

# **Com-Voc and Environment Report for District 1080 Council Meeting**

Keith Tovey 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **1. The New Area of Focus for Rotary**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Area of Focus relating to the Environment and Sustainability was finally approved by the RI Board on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Increasingly the environment has become associated with major projects undertaken by Rotary, but in the last two decades this aspect has been peripheral to most grant applications to Rotary Foundation, and indeed, there have been an increasing number of Projects which had a major focus on the Environment which had been turned down by the Board. This is despite the encouragement to promote the environment as long ago as 1991 by past Ri President Paulo da Costa.

Keith Tovey is a Director of the Environment and Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) and this Action Group took the lead in persuading the Board to approve thos 7<sup>th</sup> Area of Focus.

In recent months two Committees of ESRAG have been addressing the issue of the impact of Rotary on Climate Change and what might be done to mitigate this. Over 15 such meetings have been held in the last two months with representatives from as far a field as California and New Zealand. One committee is exploring how to effectively measure the footprint of activity such as regular Club Meetings, Club Projects, District Activities, RI activities etc, while the other is investigating how this information can be translated into a carbon offset fund which would be used to provide funding for carbon reduction schemes such as tree planting, renewable energy etc.

A provisional fund has already been set up and it is the intention that submission for Grants under the new area of focus will be possible from July 2021.

## **2. Community Service Awards**

There has been a flurry of submissions for the Community Service Awards in both the Rotarian and Non Rotarian Categories. There were submissions in the Non Rotarian Category submissions came from Cambridge, Downham Market, Great Yarmouth, Haverhill, Littleport, Lowestoft, Norwich and Southwold. In the Rotarian category, the submissions came from Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Kings Lynn, Lowestoft Abbey, Norwich and Saffron Walden. Because of the constraints during Lockdown, the deadline for submission for 2019-2020 was extended to 15<sup>th</sup> August. These are now being processed.

## **4) Club Environment Awards**

There has been one submission for a Bronze Environmental Award from Norwich Marchesi.

## **5) Young Environmentalist Competition**

The inaugural Young Environmentalist Competition finally came to a conclusion this week with certificates being sent out to the winning entries in each category. In District 1080 we had 21 separate entries from the Sir John Leman School, Beccles spread between the Intermediate and Senior Sections and one entry from the Leys School, Cambridge. At the National finals there were there were four entries progressing to the National Finals in the Junior Section, five in the Intermediate Section, and six in the Senior Section. The following were the results

	Winner	District	Second Place	District	Third Place	District
Junior	Cragside School	1030	Delapre Primary	1070	Holy Trinity Primary	1220
Intermediate	Clyde Bank School	1230	Cotswold Academy	1100	Kinver High School	1060
Senior	Rebecca Fulford	1100	Sian Mercer	1210	Charlotte Ley	1080

The entry from District 1080 in the Intermediate category, Jasmine Muttit will receive a certificate commemorating her reaching the National Finals.

Next year the theme of the competition will be Climate Change/ Carbon Reduction, details of which will be issued in July. Would AGs please promote this competition around their Clubs.

## **6) Committee needs**

We are currently very short of members and would greatly appreciate additional members to help share the responsibilities. **We also look for assistance in discussion around the Carbon Footprint Calculators current being developed – see 1 above. Please contact Keith Tovey if you can help.**