

STRATFORD- UPON- AVON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY REMOTE MEETING

7 October 2020

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Present:

Councillors:

Coles	J Fradgley
Curtis	Lee
Cleeve	C Warren Howles

Clerk: J Mayes

Apologies: Received from Cllr Dyer

1 Approval of Notes from Meeting held on 30 July 2020

Noted.

2 Wildflower Planting underutilised space – next steps establish ownership and permission to wildflower on sites identified

Councillors reviewed the list of spaces for wildflower planting. The Chair suggested that the verges off Alcester road near The Ridgeway, Bishops Close and Herons Close could be added to the list for Bishopton ward. Cllr Warren Howles will submit a further piece of land in Avenue ward that she has had discussions with Taylor Wimpey about. Cllr Cleeve suggested that the land near Trevalyn Crescent in Hathaway ward could be included.

The Chair suggested that the group should begin to develop a directory of people in the town who are working on similar projects, for example the VASA community allotment. She has also had conversations with Hugh Frost and Kate Evans at Planet Graduate about the work they are doing with schools and suggested that they could be invited to the meeting to talk about this.

Any further additions to the wildflower spaces list should be submitted to the committee clerk by 14 October before it is sent to WCC and SDC to clarify ownership of the land. The Chair will inform the Clerk who the most appropriate people are to send it to. There was a discussion about how the work would be funded. Cllr Coles recommended that funding could be

sourced from grants, highlighting the Severn Trent grant as an option. Cllrs **agreed** that Cllr Cole should register an expression of interest with Severn Trent for grants. It will be necessary to agree sites for a phase one scheme and how much it will cost. It was also suggested that a formal approach to the Town Trust should be made about funding.

Cllrs **agreed** that Cllr Cleeve and Cllr Coles should begin dialogue with Town Trust about obtaining financial support for the project.

Cllr Lee noted that it can be difficult to determine ownership and offered to convert the sites identified into maps that can be compiled into a report. He confirmed that the software he uses for the maps will allow him to estimate the total area involved. There was a discussion about whether Developers would be keen to be involved and it was noted that some of the land in Avenue ward is still owned by Developers and may not have been adopted. It was also suggested that the Bugs life charity might be willing to review what is proposed to offer advice. The Chair noted that some funding is allocated to the Climate Change group for work and that they will need to consider how the work will be undertaken once it can go ahead. A new employee at the Cemetery may be able to assist with this and it was suggested he should be invited to the next meeting, which may need to be arranged at a different time. The Chair suggested that the group should also meet with representatives from SDC and WCC about what can be done on their land.

In summary:

Cllrs to send suggestions for other areas of land to the Clerk by 14 October.

List to be sent to Cllr Lee to be converted into maps with t estimation of total acreage being proposed.

List to be sent to SDC and WCC to establish land ownership.

The Chair will write up a framework for the project. Cllrs agreed to consider a name for the project.

Date of next meeting to be arranged to allow new employee to attend to discuss planting.

3 Update on Tree Planting Policy Document including discussion on what work is to be done to identify targets for tree planting and management

The Chair noted that she has a delegated budget as a county councillor and she may be able to use some of this to pay for some trees on College Lane. She suggested that the group should have a further conversation with Gavin Callard about where trees can be planted in the town. The Chair has also discussed with the Town Clerk the possibility of the Town Council Outdoor staff building planters, planting trees and watering them so that the Town Council could take over the positioning of urban trees in planters around the town. The Chair concluded that the policy document was sufficient at present, particularly as considering trees in planters as a way to move forward.

4. Items For discussion:

4.1 Registering for the Woodland Trust's Tree Charter

The Charter for Trees, Woods and People sets out the role trees and woods play in our lives, the rights we all have to the benefits trees and woodland provide, and our responsibilities towards maintaining and supporting them.

Cllrs noted that it is an inspiring initiative and **agreed** that should register with the Tree Charter.

4.2 Avon to Arrow Greenway project

The Avon to Arrow Greenway Project (AAGP) aims to open up path and cycle ways between Evesham and Alcester, largely along the route of old railway lines. The Chair of the project has recently sent some information on the project to the Town Clerk, Cllrs noted that this was similar to another project discussed at the PCC meeting to revive the Old Tramway route from Stratford to Shipston. It was noted that if the projects worked together they may obtain more support for a network of cycle paths. It was noted that Stratford could be a central hub in a network of cycle paths as it already has cycle paths along the towpath and Greenway. Cllrs felt that it was not really the remit of this group to lend support and that it may be more appropriate to pass to the town centre task and finish group for discussion on how Stratford can act as a hub for the different cycle routes. .

4.3 E Scooters initiative

Information on an E scooters initiative that had been successful in Cleveland and Redcar had been forwarded to the group by the Town Clerk. Cllrs discussed the initiative and **agreed** at the current time with COVID regulations it would be difficult to set up effectively.

4.4 Tackling the problem of Litter

Cllrs noted that due to current COVID restrictions Rubbish Friends is not in operation at the moment. It was suggested that individual councillors could promote picking up litter on their Facebook pages but it would be difficult to do a large organised litter collection. Cllr Cleeve showed councillors some information on a two minute beach clean initiative (<https://www.beachclean.net/>) where litter pickers and bags are attached to a board where people can take them to use to collect litter. It was suggested that discussions should take place with SDC about ways to support their litter campaign.

5. Any other business

5.1 Update on green advent calendar

Cllr Warren Howles gave an update on the green advent calendar. All the tips behind the doors have been agreed and the calendar is with a designer, who

has previously worked on projects with the Council. Cllr Warren Howles will be discussing costs of this at the next Community Services Committee meeting and obtaining agreement to spend money on it.

5.2 Update on the Welcombe eco group meeting on 31 July 2020

Cllr Coles reported that the eco group meeting held in July had been positive and gives a good indication that there are groups who are ready to be active on projects. There was a discussion about the logistics of undertaking projects at the current time and agreement on the benefits to well-being of establishing projects that people can help with. Cllr Lee noted that whilst there may be difficulties bringing people together at the moment the opportunity to plan projects ready for when people can work together remains.

5.3 Feedback from 3 tier climate change event held on 24 September

Cllr Fradgley will send the link to the event to the clerk for circulation to the group.

The Chair reported that Cllr I Fradgley has a ward member who is very interested in climate change and would like the opportunity to observe the climate change meeting. She proposed that he could be invited to the meeting for a “public participation” item on the agenda. There was some discussion about the motives of the individual but it was agreed that they could be invited to part of the next meeting. The date of the next meeting will be in approximately four weeks’ time.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm.