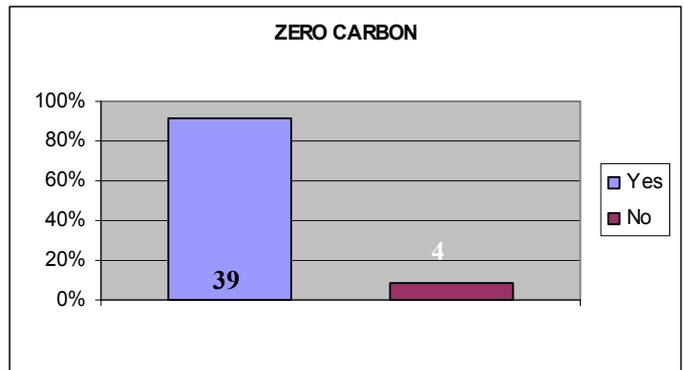


APPENDIX 1 Electronic responses to the Sustainability Action Plan

Zero Carbon

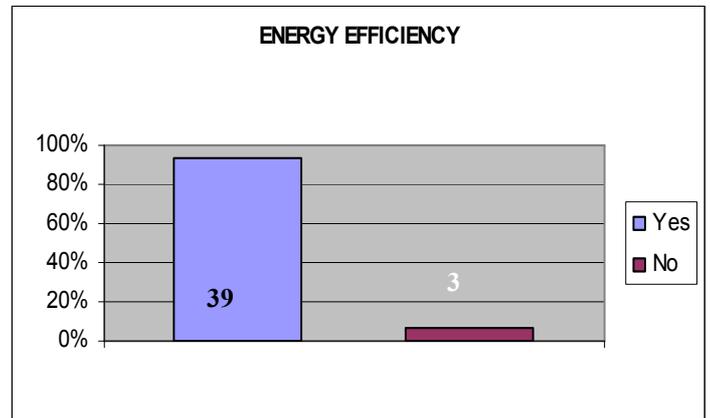
Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS
Very ambitious
In principle, I agree with the targets, but I have to question whether they're truly achievable or sustainable. It is the older buildings which will be the difficult ones - newer ones will benefit from innovative technology and developments with regard to energy saving initiatives, but will there be grant funding available to support other to buildings achieve sustainability?
zero carbon is a good idea but with the older buildings it will cost more money than the saving.
Zero carbon emission is a very hard target, especially for older buildings.
Are these targets achievable?
agree but will be attainable
fantastic vision, an ideal. but is it pitching too high "make all council buildings zero carbon by 2016" - wonderful if it can be achieved
I do not believe these targets are achievable
The information and guidance section is key to making the process work. excellent and easy to read "Point of Sale" signs that clearly indicate what can and can not be recycled need to be used
Zero carbon is spin. How can you possibly ensure that energy powering TRDC buildings comes from sustainable sources - and sustainable energy itself is highly dubious.
Will this be part of planning consent? Will there be financial incentives to be zero carbon?
Assuming TRDC isn't currently Zero Carbon then expenditure is needed to make TRDC Zero Carbon by 2016. 1. How much is this capital expenditure going to be each year from now (2010) until and including 2016 2. Explain how this expenditure will therefore save money after 2016 for TRDC residents and businesses?
Included in separate response

Energy Efficient Homes

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

Defining "encourage" would be helpful and how would this be done? Maybe "promoting" would be more effective, and is there any possibility of an incentive to homeowners?

You might want to look at your spellings on this page!!

Issue of cost of installing the above mentioned.

Again, a hard target to achieve

Other types of renewable systems available. i.e. Air Source Heat Pumps, Photo Voltaic etc

But all this costs money, and a lot of people may not be able to afford the alterations.

These are all BIG projects, are you putting as much effort into making sure that the small bits get done as well.

"Encourage" does not sound strong enough. For older houses there could be a programme of surveys with a practical list of work which could be done along with who can do it. Are all council offices energy efficient?

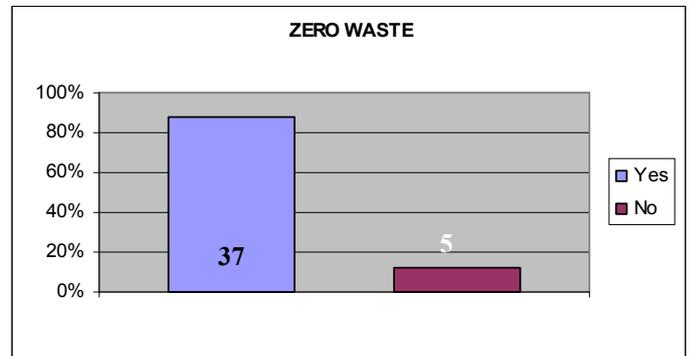
Please expand upon the "We will encourage all homes to have". What exactly is this "encouragement"?

Included in separate response

..... But I would like to see the Council go further than this and use it's powers through Building Regulations, Planning, Private Sector Housing Assistance, etc to require some of these facilities to be built into new or improved housing; and if these powers are not possible, to press the Government to issue guidance to make it a requirement.

Waste

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

We should go for 75% in 2013

I agree with the targets, but working in a school in the district, I was surprised to learn that no recycling takes place within the school community when I moved from Bucks! I have to question what message this gives to our future generations, i.e. pupils ... are schools charged for recycling?

Most of my 'green bin' waste consists of plastic that is not allowed in my recycle bins. There must be a way of recycling this plastic?

We are at present promoting recycling facilities to Trade customers which should contribute to reaching our targets.

If kerbside recycling reached 50% in 2009 why is the council hoping for this level in council offices by 2012 ? TRDC should be congratulated on these plans but should leads by example and set more ambitious targets form themselves

you may want to change the target from "winning national awards" to "entering for national awards" or even "being eligible to enter"

How about a ban on plastic bags?

with the council having numerous sites, how are you helping all sites to reach the same standards

As a charity based in Three Rovers we have been asking for recycling facilities for some time

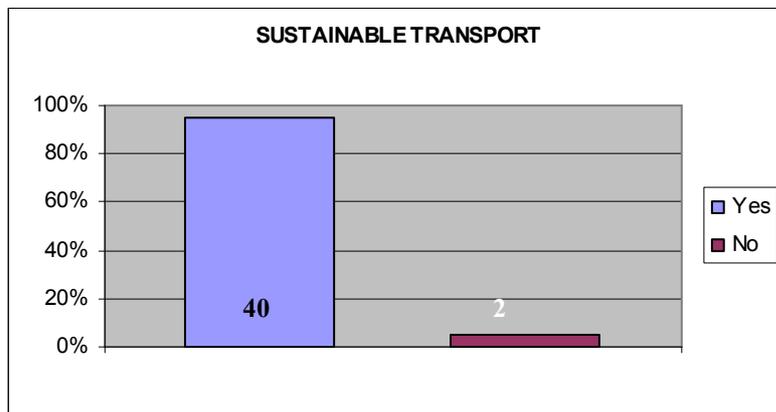
Composting, because it produces methane, has a worse environmental impact than bonfires producing carbon dioxide. Methane is more than 20 times worse than CO2 as a greenhouse gas.

Very commendable targets to try and achieve.

Included in separate response

Sustainable Transport

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

Could there also be promotion for parents to escort children to school on foot?

What picture?

Public transport is far too unreliable to encourage people to use it rather than cars.

To reduce emissions, is it not possible to follow the London example and set up low emission zones in more built up areas of Three Rivers ?

Lobby central government to improve public services on main arterial routes including motorways etc. e.g. provide circular rail link on M25.

as an "essential user" of a car on the Council's business I am aware that there is no incentive for me to minimise mileage eg zoning visits so I do several close together, spending half a day or a day in one area of the borough working there intensively; using public transport where this is efficient / viable, use cycle. I drive a fuel efficient diesel, but how about an electric car / recharging point?

Plus promotion of car sharing and working from home

The cycle "lanes" are in many cases unsafe. Proper lanes need to be constructed.

promote the cycle to work scheme that helps with funds towards a bike. i have asked about this before and got sent round in circles.

A lot of this seems to rely on other people doing their bit and it does not seem enforceable

But let us also look at reasons for travel. Services such as schools and health facilities should be local so that people can walk to them. We should be looking at cottage hospitals and changing school catchment areas so that children only go to their nearby school.

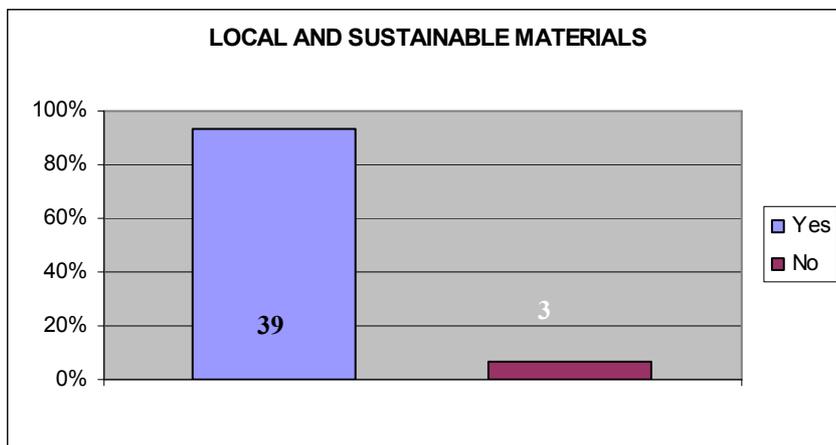
I totally agree. However I think it will only work if the financial incentives are such that people are willing to get out their cars and use public transport. Whilst recovering from a knee injury and subsequent operation I had to use public transport to travel between Watford & Rickmansworth. To almost duplicate my return car journey requires 4 buses at a daily cost of £8.40. Even assuming I forego 2 of the buses and walked 25 minutes each way at the Watford end (which I did do), I still was forced to fork out £6.40 per day for 2 buses! The buses went all the way around the houses taking a lot longer than my car would! Also my wife can use her Oyster card and travel from Watford to her place of work (Bushey) or just £1.00 or even if she wanted to get to Brent cross for £1.00. So where exactly is my incentive coming from?

included in separate response

..... And we should work proactively to reduce speed and introduce 20MPH zones in all built up areas.

Local and Sustainable Materials

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

However, people's tastes will not change and buy from alternative sources.

What will be the cost to TRDC for making sure that all suppliers are compliant with what they state about their products ?

are there any financial support systems for buying fair trade over other products, or just make it compulsory, including for buildings open to the public. eg Watersmeet

A review of TRDC's building and premises department would be in order. Even if contractors state that they have high environmental standards, who is checking to see that they are implemented?

Fairtrade has little to do with sustainability from an atmospheric environmental standpoint.

Can the council also ensure that all contractors are managed properly and thoroughly minimising waste and inefficiency?

Commendable of course however I don't believe TRDC efforts will actually do much in the overall context of Global climate change unless of course the council feels it is able to successfully influence China, India, American and Russia as well as a lot of other MASSIVE polluting countries ?!

included in separate response

..... But the council is only one purchaser; we need to make it a requirement that all commercial companies use environmentally beneficial and sustainable material and properly recycle. We should encourage the Government to legislate to make this a requirement.

Local and Sustainable Food

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

Is there some incentive for schools to grow some of the produce that the pupils will eat?

Bringing Allotment sites back into use is very valuable. Three Rivers has a waiting list for people wishing to have an allotment. The more people who 'grow their own' the better it will be for the community and personal health.

Maybe less emphasis on organic grown produce.# Encourage regular farmers markets from local farms at affordable prices.

Good - this will place the onus back onto the individual to play their part.

is there a waiting list for an allotment. If so could more sites be found?

Allotments yes definitely, encourage schools to teach and promote home grown vegetables Again-ban plastic bags

provide departments with a comprehensive list of local suppliers who meet the required standards, so individual departments do not have to research the same material over and over again

I would prefer to see the inclusion of a target on animal welfare, rather than on organic food, since the pros and cons of organic production are complex. "Compassion in World Farming" can supply expert advice on these issues.

The word 'promote' means nothing. TRDC needs to lead by example and make these options enticing in order for people to want to take them up. Promotion is just a waste of money

but again Fairtrade is a red herring.

I welcome the points which lead by example.

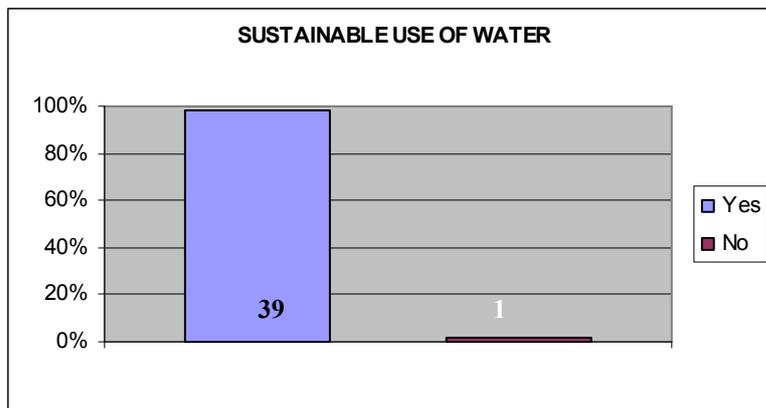
Watford Community Garden funded by Watford Borough Council will go some small way towards producing "local & sustainable food". I suspect to feed the entire population of Three Rivers will take a considerable number of equivalent Watford Community Gardens.

included in separate response

..... But we also need to regenerate our local shopping centres so consumers can purchase food and other goods locally and reduce the reliance on car journeys to out of town shopping centres.

Sustainable use of Water

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

You may need to sort out the tap in the ladies toilets in Basing House

But MUST also encourage households NOT to convert gardens, especially, front gardens, into paved areas as this: 1. reduces natural drainage through the soil thus a potential cause of flooding to homes, streets and pavements 2. impacts on wildlife (i.e.. destroys vegetation and insect life and consequently bird and other wildlife) 3. reduces quality of the local area as gardens which may have been filled with lawns, shrubs and flowers is now replaced with ugly paving with moss and weeds growing between the paving blocks with a view from the windows of metal boxes on wheels instead of a pleasant outlook consisting of blooms, butterflies and birds.

an additional target ought to be to cherish and preserve the quality of the local water courses; alas contamination and pollution is all too easy, and common - the integrity of the local foul water drainage system is vital to preserving the water quality

Have a time target on repairing burst leaking water pipes, if there isn't one already

"100% of drinkable water delivered to homes in Three Rivers is treated to drinking standard, yet less than 2% of it is consumed" - but nothing above addresses this fact.

Look ease of use of taps. i.e. those at Watersmeet are confusing to use for the lay customer and are often left on. careful purchasing of products is required.

This is a crucial issue. The impact of additional housing on water supply and sewage treatment is of paramount importance. I welcome the recognition of the impact for local rivers and lakes and the focus on wastage.

The best way of reducing domestic water consumption is metering. Working with the local water company to bring this in quickly should be a priority.

Council buildings could be made more water efficient by providing dishwashers for department use rather than the situation at present of having to use the basins in the toilets to wash up. is rainfall from Three Rivers House collected?

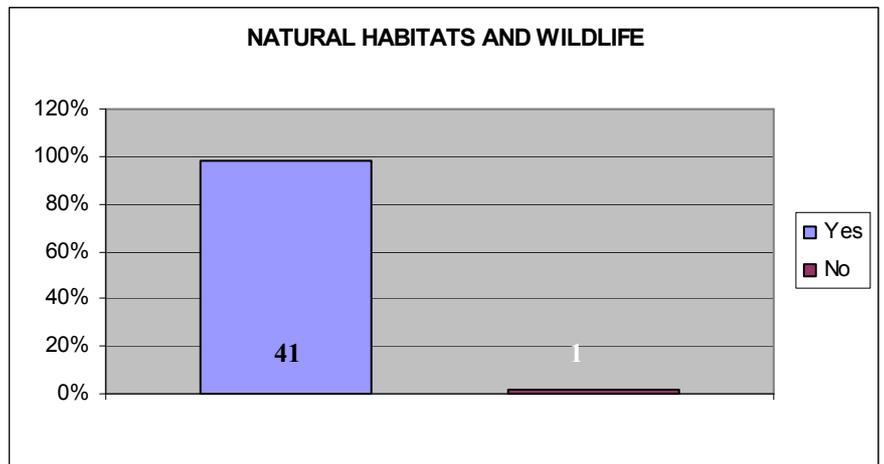
why can't we put this into planning applications for conversions and extensions? both need water gullies and need to dispose of the water, why not put it into a tub and run it round the garden to keep the gardens watered

included in separate response

And once again this should be a planning, building regulations and private sector housing assistance policy requirement.

Natural Habitats and Wildlife

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

But also see my response to the previous question.

Training in Green Flag was helpful in Feb. this year.

Please note that Hertfordshire Constabulary is developing the concept of Rural Policing and the Three Rivers policing team is playing a key part in these developments. In particular, Hertfordshire is a national leader in introducing the role of Special Constable on horseback. Rural developments are focusing on safety concerns of rural communities, such as fly tipping, theft of farm machinery/tack from stables and wildlife crime. Inspector George Holland can advise further.

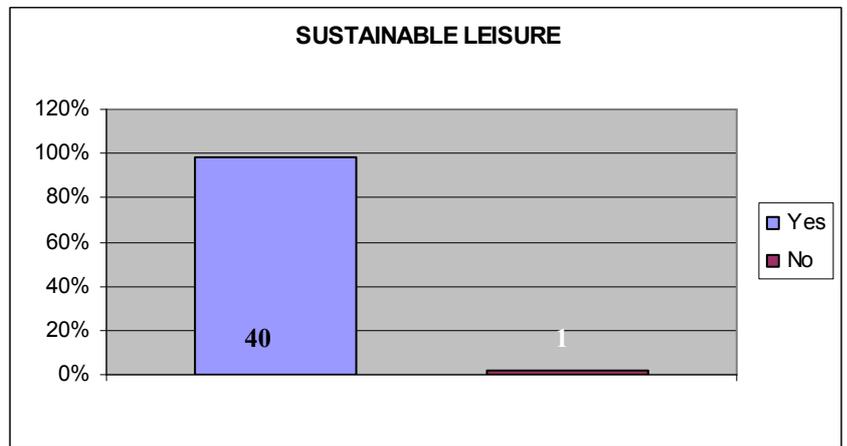
Like to see more about wildlife preservation

included in separate response

But work also needs to be done in conjunction with other park providers, particularly the Parish Councils, who may not have the resources that TRDC has to manage natural habitats and parkland.

Sustainable Leisure

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

Again you need to look at the spellings on this page When will the William Penn Swimming Pool be open????

when oh when will wm penn pool be ready?

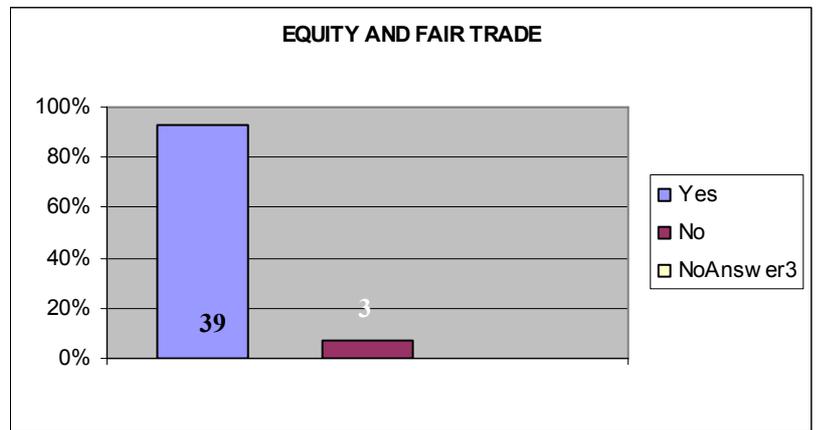
give more effort on looking at how the building is managed in terms of energy use, don't just focus on sustainable power use.

What does encourage voluntary organisations to contribute to carbon reduction mean? is this another requirement for them to achieve without funding - a detour from their raison d'être? Most voluntary organisations are by necessity very efficient already. How about providing low cost energy efficient premises for them to rent at below market rate rather than having to pay market rates for premises which leak heat but which they can do nothing about? Where is the target for businesses?

included in separate response

Equity and Fair Trade

Question Do you agree with our targets?



COMMENTS

But our priority even over Fairtrade is to encourage increased local agriculture and commercial output to protect jobs for local people and improve both the local and national economies first.

Fair trade is just yet another way of companies increasing their profit margins with no real effect for the developing countries

The aims are Ok but largely irrelevant to carbon reduction

Make fair trade compulsory! get 'Point of Sale' signs to promote the fact the products are fair trade.

Are there any farmers markets in Three Rivers? is it worth making specific mention of this as a vehicle to promote the consumption of local produce and hence, reduction of transport.

A little less beaurocracy around helping small organisations achieve this would be helpful

Again the Fairtrade red herring. Because fairtrade uses small suppliers, it is inherently inefficient.

Are contractors asked to prove their green credentials before being awarded contracts?

Unsure how encouraging use of Fairtrade produce from distant lands fits in with a previous headline entitled "local & sustainable food"

included in separate response