



## **Plans for a vibrant new community space, One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre – by Michelle Charlesworth**

A group of concerned individuals and environmental groups from Abingdon has come together with a vision to create a climate emergency centre. The hope is for it to be in the heart of the town, bringing everyone together to face the climate emergency as a community that is resilient, aware, responsive and proactive. The name, One Planet - Abingdon CEC is inspired by the [One Planet Living framework](#) which advocates for a sustainable lifestyle whereby everyone lives happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the earth's resources, leaving space for wildlife and wilderness. The group is not yet a legal entity and funding is being sought. There is however, an abundance of passion, drive and commitment to make this happen in Abingdon.

Since first coming together in May 2021 the steering committee made up of Abingdon residents, 3 youths and 6 groups viz: Abingdon Carbon Cutters, XRAbingdon, Stonehill, Bioabundance, Oxford Wood Recycling and Added Ingredients, has made presentations to the Abingdon Town Council in the hope of support for this venture. Early indications are favourable.

The group has agreed on a purpose for the One Planet Abingdon CEC:

*'To provide a vibrant community place where people can come together to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and social environments in the town of Abingdon for the public benefit of its residents and the wider community.'*

*To build community ties by working collaboratively with local groups and individuals, educating the public, local business and other local bodies on the impact and mitigation of, as well as adaptation to, climate, ecological and social challenges.*

*To develop understanding and create a sense of purpose to act on the climate, ecological and social issues that affect us all in order to deliver positive changes within our lives and in the town of Abingdon leading to a sustainable, enjoyable and positive future.'*

The centre aims to lead by example by employing the One Planet Living (OPL) framework for all activities, hoping to share the knowledge and support others to create action plans to reduce their carbon footprint too.

Plans are for the CEC to be the hub of all things environmental and to include circular economy activities such as regular repair cafes, clothing swaps and mending workshops, zero food waste collaborations such as apple pressing with ACC, bike repair events, green pop up sessions with other environmental groups in Abingdon, classroom activities raising awareness and knowledge on the Climate and Ecological Emergency as well as various exhibitions.

The group is keen to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved by emailing [abingdoncec@gmail.com](mailto:abingdoncec@gmail.com)