



# SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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23 September 2019

To: All Members of the Environment Committee  
(Cllrs: Ian Barlow, Denise Bickley, Charissa Evans, Stuart Hughes, Chris Lockyear, Emma Murdoch,  
John Rayson, Marianne Rixson)  
Invited Representatives

For Information:  
Other Members of the Council  
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Meeting of the Environment Committee Monday 30 September 2019 at 6.30pm

You are hereby asked to attend the above meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth. It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered at the meeting and resolution or resolutions passed as the Council considers appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

**Christopher E Holland**  
Town Clerk

## A G E N D A

- |   |   | <u>Page/s</u> |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | <b>Welcome and Introductions</b><br>Chair's welcome.  |               |
| 2 | <b>Apologies</b><br>To receive any apologies for absence.   |               |
| 3 | <b>Minutes</b><br>To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 8 July 2019.  | 3 - 5         |
| 4 | <b>Declarations of Interest</b><br>To receive any Members' declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.<br>Note: You must also declare the nature of any personal or prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered. |               |

5 **Matters of Urgency and Report**

To consider any items that in the opinion of the Chair should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances. (Note: such circumstances need to be recorded in the minutes)

6 **Exclusion of the Public**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are no items which the Town Clerk recommends should be dealt with in this way.

7 **Draft Sidmouth Town Council Environment Policy**

6

Members to consider agree to recommend that the Council adopts the Environment Policy attached.

8 **Initial Action Plan**

- **Short Term**

- Council to switch to Green Energy supplier when possible and publish energy usage figures.

- Improve Council recycling, reduce wastage and monitor usage.
- Take in account environmental commitments of potential contractors.
- Encourage and enable the wider community to measure and review their own carbon footprint (engaging Library and Information Centre).
- Achieve Blue Flag status for Sidmouth main beach.

- **Longer Term**

- Encourage the completion of the Sidford to Sidbury shared pathway and support the creation of a Sidmouth to Feniton cycleway along the old Sidmouth Railway line.

9 **Endorsement of Devon County Council Climate Declaration**

7 - 10

As the Strategic level authority for climate change, Devon County Council has made a Climate Declaration and is encouraging smaller authorities to support their initiative as part of their wider strategy. Members are asked to consider supporting the Devon County Council Climate Declaration.

10 **Additional Litter Bins and Street Cleansing**

Members to consider making a request for the reinstatement of litterbins removed in the town by East Devon District Council and additional street cleansing.

11 **Items raised by invited representatives**

To consider any matters raised by the invited representatives.

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council's**  
**Environment Committee**  
**held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,**  
**on Monday 8 July 2019 at 6.30 pm**

Councillors present: Ian Barlow  
Denise Bickley  
Stuart Hughes  
Emma Murdoch  
John Rayson  
Marianne Rixson

Apologies: Charissa Evans, Chris Lockyear

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.20pm

**PART 'A'**

**1 Election of the Chair of the Tourism and Economy Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Barlow and seconded by Councillor Hughes that Councillor Bickley be elected Chair of the Environment Committee for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Bickley was duly elected Chair of Sidmouth Town Council's Environment Committee for the forthcoming year.

**2 Appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Tourism and Economy Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Rixson and seconded by Councillor Barlow that Councillor Lockyear be appointed Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Lockyear was duly appointed Vice-Chair of Sidmouth Town Council's Environment Committee for the forthcoming year.

**3 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Denise Bickley	Environment Committee	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Surfers Against Sewage SW Representative and Chair of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors

**4 Exclusion of the Public**

There were no items required to be dealt with under Part B.

**5 Terms of Reference**

Members considered the draft Terms of Reference agreed by Council.

**RESOLVED:** that the Committee's Terms of Reference be as follows:

- The Committee's is formed "to coordinate and improve the natural and built environment of the Sid Valley".
- The Committee to meet 4 times a year, reporting minutes to full Council.
- Any spending by the Committee shall be authorised by full Council.
- Membership to consist of the Chair of the Council and 7 other Councillors

- Group Representatives (Non-voting) to be invited to each meeting to include: Sidmouth Arboretum, Sidmouth in Bloom, Sidmouth Plastic Warriors, Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce, Sid Vale Association, Friends of the Byes and others as required for specific meetings.
- The Committee to help with the co-ordination of the Town Centre Task Force days.

## 6 Sidmouth in Bloom

Lynette Talbot and Peter Endersby gave a brief update on the work that Sidmouth in Bloom had been carrying out and what they hoped could be done in and around the Town to help achieve success with residents, visitors and judges.

They thanked the Town and District Council and Town Council's contractors efforts in helping to clean and tidy the town, especially in the past year with particular regard to the Taskforce clean-up days held in the past.

Special mention was made of the efforts to rid the river areas of Himalayan Balsam but it was noted that in these areas Japanese Knotweed had taken hold, threatening to invade and harm agricultural land.

- RESOLVED:**
- 1) That Sidmouth in Bloom be thanked for their report and update.
  - 2) That County Councillor Hughes and the Town Clerk investigate the most appropriate way to inform the Environment Agency of the gradual increase in Japanese Knotweed in the Sid Valley.

## 7 Plastic Bottle Collection Point

Members received a presentation from Rachel Perram who together with her colleagues, Gillian Mitchell and Marc Kilsbie had created a prototype fish sculpture to be a collection point for waste plastic. After displaying the prototype at Seafest they had received various enquiries and interest and had since drawn up two designs for possible use on the seafront. Emptying the collection points could be carried out with Streetscene via the built-in lockable hatches. Each unit would cost £250.

**RESOLVED:** That Rachel Perram be thanked for her report.

**\*RECOMMENDED:**

That the Council commissions the construction of two, fish themed plastic collection point sculptures, at a total cost of £500 and that the Council arranges with East Devon District Council Streetscene for regular emptying.

## 8 Urban Fruit Project

Members reiterated their support to plant fruit trees in public areas in the town. The project would receive renewed energy working with Sidmouth Arboretum and the new Committee. Members also discussed increasing the number of trees planted for fruit and also add other trees. It was agreed that all should be from British stock.

**RESOLVED:** That Sidmouth Town Council reaffirms its commitment to plant fruit trees in public areas.

**\*RECOMMENDED:** That the Council purchases and plants 100 fruit trees and 200 other trees in the Sidmouth area.

**9 Traffic Free Sundays**

Members discussed the idea of having part of the town as a traffic free zone at certain times of the year to help reduce emissions in town and also to encourage visitors and help put Sidmouth at the forefront of green tourism as few towns in the South West had done this and yet on the continent it was a regular occurrence. It was agreed that Sundays in July and August would be particularly desirable for visitors to the town. It was also agreed that the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses must be supportive of any such initiative. The area to close would need to be agreed with suggestions ranging from the whole town to just the esplanade being made.

**RESOLVED:** That Sidmouth Town Council consults Devon County Council and Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce on the feasibility of running Traffic Free Sundays in summer 2020.

**10 Blue Flag Award**

Members discussed the recent work carried out by East Devon District Council towards attaining a Blue Flag award for the Town's Beaches. It was discussed how many strict criteria were applied to achieve Blue Flag status, one requirement of which was a Lifeguard service which the District Council were progressing.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council supports efforts being made by East Devon District Council to achieve a Blue Flag award at Sidmouth.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

## Sidmouth Town Council Environment Policy (Draft)

Sidmouth Town Council is committed to transforming Sidmouth into a cleaner and greener town and a more prosperous place to live and work. We commit to making Sidmouth a low carbon town and a healthy and active town - with a high quality built and natural environment.

Our Environmental Policy supports these goals. Through it, we will use our powers and influence to protect and enhance the environment, and make continual improvement in our own environmental performance, as set out below.

### Natural Environment

- Protect, and where possible enhance, the designated green spaces and corridors, conservation areas, and views, as laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Support and encourage the creation of a sustainable built environment through the planning process.
- Consider impact on biodiversity and sustainability of the management and use of the Sidmouth Town Council estate.

### Low Carbon Town

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Sidmouth Town Council activities year on year until carbon neutrality is achieved and promote the same in the community.
- Support the appropriate generation and use of renewable and low carbon energy.
- Encourage use of public and shared transport, bicycles, and walking for both residents and visitors by provision, or promotion with others, of appropriate assets.

### Sustainability

- Practice recovery, reuse, repair, remanufacturing and recycling in Sidmouth Town Council's activities and promote the same in the community.
- Preferentially engage local contractors who demonstrate alignment to the Sidmouth Town Council's Environmental Policy.
- Consider the impact of future climate change, such as sea level rise, intensity of storms, and drought, on all decisions.

### Engagement

- Inform and engage Sidmouth's residents and businesses of the Council's environmental activities and respond and react to feedback.
- Support individual, business, charity, and event organiser behaviour change and adoption of low environmental impact practices.
- Set biannual targets and report on progress, undertaking periodic audits of the Sidmouth Town Council's environmental management system.

Chris Lockyear, Vice Chair

10 September 2019

# Devon Climate Emergency

In response to the [latest report](#) from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), various local authorities and organisations in Devon (including Devon County Council) have declared climate emergencies that aim to decarbonise Devon by 2050 at the latest.

## Latest News

At its [meeting on the 30th July 2019](#), the [Devon Climate Emergency Response Group](#) (DCERG) agreed a list of specialist nominees to invite to form the [Net-Zero Task Force](#) that will develop the Devon Carbon Plan. The nominees have been invited and its first meeting will be on the 23rd September.

The multi-agency Climate Emergency Project Manager is [being advertised](#).

At its [meeting on the 23rd July 2019](#), the Climate Impacts Group agreed to undertake four activities to get a better understanding of the future effects of climate change before using this information to review the risks in the Community Risk Register.

## Emergency Response

Borrowing procedures from civil emergency preparedness and response protocols, Devon County Council convened a strategic-level teleconference of [Local Resilience Forum](#) members and others on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019. This group of 25 chief executives and directors agreed to form the [Devon Climate Emergency Response Group](#) (DCERG) and a supporting [Tactical Group](#).

The DCERG initially set out a shared ambition in the [Devon Climate Declaration](#), which was endorsed by its members on the 22nd May 2019. They will now discuss with their leadership team the opportunity for their organisation to sign the Declaration as quickly as their procedures allow. The main actions the signatories to the Declaration will be committing to are:

1. to review organisational carbon reduction plans within 6 months to meet or exceed the IPCC targets.
2. collaborating on the production and implementation of a Devon Carbon Plan to meet the IPCC recommendations at the latest.
3. a willingness to lobby for required national policy changes and resources to implement the Devon Carbon Plan
4. agreeing to collectively review community-related risks from a 1.5-degree warmer world.
- 5.

Devon County Council has made £250,000 available for the preparation of the emergency response and has agreed to appoint a multi-agency project manager on behalf of all of the DCERG partners.

The authority also funded a carbon footprinting workshop for DCERG partners and parish/town councils on the 23rd July. The [Centre for Energy and Environment](#) at the University of Exeter shared a standardised approach to preparing an organisational carbon footprint to enable signatories to meet the first commitment of the Declaration described above. The presentation provided at the workshop is available for download [here](#).

## Devon Carbon Plan

At its meeting on the 26th June 2019, the DCERG agreed to appoint a specialist [Net-Zero Task Force](#) to develop the Devon Carbon Plan. This Task Force will consist of 12 people with expertise in areas relevant to carbon reduction and will be drawn from economic, environmental, health and academic organisations, and chaired by a leading climate expert.

A series of thematic hearings will be delivered by the Task Force where experts will be invited to answer questions to determine the barriers and opportunities of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in specific areas such as transport, new development, waste, and agriculture.

The hearings will identify if any additional research is necessary before putting forward potential policy options for inclusion in the Devon Carbon Plan.

Options drawn up by the Task Force will be tested and refined at a series of [citizens' assembly](#) meetings, which will be scheduled to take place next spring in order to help inform the content of the draft plan. A full public consultation will then be held on the draft plan, with the aim of the DCERG organisations adopting the final plan by the end of 2020.

The Tactical Group will work with the Chair of the Net-Zero Task Force, once appointed, to identify 11 further nominations to recommend to the Response Group at its next meeting on the 30th July.

The Devon Carbon Plan will complement activity that is being planned by individual organisations and geographies. Collating the various layers of activity across the county, and being represented by one unified group, will provide a stronger voice when asking government for the support and resources necessary to achieve a net-zero Devon.

# Devon Climate Declaration

On the 22nd May 2019, the members of the [Devon Climate Emergency Response Group](#) endorsed the underlying principles of the Devon Climate Declaration. They will now discuss with their leadership team the opportunity for their organisation to sign the Declaration as quickly as their procedures allow.

See the list of signatories at the bottom of this page.

1. This Declaration has been prepared by a consortium of public, private and voluntary organisations collaborating through a Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.
2. We are aware of the significant implications of climate change for Devon's communities; it is already affecting our environment, infrastructure, economy and health & wellbeing. If not addressed, the impact on future generations will be profound and the ability to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals will be severely compromised.
3. We understand that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach net-zero by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees.
4. We will lead in the global response to climate change through our collective action, innovation and influence.
5. Individually, we will review (within 6 months) our plans to reduce our organisation's carbon emissions to meet or exceed these targets, including ensuring the people we do business with are doing the same. We will publicly report our carbon emissions annually in accessible formats.
6. In collaboration, we will engage Devon's residents, businesses and visitors to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the reduction of Devon's production and consumption emissions to meet IPCC recommendations at the latest. We will openly report progress on its delivery. We know this transformational change will be challenging and will include:
  - Deploying more renewable, decentralised and smart energy systems
  - Retrofitting energy-efficiency measures into our existing buildings
  - Constructing zero-carbon new buildings
  - Travelling less and using improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure more often, and using electric and hydrogen vehicles
  - Changing our consumption to use less, re-use more and choose low-carbon options
  - Challenging all economic sectors to review their practices and the values of those they do business with
  - Divesting from fossil fuels
  - Changing our dietary patterns and reducing food waste
  - Changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions associated with farming operations, manage soils sustainably and replenish soil carbon
  - Encouraging carbon storage such as through tree planting, the use of wood in construction and peatland restoration
  - Empowering the people of Devon with the knowledge and skills to act collectively.
7. Additionally, we will work to understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for Devon to plan for how our infrastructure, public services and communities will have to adapt for a 1.5-degree warmer world.
8. Local organisations and communities cannot do this alone as national government plays a key role in many of the policy areas that are vital to reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. We call on government to prioritise decarbonisation and adaptation within decision making and work with us by using its powers to provide the resources and funding necessary to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and society.
9. We challenge every organisation, business, community and individual to do the same

# Signatories

Organisation	Date
<a href="#">South Hams District Council</a>	6th June 2019
<a href="#">Devon County Council</a>	12th June 2019
Devon Wildlife Trust	19th June 2019
<a href="#">Ivybridge Town Council</a>	24th June 2019
<a href="#">Teignbridge District Council</a>	25th June 2019
<a href="#">Mid Devon District Council</a>	26th June 2019
<a href="#">Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</a>	4th July 2019
<a href="#">East Devon District Council</a>	10th July 2019
<a href="#">Exeter City Council</a>	23rd July 2019
West Devon Borough Council	23rd July 2019
North Devon District Council	24th July 2019
Cullompton Town Council	25th July 2019
Dartmoor National Park Authority	26th July 2019
Ilfracombe Town Council	12th August 2019