

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

19 October, 2021

4:30pm

Notes

Present:

Daryl Bailey (DB) (for part of the meeting)
Cllr Elizabeth Coles (EC)
Lisa Cowley (LC)
Cllr David Curtis (DC)
Cllr Jenny Fradgley (JF)
Cllr Toby Lee (TL)
Gillian Smith (GS) (for part of the meeting)
Sarah Summers (SS) (for part of the meeting)

All members attended the meeting via Zoom.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Kevin Taylor (KT) and Cllr Cohl Warren-Howles (CW-H).

2. To approve the notes from the Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 2 June and 1 September, 2021

The notes were approved.

3. Bird Boxes

• **Free Bird Nesting Boxes**

JF advised that all bird boxes have now been collected. JF will now request photos of all the locations that these boxes have been installed to send back to 'Welcome to Our Future', the organisation that arranged this scheme.

4. Wildflower Planting

• **Update on Cornmarket/Sibbasbridge completion date**

There has been no update on when this work will finish despite being originally given a timeframe of end of September. LC will ask the Outside Spaces Foreman to chase this up.

N.B. The Foreman has since been advised that this work is estimated to conclude at the end of November.

5. Green Shoots Fund

- **Feedback received**

Following the Town Council's unsuccessful bid, feedback was sought from Warwickshire County Council. The following response was received:

WCC: *First of all, it was good bid and I scored it well from an ecological perspective.*

STC: With sufficient feedback on where we went wrong and why will provide us with enough information to submit a more acceptable Green Shoots bid in the future. That feedback would be gratefully and eagerly received. Additionally, when is the next round of funding please?

WCC: *The areas of concern included landownership, resident consultation/acceptance of the proposals, highway visibility sensitivity, whereas a few locations where delivery was pretty well assured would have helped.*

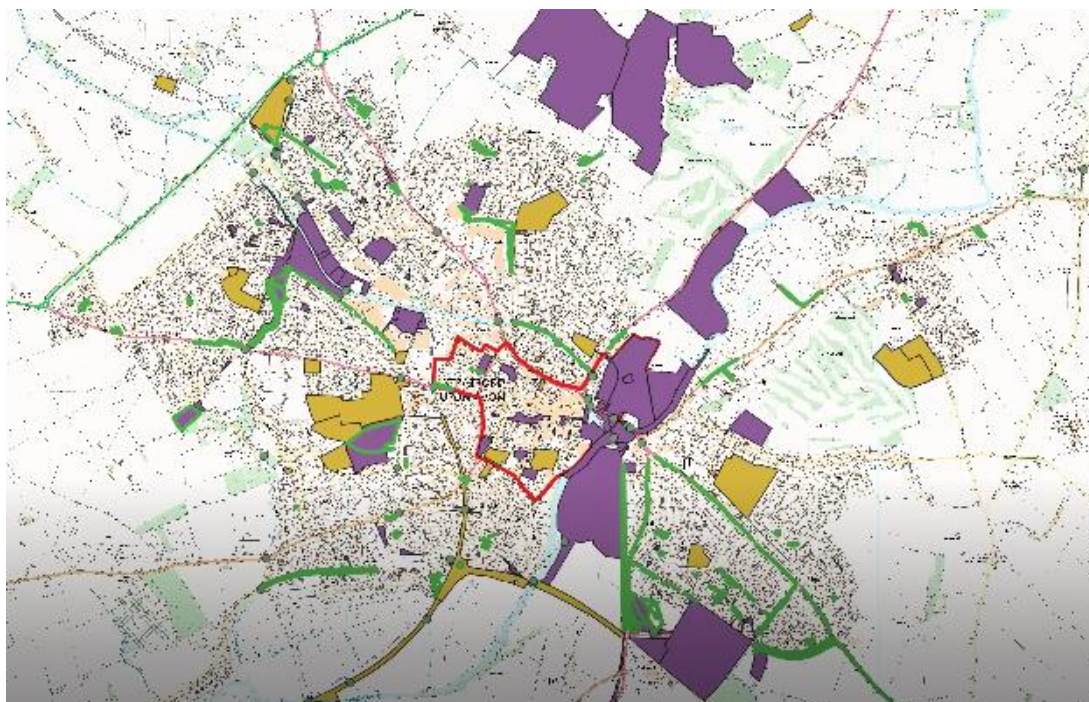
STC: I note from Matt Whitehead's response that you needed to understand more about specific sites that are to be brought forward. Please find attached all the maps relating to these sites, which have already been shared with WCC by Councillor Jenny Fradgley. I am assuming that these are what would be required in our next submission?

WCC: *As above if you had focused on quick win sites... such as AV02 (Stratford Parkway) or BS07 (Packhorse Road) whereas BT08 (Masefield Road) or BT07 (Kipling Road could have visibility issues for cars pulling into Tennyson Road and residents may not have supported such as scheme.*

- STC: It is our understanding that no specific permit is needed for wildflower establishment, although the landowners' permission is required. Is it possible therefore, to seek formal permission for us to establish wildflowers on land that you maintain?
- WCC: *No specific purpose is required, but we would not like to fund schemes that do not have local resident support or would or could have H&S issues.*
- STC: It would be most helpful if you could provide us with a draft copy of any licence that WCC would require for a third party (i.e., us) to enter into in order to establish wildflowers on land maintained by WCC. Councillor Jenny Fradgley, on behalf of our Environmental Strategy Panel, has been requesting this information for over twelve months now and we do not understand the delay. We would be most grateful if you could explain.
- WCC: *I understand that a Policy Statement is being drafted and near to consultation that covers the management of verges. WCC Highways are leading this.*
- STC: We did consult with the community regarding our proposals as part of our bid. Could you confirm exactly how much evidence you will require of residents' agreement for our next submission please?
- WCC: *I am glad to hear this and apologies if this was detailed in the application. Perhaps these agreements/consultation responses could be used to target 'quick win' sites.*
- STC: We are somewhat at a loss to understand the figures with regards to Green Shoots being oversubscribed. We understood that the Green Shoots funding amounted to £1million. Have we been misinformed that WCC has awarded £650,000 of funding so far? What are WCC's plans for the remaining £350,000 please?
- WCC: *Sorry, I cannot answer this one.*
- STC: Could you please supply us with the boundaries of all land maintained by Warwickshire County Council within or intersecting with the Stratford-upon-Avon parish boundaries in a GIS compatible electronic format? It would also be most helpful if you could supply maps of this Warwickshire County Council land in either paper or pdf electronic format.

WCC: *Sorry, I cannot answer this one.*

Following the feedback received regarding landownership, TL shared his screen to display a detailed map he had created of Stratford and its landholdings.



Areas in purple are SDC owned, yellow areas are WCC owned.

Due to time constraints, TL had to leave the meeting but agreed to go into further detail about this at the next meeting.

6. Avon to Arrow Greenway Project

Daryl Bailey & Jill Smith attended to answer members' questions:

Q: Where exactly will this cycle path be located, and how advanced is the pathway?

A: It is hoped that the cycle path will follow the disused railway that comes through Bidford, through the bottom of Binton, by the bridge at Welford and then loops round into Luddington. The bit near the Racecourse is through back gardens.

Q: What sum of money is being sought as support from the Town Council?

A: The shortfall at the moment is £9,000 but the AAGP would not feel comfortable asking for that much. Bidford Town Council have given a grant of £3,000, but Bidford arguably gets more benefit from this cycle route as it runs directly through the town. £3,000 would be very generous, but it is understood if this figure could not be met.

The Chair thanked DB and JS for this figure as it will help to inform decisions going forward.

It was agreed that a conversation is needed with Warwickshire County Council about their plans for this cycle route.

The Chair thanked DB and JS for attending this meeting and for answering questions and advised that if any further queries were raised, that the Town Council would be in touch.

7. WCC Protocol

- **Highway Verge Management Policy Consultation**

Members discussed this protocol which is attached as **Appendix 'A'** to these notes. JF asked the panel to pay particular attention to chapter 5 – Community Engagement Scheme Criteria.

Comments on this consultation are due by 1 November. It was agreed that the panel should email the Chair with their thoughts by Monday 25 October, in order to create a response.

8. Rewilding a Section of the Churchyard

SS joined the meeting in order to talk about the proposal by Holy Trinity Church's Churchyard Maintenance Volunteers to rewild a section of the Churchyard.

The Churchyard Volunteers' Terms of Reference are attached as **Appendix 'B'** to these minutes.

It was agreed that if agreed, this should be very carefully managed.

RD suggested that a meeting should be held between the volunteers, the church wardens, and STC's Outside Spaces Foreman.

SS agreed to circulate the Town Council's Churchyard Policy ahead of the next meeting.

9. Queen's Green Canopy and Trees Action Plan

There was not sufficient time to discuss this item at this meeting, therefore it will be deferred to a future meeting.

10. Any Other Business

- **Countryfile National Challenge – Plant Britain**

There was not sufficient time to discuss this item at this meeting, therefore it will be deferred to a future meeting.

- **Plastic Free Towns**

There was not sufficient time to discuss this item at this meeting, therefore it will be deferred to a future meeting.

11. Dates of the Next Meeting

JF expressed that it has been difficult recently to schedule a meeting date that all members can attend. Therefore, she has suggested that a calendar of meetings is devised. She noted she would discuss this with LC.

Therefore, the next meeting is TBC.

The meeting closed at 5:27pm.