

January 2020

Going Low Carbon in 2020

The year got off to a greener start for the 100 businesses present for our January meeting.

Organised by Zero Carbon Harrogate, it saw four speakers cover different aspects of decreasing a business's impact on the environment.

Jamie Saye from Opera North opened proceedings by explaining his role as the first certified Carbon Literacy trainer in Yorkshire, after Opera North addressed its own carbon footprint over the last two years. He spends time with other businesses helping to improve their systems and teams.

He stressed that some actions can be taken as individuals, while some are done with the help of other people. He also finds that business owners are often concerned about the costs of being more



environmentally friendly but in fact, because it is often about reducing waste, it can save them a lot of money. Opera North has saved about £5,000 on its energy bills through simple measures such as ensuring unused appliances and lights are switched off.

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February: Health and well-being at work

Our second meeting of the year will focus on ways of improving health and well-being in the workplace.

Organised by Vicky Findlow of White Rose Beauty College, it will look at all kinds of therapies and the beneficial effects they can have. From mindfulness to reflexology, we'll explore ways to improve your well-being as an individual as well as boosting the health of your colleagues.

The meeting takes place at the [Old Swan Hotel](#) on **Monday 10th February**. Networking begins at 5.30pm, with business opening at 6.15pm.

Attendance is free for all Chamber members—[visit the website](#) to book your place. We are also welcoming guests to the meeting, so please invite any of your contacts who are interested in the subject to sign up [via the website](#).

Going Low Carbon

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Cllr Phil Ireland introduced the Climate Coalition, a newly-formed group of organisations and individuals looking at issues relating to climate in the Harrogate district. Signs of climate change are already being seen here, including more frequent heavy rainfall, so the group recognises the need for more urgent action.

The main group, which includes representatives from Harrogate Borough Council, Zero Carbon Harrogate, local businesses, Harrogate District Hospital, the Highways Agency, the Harrogate Bus Company Harrogate and District CVS, and others, meets four times a year. Meanwhile, several sub-groups focusing on particular issues meet more frequently to look at projects, such as reducing the number of cars being used on the school run.

Highlighting the ways in which the urgency of climate change has become more mainstream, **Clive Wilson** from Energy Oasis outlined the ways he helps businesses to reduce their energy consumption significantly.

After monitoring usage, he begins by eliminating the human factor, often the biggest cause of waste, engaging people with the ways they can improve their efficiency. He works with teams to implement change as well as introducing energy-efficient technology. He also looks at ways they can use more renewable energy. For many businesses, this can give a significant ROI, with 70% savings being achievable in many cases.

Finally, **Rosie McGilvray** of Ethos Asset Finance outlined the benefits of using electric cars as company vehicles. She said the infrastructure to support them is

expanding rapidly and they are not as expensive as many people believe: electric cars start from around £20,000.

Not only this, but there are ways for businesses to take advantage of incentives available to encourage use of electric vehicles. Ethos Asset Finance is organising an electric vehicle trial day on Friday 24th January at Rudding Park—contact Rosie for details.

Contact details for all the speakers are as follows:

Jamie Saye, Opera North: 0113 223 3600, jamie.saye@operanorth.co.uk

Cllr Phil Ireland: 01423 547414, phil.ireland@harrogate.gov.uk

Clive Wilson, Energy Oasis: 01423 528239, info@energyoasis.co.uk

Rosie McGilvray, Ethos Asset Finance: 01423 608666, rosie@ethosfinance.co.uk

The meeting concluded with information from **Paul Crane** of Fibre Nation about the work being done to introduce full fibre broadband in the Harrogate District.

After a successful trial in York, FibreNation is rolling out the service to almost every property in Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough over the coming two-and-a-half years. Work has begun in Bilton already and, once complete, will offer speeds of up to 900mbps to 51,000 properties.

www.fibrenation.co.uk

Thanks to [Zero Carbon Harrogate](#) for organising our speakers and to Pavilions of Harrogate for hosting us.

Business News

New appointments: Berwins has kicked off the new decade with the appointment of three Associate Directors as part of ongoing growth plans. Unit heads Martin Whincup (Marketing), Danielle Day (Family) and Andrew Mawdsley (Dispute Resolution) have all been promoted. The move brings added resilience to the firm's leadership team, with the trio's expertise set to support Berwins to sustain growth and embark on further development initiatives.



Sunday buses: The Harrogate Bus Company has continued its 'Sunday Freeway' free travel deal on the award-winning Harrogate Electrics routes throughout January. Data shows its free travel offer led to a 90 per cent increase in the number of customers choosing to use the electric buses on Sundays in November 2019, compared with the same month in 2018. Free Sunday travel was sponsored last year by Harrogate BID, Harrogate Water Brands and The Spirit of Harrogate.

Congratulations: Wallace Sampson, Chief Executive of Harrogate Borough Council, was made an OBE in the Queen's New Year Honours. He has been in the role since August 2008 and has worked in local government for 35 years.

We post members' news stories on the Blog page of our website. If you have a news story to submit, email ceo@harrogatechamber.co.uk with full details and a picture.

New Members

Welcome to all the new members who have joined us in the last month. You can find their full details in the [Directory](#) on our website—and don't forget to look out for them at an upcoming meeting too.

Sara Spencer Ltd

Sara Spencer

www.trustandestate.co.uk

07952651881

Ethos Asset Finance

Rosie McGilvray

www.ethosfinance.co.uk

01423 608666