

STRATFORD- UPON- AVON TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY PANEL MEETING
(formerly Climate Change Emergency)

20 December, 2021

3:00pm

DRAFT Notes

Present:

Cllr Elizabeth Coles (EC)
Cllr David Curtis (DC) (for part of the meeting)
Cllr Jenny Fradgley (JF)
Cllr Tony Jackson (TJ)
Cllr Toby Lee (TL)
Stephen Norrie (SN) (for part of the meeting)
Cllr Cohl Warren-Howles (CW-H)

All members attended the meeting via Zoom.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Roy Dyer.

2. To approve the notes from the Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held 19 October, 2021

The notes were approved.

3. Ideas for a Public Meeting – Stephen Norrie

Members welcomed Stephen to the meeting.

He began by describing his idea for a 'Climate Hub' in the town centre. This hub would be a mixture of an information centre and a community centre. This is somewhere people could come with their queries on how to be more environmentally friendly, i.e., how to go about getting solar panels installed on their houses, as well as providing information regarding the nature of the climate emergency. It is hoped that this information could encourage the community to get involved with activities and events.

Stephen noted that the idea would be to rent out an empty retail

property in the town centre on a meanwhile lease. He confirmed that Stratford-on-Avon District Council has agreed to support this project and have offered 100% business rate waiver during the course of the tenure.

A Community Interest Company called Net Zero Stratford CIC has been set up and so far, the three main Climate Action Groups in Stratford (Stratford Climate Action, Stratford Friends of the Earth and Stratford Extinction Rebellion) are beginning to get involved in the planning.

Some funding (£10,000) has been received from Warwickshire County Council which will enable start-up costs and some running costs.

Stephen shared some of the suggestions that he has received as to what could go into the shop/space:

- Sustainable living advice;
- Exhibition space;
- Climate cinema;
- Information about new technologies;
- Careers hub (e.g., advertising jobs that are available in the green economy);
- Café;
- Sustainable products for sale;
- Repair café;
- Plant swap;
- Clothes swap;

Moving forward, venues are being sought to enable the venture to start, until a semi-permanent property has been found. Stephen suggested that the Town Hall would be a great central location for this and perhaps a Climate Café/Plant Swap etc, could take place at the Town Hall on a monthly basis. Leaflets and information would be provided to inform visitors of the wider plan.

After questions from members, the Panel thanked Stephen for his presentation, and he then departed.

The Chair asked for members to think about any vacant properties in Stratford town centre that may be suitable for this project.

4. Wildflower Planting

- **Mini Meadows**

The Chair confirmed that she had spoken to the Stratford Society who are interested in wilding the patch of land at the entrance to Seymour Road. They have confirmed that they would love to do it but would require STC to assist and offer their expertise as well as asking STC to purchase the wildflower seed.

She also reported that she is in contact with a resident who has their eye on wilding a patch in West Green Drive, as well as another couple of residents that are interested in working on a patch of land on Alcester Road, by the Texaco petrol station.

DC noted that has also been having conversations with residents who are interested in wilding a section of Brownlow Drive. He is currently in conversation with SDC regarding the purchase of this land as it is still under external management.

CW-H confirmed that she had received permission from SDC for wilding an area of land at St Peter's Road.

In order to help understand who needs to give relevant permissions, TL shared his screen to display a map of Stratford-upon-Avon (attached as **Appendix 'B'** to these notes). The area shaded in purple is owned by Stratford-on-Avon District Council, and the areas shaded in yellow are owned by Warwickshire County Council.

The Chair advised that it would be good to see some movement on the wildflower planting by the end of January and suggested compiling a guidance sheet to give to the interested residents.

DC had to depart from the meeting at this point.

5. Tree Planting

The Chair noted that the work on the Corn Market has now been completed and the scaffolding has come down, therefore she will request that the Outside Spaces Foreman plants the tree we already have ready in the agreed location, in January.

She also noted that we should place the boxed tree that we have outside of the Town Hall now that the scaffolding has been removed. TJ noted that he has offered to cover the cost of this tree using the funds he was unable to use in his Mayoral year.

6. Avon to Arrow Greenway Project

After the presentation received at the last meeting, the Chair spoke to WCC who put more funds towards a feasibility study. However, more funds are still required, and the Chair asked whether this panel is happy to provide £1,000 towards the study from the Climate Change budget.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

AGREED: To offer a £1,000 contribution towards the Avon to Arrow Greenway Project.

7. WCC Protocol

The Chair advised that she believes that this Protocol is now in place, so we now have a framework to abide by.

8. Rewilding a Section of the Churchyard

It was noted that the Town Clerk had advised the volunteer to not rewild the Churchyard at this time due to the sensitivity of the location.

9. Local Council Climate Action Day

It was agreed that Cllrs Coles and Warren-Howles should attend on behalf of STC. The Clerk will register these Councillors on to the online session.

10. Any Other Business

The Chair has received an email from a gentleman called Joseph O'Sullivan, who is interested in Climate Change and has some ideas. It was agreed to invite him along to the next meeting of this panel.

It was also agreed that Stephen Norrie's proposal should be further discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman of the Christmas Lights Company has also asked to attend a future meeting to discuss the carbon footprint of the Christmas Lights.

11. Dates of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environmental Strategy Panel is scheduled for Monday 7 February, 2022 at 3:00pm.

The meeting closed at 4:09pm.