future***We will set up a new Trees Action Group specifically around communities and trees and will look for links with groups across the county to develop a network of ‘Tree Champions’. We will review our work so far and may organise a ‘one year on’ meeting.

***Climate Action***We will

* Focus the work of a Climate Action Group on activity between now and the Glasgow UN COP conference. This will include lobbying our MPs and councils to put maximum pressure on the government to deliver on its own commitments.
* Work to ensure that plans delivered by our local councils are ambitious and lead to genuine change.
* Develop our work on zero carbon homes to encourage councils, developers, and others to support rapid moves to a point where new homes are commonly zero carbon.
* Develop a clear set of targets for local transport and use these to ensure that the proposed County Transport Plan sets out a path to zero carbon

***Air pollution***We will:

* Review work done around the Clean Air Charter to show where work is still needed. This will tie into activity around the Zero Emission Zone
* Work with groups across the county on air pollution and idling
* Organise activity for Clean Air day on June 18th  and continue our work with local schools
* Support and encourage involvement in Walk to School Week – 18-22 May

***Work with communities across the County***We will work to develop a network of contacts within groups across the County so that we can share ideas and information and monitor the activity by local councils. This will tie into development of ‘Tree Champions’. We will also develop a network of ‘social media sharers’ – people who are regular posters on the main channels – to maximise our impact.

**Water pollution – a serious Oxfordshire issue**

At last month’s OxFoE meeting Richard Knowles spoke about the increasing pollution of local river catchment areas resulting from inadequacies in the current legislation. The Environment Agency is the regulator, but it is under severe financial pressure. Permits to release untreated sewage are too general, they rely on self-monitoring and reporting, and prosecutions don’t happen very often. Sewage treatment works are allowed to discharge untreated effluent into rivers and streams when, for example, combined sewer outfalls (CSO’s), become overloaded in times of heavy rainfall. These permitted releases are becoming more frequent and increased housing will only add to this pressure. There are active groups challenging the unacceptable release of untreated sewage, most notably WASP, Windrush Against Sewage Pollution [www.windrushwasp.org](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h6/bfG9naTK2FJE3UXWNC0yXGf0-2FM8UMjBaAL-2FjGavbnnBPkvvvgoaJOJZboUzxEYeLrNHmqqLdv1CFI5XfvNLUUfZsGu55kZIe8MlwucVldtqnejgNtB06G3FMXMVMOh0HB-2FsJEiT0v6tKPE7R0hFk1TX-2F2AV1j5hLJBBVLDW3kMm62wf0tTu95ggmeXpglq-2FdU6i5Md401hHSSqhlev6Vdn6LKcTvzBl-2B2t-2BVLFudHrsCNfrELLVFFn0JY48XbvlUpbaQ5j79UQy5bUTZTWNpimkt2YmOOu05XuZI4GEJCSE-3D/RXxa)

Other useful links are:

* [900,000 hours of human sewage and rainwater flow into UK rivers in just one year – revealed – Channel 4 News](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h7/3f-2BToXfqtl01wquYB8ExxPBEluljLSrms5Sb-2FWVgzM5aaATL1vrHHeHCtnLCuRR-2Fg3CYKTmEqYWCyx2NFyuaH6yIlUiF1Ihj2JB3-2FPiAo5pJoUp51LibRtt-2B7eR-2FclPGa0VVii9hVAHP4M-2Bif-2BvAs9mGGOGyRCX6SJL8EKeZW-2BzZGiRXND618Q2DQiY5vs4EBUvCsCsaLYKzhEbPqM-2BgfzjLvkMIPg7egmitvJP3bj2DsZ3A9DcB8EsBk95oJMnNk6in-2BzCGY29PZtbE7rzfjoh9DwkUoKNMvPXvokwjIVhheZA8RQBqde-2FEgp0tihkK97QrFdx8XC0AF-2B2Z1xnJlUkWP-2BtpxHAO8WkpGg2JT-2Bb1b5S0239NDiB6-2F3c7KI5fftP-2BA68fuAD11cvNCNvLj82zg7gTAfL9cEeYWpe9ixg-3D/c3NM)
* [Push for bathing water quality hailed as 'game changer' for UK rivers | Environment | The Guardian](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h8/bz0IlsB5jop-2FN80CF07pWxSoE-2FnJ-2FESt-2F6fqRQZNaYXb7FCV8bN1VPaGzC8qo80Zf-2BOoFpMuJWNe6CO6JUVFjq-2Byt4VtAJKRIXHyQrLKTN9-2FGnvDqQKoNK9-2Fm81U-2BdP6Bvjpxl5HNJQgPQVBSgNEM6uOeMJJ560LR-2BUabw3Twq5zuCyG1JP2SvnFYsuP-2FGLklUuG-2FnlA7-2Bb7UJXan2wIvJOWATlT1MhFe7FmKUaINfPQP8OeRoJLPHHv-2FbhSvm3Kf9njYA8FQiaHH5NvhKhvHAGtFngK3SkG1Q75uHz38tur8EiWHXqOHGQWFHd4BNfvL8q09BZ5HMMdF4BJ5hEV9yhE1G96pzhTzTrwolhzxbPnPqWSum1j3KEFEvenEkhUtDH-2Fy9wUcuRru124tJ7RzcE1LO7uBii6R3aiXsFczTP8CY-2FUIsCUo5h06hcUoN5g/m5xn)

**Dates for the diary**

**9 March:** Zero Carbon Homes Action Group meeting, email climate@oxfoe.co.uk for details
**11 March:** OxFoE monthly meeting at Friends’ Meeting House, 43 St Giles, 7.30–9.00 pm; special focus on the new trees mapping plan. All welcome!
**21–22 March:** The ‘Lush Tree Party’ at Lush Cosmetics, Westgate – [register here](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h9/CA0gLXQEKb6jqGkD7RqZieSiR1xt6h2zAPrrZKB7vwlSmGofDp1Z9CwVDRH6X1M4NrheBInHcL9ZR0eKbwUrX06awxQE-2FvSgP5XfgR72gUyayhf1rBzdp-2FenVBFuhO6sBJejtodVswCTpr18zy-2BR5ERXqjujDso5LQc7c0DiCSC3JWF4lgyMBYTtME64oD8zFv-2BEbL7D2mN-2BBp2K5422FlmLy-2Ffsi38sed6OHrC9AW7DDzSqFwtj25-2F7hTCHqx5MakoiATkkwUFSkHmpYPC6MBOE3bX1agBBTfKQkdseWyW813ZuWlLasE7oD3l0yBe-2F7Km-2FMvP9uH8C-2BNBL-2BR6sLg-3D-3D/6Dqk) if you can help on these days.
**28 March:** Wild Oxfordshire Local Environment Groups Conference – hear how to protect and enhance your parish’s green spaces and biodiversity through neighbourhood planning – to be held in Benson. [Book tickets here](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h10/DlndGaO5uZHYaMBii-2B3BWwMfsLhcgD7StLX9ge-2BN5GT6scrXP8NCcJrTmaWk9IHxMRVVVixcq1JflTrbNJIBOkC7oBed9XuWCmluQXniMyFoDQByXo0msERdS0r0qBTq5NxlQ8uy8pLABHCVwFgq6-2Fcuv6ir1z-2B3hyeWfZEO-2BY9Cx2f0g9-2FRGmM1J1bqIsmicT5wSF73XChGj9CSDruLn5WAhRn4pB10T-2Begn3cw4nmy1VoSFkGu-2B-2BpY1nRnTkZr0Map-2B4rMoiS2pgF4FjMI7LpHe-2BYS0uC9bvDLb10C8JOPP2cuIg0M0jxyk99PlsaKnCIYn9oprFcHGXkgrJ5RYKI6T954eivULZVgM4ynaYWtHDu2kl-2FQOMGEvzajzVt9puaubnJIL4c8HA-2BhFllftQ-3D-3D/oC7H):
**31 March:** Climate Action Group meeting – planning for events, for Glasgow, and Oxfordshire plan issues. email climate@oxfoe.co.uk for details
**1 April:** Sustainable Harwell meeting – Chris Church from OxFoE speaking on ‘Towards a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire’, 7.30 pm, Harwell Village Hall.
**2 April:**  ‘How to double tree cover in Oxfordshire’ – Jamie Hartzell and Alistair Morris of Oxfordshire Trees for the Future. Memorial Hall, Charlbury 7.00 pm.   [https://actionnetwork.org/events/how-to-double-tree-cover-in-oxfordshire](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-QA/ni0YAA/t.2zu/n55mKSsHSlSzFoVuZtlYsA/h11/CA0gLXQEKb6jqGkD7RqZieSiR1xt6h2zAPrrZKB7vwkpPIkqr-2FCQQA2Cu9Ao8UKfHaM49QffZ0nZhpoLyjJTFZTLpqaVxfcvU7cn4a5WdUsPC7GYF4Un-2FbK6fuom-2FIQQXyfCyc8lCuth3FhC8wCLDxtqqTyIfwGUuayAyByO8vJlRF8ChI1fLiekm-2Bz8tvSzsAL3X0Pm0M9TEaW5T-2BCrpFe5DYnjSqfQzeERof0INszpgtqJqZd307gMphL9nQvX2OJXkCTmRAR-2BDNIsx6skfr9G9haq-2BskOfRYUrnFJzBzp7ogD-2BKaJzss-2BiAoXCrX6Ob2hiRXPPM-2FV5h3Yqma-2FlXzFyfvyK3maPzzvDDFKyDQ-3D/K7aV)

Best wishes,

Fiona Tavner, Chris Church, Jan McHarry.