

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**20 September 2023**

### **COUNCILLOR ADAM VARLEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR NET ZERO**

For the period July to September 2023

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

The Reef Leisure Centre Solar carport (see picture below) was connected at the end of July. The 600 photovoltaic panels mounted across the car parking spaces should provide a third of the Reef's annual electricity requirement and save 57,000kgs of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In its first month it has generated over 15,000kWh, which was used directly by the Leisure Centre. This together with the recently installed pool cover has made a notable difference to the Reef's energy consumption. The Council's leisure centres are the biggest energy users in our estate.



The Climate Team attended a tour of an anaerobic digester plant in Attleborough to help understand logistics and a possible end product for food waste collections and the net carbon impact of this.

A new Climate and Environment Project Officer has been selected following a successful recruitment campaign attracting fifty-two applications and a very strong field of short-listed candidates. The new staff member starts at the end of September.

A training session on climate change and the associated projects that the Council is implementing relating to Net Zero featured as part of the member induction process. A recording of this is available for any member who missed the session.

The new Programme Manager for the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership,

Greg Pearson, has started in post. Whilst working Norfolk-wide, he is based at the Cromer office. He is looking at how the outcomes of Climate Change and Net Zero projects can be improved by Norfolk local authorities working together. The current emphasis is on energy and retrofit.

## **2      Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

National rural conference (online)  
Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Portfolio Holders Group  
MRF visit  
Horsey Plaudiculture site visit

## **3      Meetings attended**

East of England Net Zero Conference  
NZSAP  
Environmental/leisure & climate Change/net zero impact