

Statement / questions and suggestions. From Colin Riches.

Good evening Chairman and members, thank you for letting me speak. I am broadly in agreement with the points made in paragraph 2.4, 3.1 and 3.2 of your report. It totally makes sense that Braintree council cannot on its own solve the climate emergency. I therefore have some questions for you and a couple of suggestions.

1. How does the council plan to be an effective community leader, by which measures will the council judge itself as successful?
2. In a recent tweet by Cllr Schwier he highlights a 1,852 ton reduction in CO₂ emissions from Braintree DC which sounds impressive. It is certainly better than no reduction, so thank you. However, when compared to emissions of the district how much of a reduction is it? An Olympic swimming pool contains a lot of water compared to my bath, but it is insignificant when compared to the water content of the North Sea.

Two suggestions for improvements and ideas to make Braintree District Council a local leader would be:

- To have a green school's program across the district linked to tree planting, improved cycling for kids and them auditing their carbon footprints. The council could offer prizes for both primary and secondary schools in the district, which could also extend to volunteer youth groups who show that they are also taking a lead in this important area.
- The second idea for consideration is to introduce an Australian style variable speed limit outside of schools. The idea being that the speed limit drops to 20 MPH for an hour at the start and end of the school day. This would make cycling safer for kids and we would likely then see an increased take up of cycle to work schemes due to good habits being formed at an early age.