



# SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

WOOLCOMBE HOUSE  
WOOLCOMBE LANE  
SIDMOUTH  
DEVON  
EX10 9BB

Telephone: 01395 512424

Email: [enquiries@sidmouth.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@sidmouth.gov.uk)

Website: [www.sidmouth.gov.uk](http://www.sidmouth.gov.uk)

VAT Reg. No. 142 3103 24

15 October 2024

To: All Members of the Environment Committee:  
Councillors: Ian Barlow, Stephen Blakeway, Bernie Davis, Paul Dodds, Mike Goodman, Chris Lockyear, Rachel Perram, Kevin Walker, John Nicholson

Invited Representatives

For Information:  
Other Members of the Council  
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Meeting of the Environment Committee Monday 21 October at 6.30pm**

You are called upon to attend the above meeting to be held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, 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.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak at this meeting. The Chair of the Committee 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>
	<b><u>PART 'A'</u></b>	
1	<b>Apologies</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
2	<b>Minutes</b> To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 8 July 2024.	4 - 6

3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	<u>Page/s</u>
	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 interest in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.	
4	<b>Matters of Urgency and Report</b> 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	<b>Exclusion of the Public</b> 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	To receive the final draft of the Environment Policy for recommendation to Council to adopt.	
7	<b>Natural Environment</b>	
7.1	To receive an update from River Sid Partnership.	Data PDF attached
7.2	To receive a summary from the Biodiversity Group.	
7.3	To receive an update from the Sidmouth Arboretum on the 14,000-tree planting project and progress to date on the Arboretum Tree Survey.	Report and map attached
7.4	a) To note the minutes of a meeting of the Knowle Park and Gardens Working Group held on 17th September. b) To consider the adoption of the Knowle Park and Gardens Management Plan recommended by the Working Group. c) To agree the dissolution of the working group. d) To agree standard memorial seating (which could be sited at Knowle formal gardens) and a contribution policy which could be adopted Council wide. Current seating which is of a recycled type costs £700 fitted by EDDC Streetscene.	Attached with the Agenda.
7.5	Sidmouth in Bloom – to note the Newsletter attached with the Agenda.	Newsletter Attached
8	<b>Built Environment</b>	
8.1	a) Councillor Paul Dodds to update the committee on the Working Group set up to monitor and assist DCC via the Road Wardens Programme. b) To consider the more effective use of resources the Town Council already has at its disposal, to help keep the town tidy and visitor friendly.	
8.2	Councillor Rachel Perram to give brief update on the sign cleaning in Sidmouth.	
9	<b>Engagement</b>	
9.1	Councillor Edward Willis-Flemming to present a suggestion to have a 5-star rating on business premises doors, to show compliance with environmental standards.	
9.2	Report from CAPS	

- 10 To confirm date of the next Environment Committee Meeting as Monday 13 January 2026.

**Forthcoming Council and Working Group meetings:**

23 October Planning Working Group

3 November Council

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's**  
**Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,**  
**Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth**  
**on Monday 8 July 2024 at 6.30pm**

Councillors: Ian Barlow (Chair)  
Stephen Blakeway (Vice Chair)  
Paul Dodds  
Hillary Nelson  
John Nicholson  
Rachel Perram  
Kevin Walker

Invited Reps:

Ed Dolphin	(Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jon Ball	(Sidmouth Arboretum)
Diana East	(Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jan Metcalf	(River Sid Project)
Charles Sinclair	(River Sid Project)
Dave Bramley	(CAPS)

Apologies: Jeremy Woodward (SVA)

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.20pm

**PART 'A'**

**58 Minutes**

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 22 April 2024, were agreed, and signed.

**59 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Ian Barlow	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group Member of Sidmouth Arboretum
Cllr Kevin Walker	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting.	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group

## **60 Matters of Urgency and Report**

None reported.

## **61 Natural Environment:**

61.1 Jan Metcalf reported on the section of the Lower Reaches of the river Sid. After examining the river, it was noticed the potential of sewage fungi on both the walkway and at the Ford. Reports have been made to the Environment Agency and monitors would be approached to collect data and help us achieve our goal of having the cleanest river in the UK.

61.2 Charles Sinclair from River Sid Partnership gave a verbal update regarding their ongoing work on the River Sid project and work with South West Water.

61.3 Ed Dolphin gave a summary on behalf of the Biodiversity Group discussing the verge at The Bowd and Brownlands.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

A brief leaflet to be made and distributed to the residents of Brownlands, explaining the planting and seeding process.

61.4 Jon Ball from the Arboretum gave an update on the 10-year treeconomics report.

61.5 Councillor Kevin Walker gave a summary of the report from the new Friends of the Knowle Group and their activities.

It was agreed that usage of the parkland would be considered at the next meeting in the context of the Councils existing policy 'guidelines on events in the Sid Valley'.

## **62 Built Environment**

62.1 Councillor Paul Dodds reported on assisting Devon County Council with the ongoing issue of Potholes and drainage in the Sid Valley.

## **63 Engagement**

63.1 An update on the Caps project was given by Dave Bramley. Discussing the aim to promote the work of Exeter Community Energy (ECOE) and to Seek out opportunities to help households live more sustainably.

63.2 Councillor Stephen Blakeway reported about the intent to make Sidmouth signage cohesive. Using the current design system to align colour palettes and font.

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Blakeway with the assistance of Councillor Perram investigate the design system already in place.

63.3 Councillor Stephen Blakeway updated the Committee on the progress of the new Environment policy for the Council.

**RESOLVED:** that the working group with Councillors Davis, Lockyear, Blakeway and Nicholson report to the Committee in the next Environment meeting to gain feedback and consultation for the new policy.

**64** The Chairman thanked all the groups for the great work that they have done and are doing for our community and emphasised the importance of gathering insights and feedback from them on how the council could further assist them in their work going forward.

A proposal was made to develop a feedback mechanism to collect information on current projects, challenges, and additional support needs.

**RESOLVED:** The committee will review the feedback collected and discuss additional support needs for each focus area.

The committee will also prioritise agenda topics for the next quarter based on the forward plan.

**65** Confirmed the date for the next meeting as Monday 21 October 24.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE