



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC24/034

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Climate Change
Wards Affected:-	All – especially Pipers Hill and William Knibb

**1. Purpose of Report**

To report back on the blister pack recycling scheme and to provide other updates

**2. Recommendations**

Views about how to proceed with the blister pack recycling scheme are requested

**3. Information**

- 3.1. At a previous meeting it was proposed that Mill Rd pharmacy be approached to host the experimental blister pack recycling project. They agreed to do so and a small Terracycle box was purchased. This filled up very quickly once the press release went out and a medium sized box was subsequently ordered. This also filled up quickly, and on return from leave, the clerk visited the pharmacy to find that they had collected 8 large bags of blister packs on top of what had gone into the collecting box, for which they did not have enough storage space, or any means of getting them back to Terracycle. The clerk took these off them as a goodwill gesture and as a holding measure and decided, to cope with short term demand, to order a large Terracycle box, pending a decision about how to proceed with the scheme, given the overwhelming level of supply of used blister packs. The pharmacy was not asked to contribute to this box. Retrospective authority to incur this expenditure is therefore included in item 36 on this agenda.
- 3.2. Given that the scheme has been running for five weeks at the point that the third box was ordered, and 80% of the packs collected have yet to go into a box, then the scheme is not financially sustainable; an annual cost of somewhere in the region of

£5000 is likely to result from maintaining it at just one pharmacy, and it is highly unlikely that pharmacies will want to contribute half the costs of a scheme.

- 3.3. It is also likely to test the patience of small independent pharmacies to cope with the level of drop offs that Mill Rd pharmacy has experienced; this small pharmacy issues 15,000 prescriptions a year involving pills in blister packs.
- 3.4. Separately, contact has been made by the NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board who were interested in how the scheme was functioning. They have been given this update and it might be possible to involve them in a future scheme
- 3.5. A verbal update will be given on other aspects of climate change interventions. The Environment grants round goes live on 1<sup>st</sup> October inviting applications for up to £8000 of grant support for Love Wildlife and other environmental schemes. From conversations to date, it is likely to be highly oversubscribed.

#### **4. Consultation and Engagement**

Mill Rd Pharmacy have been accommodating and helpful, but there is a limit to their capacity and ability to contribute financially.

#### **5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications**

- 5.1. The Council has £4000 in its budget for biodiversity and climate change measures, of which £3000 is earmarked for Love Wildlife Grants and £400 has been committed towards seed and plant exchange schemes. The remaining £600 was available for other small projects and the Mill Rd scheme has cost £336 to date. (The most recent – large box – was acquired at a discounted price).

#### **6. Climate change implications**

Recycling of blister packs helps divert material from landfill

#### **7. Policy Implications**

The Council's policy is that it has declared a climate emergency. It will continuously explore ways of encouraging and supporting sustainable habits and opportunities for local people

#### Background Papers

None.