



SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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6 July 2022

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

For Information:
Other Members of the Council
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Meeting of the Environment Working Group Monday 11 July 2022 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.

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,

Christopher E Holland
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

	<u>Page/s</u>
<u>PART 'A'</u>	
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 25 April 2022.	4 - 6

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 is one item which the Town Clerk recommends should be dealt with in this way.

6 Natural Environment

6.1 To set a new ambitious target to plant 14,000 trees (1 for every person that lives in the Sid Valley).

6.2 To consider funding tabards for Friends of Glen Goyle (See letter attached.)

7

7 Built Environment

7.1 To consider setting up a small Sub Working Group, to investigate how to reduce the cluttering of the town centre with unnecessary signage and to the possibility of additional planters within the road layout to help improve the appearance of the town centre (including the repurposing of the telephone boxes) to add interest and vibrancy to the town centre whilst having particular regard to improving the environment and benefitting the economy. It is suggested that the Sub-Working Group includes Cllr Thurlow.

8 Sustainability

8.1 To consider setting up a small Sub Working Group, to look into the long term production of electricity in the Sid valley including solar, wind and hydro and other means of production to help make Sidmouth more sustainable. It is suggested that the Sub-Working Group includes Cllr Thurlow.

8.2 To consider providing charging points at the Knowle car park which is currently owned by East Devon District Council but which will be transferred to the Town Council.

8.3 To consider setting up a small Sub Working Group, to include a member of the Chamber of Commerce, to produce an investigative report showing how Sidmouth could be made more 'plastic aware' and how reduce unnecessary plastic packaging in local businesses. The group to look at how it can be achieved, implemented and what, if any, financial resources would be required. It is suggested that the Sub-Working Group includes Cllr Bickley.

10 **Engagement**

10.1 To consider setting up a small Sub Working Group, to examine how to better engage with groups and the population to encourage them to better engage with the green agenda locally. It is suggested that the Sub-Working Group includes Cllr Bickley.

11 **Items raised by invited representatives**

11.1 Innovation and Resilience Fund (IRF) bid presentation

To receive a short presentation from Cllr Louise Cole about the successful IRF bid and to discuss sustainable tourism and the part this committee can play in its success.

12 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

The Vice-Chair of the Working Group to move the following:

“that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of its contents.”

PART ‘B’

13 **School Weir Fish Pass project**

To receive a project update from the Town Council’s representative on the group, Councillor Thurlow.

Forthcoming Council and Working Group meetings:

6 July Planning Meeting

20 July Planning Meeting

8 August Council

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Working Group held on
Monday 25 April 2022 at 6.30pm
 (The Tourism and Economy Working Group met virtually)

Councillors present: Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair)
 Ian Barlow
 Charissa Evans
 Marianne Rixson
 Deidre Hounsom

Invited Reps: Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)
 Jeremy Woodward (Vision Group of Sidmouth)
 Jan Metcalf (Sid Valley Biodiversity Group - rivers group)
 Richard Eley

Apologies Cllr Denise Bickley (Chair), Cllr Rachel Perram, Dave Bramley (Sidmouth Science Festival),

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.15pm

PART 'A'

1 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 17 January 2022 were confirmed and agreed as a true record. Also, an update was given on each resolution from these minutes.

2 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Charissa Evans	Item 7	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Works at the Primary School
Cllr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group

3 Matters of Urgency and Report

There were no matters of urgency or report.

4 Exclusion of the Public

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

5 Environment Working Group - operational business

An update was given on the actions from the previous meeting. The grant which was applied for regarding cleaning the marketplace was unsuccessful so the work would be done using the local cleaning team and volunteers. The River Sid Fish Pass paper had been considered by full Council and support agreed. Also, the working group was happy to receive and consider any funding requests to use its budget.

6 Questions on Environment Newsletter

The group agreed that the newsletter was working well and was very good, and were happy with the way it was progressing. Anyone who would like to have an input into the next edition should contact denisebickley@hotmail.com. If anyone had any sustainability items for the May edition, they should let Catherine Causley ccausley@eastdevon.gov.uk know so she could add it to what EDDC were doing.

7 Natural Environment

STC Tree Strategy – The working group considered the paper with a view to recommend its adoption by the Council.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that Council be recommended to adopt the draft STC Tree Strategy
- 2) Chris Lockyear to look at the document becoming part of the NHP and will also investigate whether EDDC can share a list of all TPOs, maybe in map form.

Funding for Sidmouth Primary School Environment Project (£350)

Sidmouth Primary School were looking to re-develop the school pond which had fallen into disrepair and were also looking to make a seating area.

RESOLVED: That the funding application be approved.

Water monitoring project funding request (up to £1000)

Jan Metcalf had requested up to £1000 to monitor the water around the river Sid and the sea front all year round as it was only carried out during the bathing months.

RESOLVED: That the funding application be approved.

Sidmouth Biodiversity group funding £680

The group had asked for funding to help make them more visible throughout the area allowing them to produce display material, leaflets and ad hoc information making them more consistent with the messages they wish to send out.

RESOLVED: That the funding application be approved.

• Update on discussions with South West Water and Environment Agency

Chris Lockyear explained that a meeting had taken place with South West Water and Simon Jupp MP where use of the Combined Sewage Outfalls (CSO) was discussed. Minutes have been written and shared with South West Water but although they confirmed they were substantially correct, they were not happy for them to be published. The Town Council is awaiting a response from South West Water to a number of questions. A meeting is now planned with the Environment Agency (EA) and Simon Jupp MP, to discuss permitting,

compliance and future planning with regard to the CSOs and the sewage treatment system in general.

- **Tree planting**

The arboretum had planted about 40 trees in the area and were looking at other areas to do this. Richard Eley had suggested that Sidmouth plant 70 trees for the Queens jubilee and was happy to carry this out but needed to understand where they should go.

RESOLVED: Jon Ball will collate a list of suggested areas for the next meeting and would appreciate any suggestions being sent to him.

8 Low Carbon Town Infrared Camera Project

Sidmouth Town Council had purchased an infrared camera and had carried out 90 infrared surveys by 9 volunteers for residents of the Sid Valley. The group would be looking for more local residents to become involved and will offer the service again towards the end of the year.

9 Sustainability

Focus area option / Requests for support – The group were asked if they could think about any ideas for future sustainability projects that the group could focus on. These would be discussed at the next meeting.

10 Engagement

Carbon Footprint project

Dave Bramley was heading up the initiative to encourage residents to look at their personal carbon footprint and how they could reduce their carbon emissions. There is an open day planned on 7 May at All Saints Church Sidmouth, where residents could learn and understand how to work out their footprint and how to reduce it.

11 Items raised by invited representatives

Sidmouth Plastic Warriors - Requested for the group to support the Greenpeace 'Big Plastic Count' 16-22 May they can sign up by going to thebigplasticcount.com (DB).

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

On 21 Jun 2022, at 18:08, VGS Secretary wrote:

To the chair and vice chair of the STC Environment Committee

Dear Ian and Denise,

With reference to earlier correspondence, the Friends of Glen Goyle would like to formally apply to the STC Environment Cttee for the funding of twenty hi-vis vests for volunteer members of the FOGG working party - and we would be very grateful if the committee could finance this purchase.

Not only would the vests provide the volunteers with some visibility as regards passers-by, but the logo on the back of each would make it clear that the volunteers belonged to a bona fide group engaged on specific work along the Glen.

Attached please find the quote from A1 Print&Stitch in Honiton; we have been in touch further today with regards to the FOGG logo to be incorporated.

The FOGG working party meets every Thursday morning - in which case, it would be very useful if we could place an order soon, to ensure the safety of the volunteers as they go about their work for the community and the environment.

Thank you again for your support for this project and in particular considering our initial enquiries.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards,

Jeremy

Jeremy Woodward, secretary, Friends of Glen Goyle and Vision Group for Sidmouth