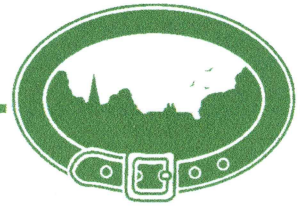


The Radlett Society

and Green Belt Association

Registered Charity No. 280877

Chairman: Mrs Rosamund Gray



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Councillor Morris Bright
Hertsmere Borough Council
Civic Offices
Elstree Way
Borehamwood
Herts
WD6 1WA

13 November 2020

Our reference: CG

Dear Councillor Bright

Climate Emergency and Planning

The Radlett Society and Green Belt Association welcomed the unanimous declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council and we have taken a close interest in the subsequent documents you have published, namely your "Sustainability Strategy" and "Action Plan". We welcome your commitment to lead by example by adopting sustainability features to buildings you own, such as the solar PV system installed on the Civic Centre. We think this should be extended by similar features being added to buildings and sites you own in Radlett, including the Radlett Centre, Daisy's restaurant and any future developments at Newberries Car Park.

Reading the Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan, we are, however, disappointed that we have not found any concrete quantitative targets or milestones for achieving specific objectives. For instance, we would like to see specific targets e.g. "From 1 January 2022 every new build house in Hertsmere (and maybe houses with significant extensions?) must install solar panels with a capacity to produce at least 8 kw/h at peak". This should be complemented by appropriate targets for other types of buildings, such as blocks of flats, shops and offices. We do not know whether the new Sky production facilities in Borehamwood are going to take advantage of solar PV on the roofs of their new buildings, but would guess that if they did it would make a significant contribution to the production of carbon free electricity locally. We are therefore disappointed with the limited ambition suggested by the statement in the Action Plan in relation to ensuring the sustainability of future domestic buildings: *"All future domestic developments to be built to high energy efficiency standards including energy efficiency measures including more natural lighting, reduced reliance on mechanical ventilation and passive measures such as building orientation, natural shading, fittings for clothes drying, leading up to zero carbon standards"*.

Any new buildings constructed in the immediate future will be expected to be standing for 75 to 100 years or more. They need to be constructed in a way that will be able to deal with the predicted challenges of increasingly violent storms, increased temperatures and rainfall, localised flooding and droughts. They need to take opportunities to utilise a variety of old and new technologies and techniques to reduce carbon emissions towards and eventually reaching net zero, plus conserving

and reducing power and water usage by storage and re-use. This, in our view, means making many substantial changes to the local building codes in Hertsmere to ensure all such new buildings do adopt such features, ideally starting with immediate effect. We believe rapid action now to mandate existing well understood and proven technologies will make a significant difference and will help achieve the climate goals. The key features we would suggest would initially be those that are already available and in use in this and other countries. Such as:

- ☐ High insulation building materials (such as used in a [PassivHaus](#) in Germany)
- ☐ Storm proof roofing materials and construction (as used in Scotland)
- ☐ Triple glazing (common in Germany, Sweden and Norway)
- ☐ Passive heating systems such as ground source heating
- ☐ Water recycling and "Grey water" storage, piping and taps
- ☐ Solar PV panels on all South facing roofs
- ☐ Solar heating systems
- ☐ Basements or extra "garage" space for solar heating and grey water tanks, electric storage batteries and other such facilities
- ☐ Parking spaces for each home with electric points for charging Electric Vehicles
- ☐ Built in "Smart" features for example remote switching for lighting, heating systems etc.

Requirements such as these should not be seen as additional costs being loaded onto developers but rather proper investment by them into meeting the Climate Emergency. We would also like to propose creating some "demonstrator" buildings in Hertsmere, perhaps working with the Building Research Establishment and other such organisations and some local and national developers. Back in the 1970s a Close of such demonstrator houses was built in the early days of Milton Keynes to prove the practicality of features like solar heating systems, but sadly it wasn't followed up. We would hope that in these more enlightened times when environmental issues are much more prominent that such demonstrators would lead to practical developments in and across Hertsmere.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with Councillors and your staff in due course as we are keen to see the active implementation of Climate Change mitigations as soon as possible to match the urgency of the situation.

Yours sincerely


PP.

Rosamund Gray
Chairman
Radlett Society & Greenbelt Association