



SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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6 October 2020

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 12 October 2020 at 6.30pm

You are called upon to attend the above meeting where it is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered and resolution or resolutions passed as the Town Council considers appropriate. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Town Council will meet virtually via the Zoom software platform. This is as authorised by the Regulations set out in Clause 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. Please note the start time of the meeting.

Those members of the public wishing to view the meeting or speak on an agenda item are required to register by emailing towncouncil@sidmouth.gov.uk at least 24 hours before the start time of the meeting, after which virtual meeting details will be sent out to speakers/attendees.

The Chair of the Council has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time. Individual contributions will be limited to a maximum period of three minutes.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Holland', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher E Holland
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

Page/s

- 1 Apologies**
To receive any apologies for absence.

2 **Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 13 July 2020.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any Members' declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.
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.

4 **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)

5 **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.

6 **'Rosa's Footprint' by Jo Earlam Book**

Local children's author Jo Earlam will give a brief presentation on her new book, 'Rosa's Footprint', and the messages contained in it to encourage treating the environment with care.

7 **Sustainability**

Food Hub

To receive an update on the work of the Food Hub from Richard Allen.

Natural Environment

8 **Biodiversity Group**

To receive an update on the work of the newly established Sidmouth Biodiversity Group - Jeremy Woodward.

9 **Allotment Provision**

To discuss the potential provision of additional Allotments at St John's School – Cllr Lockyear.

10 **Beehives**

A brief introduction and discussion on an idea to promote bee keeping in the Sid Valley - Cllr Lockyear

11 **Ash dieback**

To receive a short update on Sidmouth Town Council plans for its property – Cllr Lockyear.

12 **Rewilding**

Sidmouth Cemetery - To receive an update on EDDC's rewilding policy and on STC work at Bowd - Cllr Bickley.

Low Carbon Town

13 Future Pedestrianisation of Sidmouth

Discussion on the environmental benefits of Pedestrianisation on Town Centres to help feed into future DCC round table on traffic management – Cllr Bickley.

14 Report on energy usage by Sidmouth Town Council.

To receive brief update on 2020 data – Cllr Lockyear.

Engagement

15 Awards for Sustainable Sidmouth

An introduction to a joint project between SustSid (VGS), Sidmouth Plastic Warriors and Council to engage local businesses and organisations - Cllr Bickley and Jeremy Woodward.

16 Budget Planning

To discuss any ideas for future spending by the Committee – Cllr Lockyear.

17 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 on Monday 13 July 2020 at 6.30 pm
 (Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Town Council met virtually
 as authorised by the Regulations set out in Clause 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.)

Councillors present: Denise Bickley (Chair)
 Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair)
 Ian Barlow
 Emma Murdoch

Invited Reps: Jon Ball, Sidmouth Arboretum
 Dave Bramley, Sidmouth Science Festival
 Richard Eley, Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce
 Graham Hutchinson, Sidmouth Arboretum
 Rachel Perram, Sidmouth Plastic Warriors
 Richard Thurlow, Sid Vale Association & Sidmouth Arboretum
 Jeremy Woodward (Vision Group of Sidmouth)

Apologies: Charissa Evans, Di Fuller (Sid Vale Association), Stuart Hughes, Marianne Rixson
 Peter Endersby & Lynette Talbot (Sidmouth in Bloom),
 Diana East (Sidmouth Arboretum)

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.56pm

PART 'A'

33 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 13 January 2019 were confirmed and agreed as a true record.

34 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
CLlr Denise Bickley	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Extinction Rebellion Member, Surfers Against Sewage SW Representative and Chair of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors and Sidmouth Biodiversity Group
CLlr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group

35 Matters of Urgency and Report

The Chair of the Committee asked Members to consider the planned planting for the Knowle Parkland which was due to be implemented as part of the Devon County Council scheme to create increased surface water flooding resilience. It was also agreed that planting should not prevent or hinder the future extension of the grasscrete car park.

RESOLVED: that East Devon District Council's Streetscene team would advise DCC on the appropriate planting mix particularly around the swale area and that this would be the formal response of Sidmouth Town Council. It was also agreed that planting around the amphitheatre and amphitheatre slopes needed to be of hardwearing grasses to cope with audiences walking.

36 Exclusion of the Public

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

37 Vehicle Charging Points Project

Members considered the report of Councillor Chris Lockyear detailed below:

Origin Plan

To install 2 charging points in the car park of Woolcombe House as quick win

Activity

Contacted

- Chargmaster
- EO Charging
- EV Charger
- Sungift Energy

Some providers were not interested as their business model requires large turnover of users

Had site visit by Chargemaster to survey Woolcombe House and Knowle Car Park

- Woolcombe House was not suitable as the Consumer Unit did not have sufficient capacity
- Knowle Car Park – Cost estimate of £21,438 (ex VAT) for two 7kW charging units installed
- Also organised for Chargemaster to visit the Royal Glen and Harbour Hotels who were interested in installing charging units – outcome unknown

Next steps

Need a strategic review of location of charging points in Sidmouth in conjunction with EDDC

Cllr Lockyear also pointed out that there was a website available which attempted to document the position of charging points in the United Kingdom: www.zap-map.com

Members agreed that a far more strategic approach to the implementation of charging points in the town and that the Devon County Council survey of users being carried out would be a useful and more accurate way to establish need: www.devonnewscentre.info/drivers-can-help-shape-devons-low-carbon-future-in-electric-vehicle-questionnaire/

RESOLVED: that the results of the DCC survey of electric car users be used as a basis for a more strategic approach to determining need in the Sid Valley.

38 Carbon Footprint Project

Members considered the report of Councillor Chris Lockyear detailed below:

Origin Plan

- 10 week campaign raising awareness of individual carbon footprints starting at the beginning of August.
- Encourage people to measure their carbon footprint and report this to a central organisation.

- Each participant gets a raffle ticket for a prize draw to be drawn during the Science Festival. Significant cash prizes to be awarded (e.g. 1st £250, 2nd £100, 3rd £20).
- Ask individuals how they personally could reduce their footprint and collate these answers.
- Each week take the message on one area (e.g. food, transport, housing, clothing) to organisations in Sidmouth who meet regularly (e.g. Churches, Sports Clubs, U3A, SVA, National Trust, Women's Institute, Scouts) giving a presentation on how to reduce carbon footprint in this area.
- Provide resources in the Library to help people measure carbon footprint and give links to our preferred calculator.

Activity

Project put on hold as a result of Covid 19

Next steps

Review whether cut down version of this plan would be of value at Science Festival

39 Biodiversity Group

Members considered the report of Councillor Chris Lockyear as detailed below:

Sid Valley Biodiversity Group – created June 2020

Aims

- To understand, preserve and enhance the biodiversity of all of the Sid Valley's disparate habitats through the development and implementation of a local Biodiversity Action Plan,
- To work with the people of the Sid Valley, to educate and inform about local and wider biodiversity issues, and
- To encourage more members of the community to take an active part in conservation and biodiversity enhancement.

Structure:

- Sub-groups responsible for specific stages and areas of the Project:
- Mapping the biodiversity of the Sid Valley: The Investigation Phase (see below)
- Producing a programme of surveys: The Intervention Plan (see below)
 - Integrating Horticulture into all stages and areas
- Engaging the public through Publicity and Outreach activities, at all stages and areas
- Funding

Plan

Investigation Phase to produce a base line evaluation of current activity and species

Biodiversity Intervention Phase:

- To develop and document a Biodiversity action plan to preserve or enhance habitats and biodiversity of the Sid Valley and secure funding to deliver the plan.
- To put survey results, plans and reports in the public domain.
- To engage the major land owners.
- To engage volunteers to support the aims including planting and managing habitats

40 Litter and Street Cleansing

Members considered an update from Sidmouth Plastic Warriors who had recently declared their disappointment with particularly beachgoers and the dropping of litter in large amounts by temporarily ceasing their clear ups in protest. The Committee expressed their desire for EDDC to increase the number of litter bins available, particularly in areas where these had been removed and to increase general street cleansing. It was agreed that the STC contractors had improved much of the town with regard to weeds but could not be expected cover all areas which were experiencing an increase in littering.

It was accepted that the litter issue was exacerbated by a minority of visitors and residents but that something needed to be done to help keep the Sid Valley tidy. Members were supportive and it was agreed that a renewed campaign to not only help clear up litter but to help re-educate and change people’s behaviour was needed.

RESOLVED: that a small independent Working Group be convened to help encourage and coordinate the clearing of litter with EDDC and volunteers and to help re-educate and change people’s behaviour. Initial Working Group membership to be: Cllrs Denise Bickley and Ian Barlow with Rachel Perram, Jeremy Woodward, Dave Bramley and Richard Thurlow.

41 Pedestrianisation / Temporary Traffic Restriction Order Update

Members considered the recently emergency measures put in place by Devon County Council Highways working with Sidmouth Town Council and Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce. It was agreed that the scheme had worked very well so far and that comments from some had been that the scheme did not go far enough. However, it was also acknowledged that the scheme had resulted in a number of negative comments and a huge amount of work for officers to implement. It was agreed that if anything was to be done of a similar nature in future to alleviate parking problems and to improve traffic flow, it could only be effective long term after a much promised and vital comprehensive traffic study of the town was carried out by Devon County Council Highways. Such a study was urgently needed.

A comprehensive and full-scale Traffic Plan had been promised after the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan now long complete, however it was understood that a was not likely to be implemented by Devon County Council in the near future after they had experienced serious problems with the implementation of a scheme in Totnes and due to limited resources. However, it had recently been suggested by the County Council that a ‘Round Table discussion’ leading to a possibly traffic study could be organised and this was very much welcomed by the Committee.

RESOLVED: that Devon County Council Highways be asked to convene a ‘Round Table’ discussion regarding traffic in Sidmouth as a matter of urgency.

42 Items raised by invited representatives

Members noted that Sidmouth Plastic Warriors would be carrying out a large-scale Beach Clean on 18/19 July 2020.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE