



SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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8 July 2025

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

For Information:
Other Members of the Council
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Meeting of the Environment Committee Monday 14 July 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>
	<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 14 April 2025.	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 interest 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	Budget	
	Members to consider 2026/2027 budget.	
7	Engagement	
7.1	Councillor Bernie Davis to update on the trial of the Eco Hub Sidmouth and to discuss future plans.	Report attached
7.2	Members to consider the report from Councillor Kevin Walker on the Support for Volunteer Recruitment for Environmental Groups in Sid Valley.	Report attached
7.3	The Committee to note the attached report from the Vision Group Sidmouth which outlines the current state of its projects.	Report attached
8	Built Environment	
8.1	Committee to note the Knowle Parkland Bramble Management report from Ed Dolphin and to receive a verbal update from the Chair.	Report attached
8.2	The Committee to note the attached report of Councillor Kevin Walker and the Friends of the Knowle.	Report attached
8.3	The Committee to consider the attached report 'Operation Butt Bins 2025'.	Report attached
8.4	Councillor Paul Dodds to provide an update on the progress of the Pothole assistance project working with Devon County Council.	Report attached
8.5	The Chair to give a verbal report on a new challenge to plant trees within the built environment and possible ways forward.	
9	Natural Environment	
9.1	The Committee to consider the report from the River Sid Catchment Group requesting permission from East Devon District Council to display a sign at School Weir.	Report attached
9.2	Jon Ball from Sidmouth Arboretum to give a Verbal report on the Tree Survey.	
9.4	To consider a report from the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group (SVBG) and a proposal for the implementation of an Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) protocol for decision.	Report attached

Forthcoming Council and Committee meetings:

16 July Planning Committee

4 August Council

13 August Planning Committee

1 September Council

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 14 April 2025 at 6.30pm

Councillors: Ian Barlow (Chair)
Stephen Blakeway (Vice Chair)
Bernie Davis
Paul Dodds
Mike Goodman
Chris Lockyear
Hillary Nelson
Rachel Perram
Kevin Walker

Invited Reps:

Ed Dolphin	(Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jon Ball	(Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jan Metcalf	(River Sid Project)
Charles Sinclair	(River Sid Project)
Dave Bramley	(CAPS)
Stefan Drew	(Civic Food Forests)
Zoey Cooper	(Exmouth Town Council)

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.15pm

PART 'A'

83 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 13 January 2025, were agreed, and signed, subject to the clarification of minute 81.2 to read RECOMMENDED: To get a Project Officer to look at the Salcombe Regis and Woolbrook stream.

84 Declarations of Interest

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

85 Matters of Urgency and Report

None reported.

86 Engagement:

86.1 The Council noted the reduction reported in the Council's energy use and agreed to continue to report on usage and make all reasonable efforts to lower carbon footprint in the coming years.

The Chair and Members thanked Cllr Lockyear for his time and concise report.

86.2 Dave Bramley (CAPS) gave an update to the Committee concerning working on bringing Sidmouth Community together with various informative talks related to CAPS. A budget would be submitted to the Committee to fund more talks held at Kennaway House.

86.3 Cllr Bernie Davis updated Members on the Eco hub and the good work they had done to date with many different groups joining them at the library and TIC. The Committee discussed the merits of the hub possibly finding the hub a more permanent base in the future. The CAPS team had decided that the trial would now be extended until the end of the year.

86.4 Zoey Cooper the Environmental Officer from Exmouth Council introduced the Exmouth Cup project to the Committee. The Chair and Members thanked Zoey for delivering their findings with the scheme so far.

87 Built Environment:

87.1 Cllr Paul Dodds reported to the Committee on working with DDC and EDDC on improvements of the road and roadsides in Sidmouth. It was reported that approximately 120-160 potholes had been repaired to date. The signs throughout the Town had also been cleaned and it was noted that work with our contractor had been highlighted and everyone had noticed the improvement to the general cleanliness of Sidmouth and the the impact of the Councils work in the Town. The Chair and Committee thanked Cllr Dodds for helping to make such an exceptional difference to Sidmouth.

87.2 Cllr Walker spoke on how the FOGG volunteers had transformed the Glen Goyle site. The Chair confirmed that EDDC were taking responsibility for the pathway, supplying materials and would be liaising with the volunteers and Friends of Glen Goyle about the successful project.

87.3 Cllr Walker brought to the Committees attention the team of volunteers that had been meeting weekly and doing great work in improving the Cemetery. He highlighted the problems the volunteers faced with dogs not being on leads. The Chair thanked the volunteers through Cllr Walker for their work and informed them that EDDC would be providing additional signage regarding Dogs on Leads.

87.4 Friends of the Knowle requested £250 for costs to cover insurance and vests/gloves.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee would fund the costs and pass on thanks for the vast improvement in the Knowle Gardens.

88 Natural Environment:

88.1 Ed Dolphin and Jon Ball gave an update to Members about the 14,000 tree planting project. They had secured funding from national companies for the project to date and would be coming in ahead of schedule. They gave the first initial findings of the tree report but would report at the next committee when the data and final report had been finished. The Chair praised the Arboretum for the huge success of the ongoing project.

88.2 Stefan Drew received questions on the Community and Civic Food Forest project. It had encouraged the Sidmouth Community to come together and even though it was still in the early stages and would develop properly in the next 7 years, it had already been proving successful.

88.3 Members discussed the report on the Bactiquick Water tester and agreed to fund up to £2500 to enable tests to be taken in the bathing season daily.

RECOMMENDED: that the Council fund up to £2500 to enable tests to be taken in the bathing season daily, subject there being no undue legal risk to the Council or legal representation.

89 Members confirmed that the date for the next meeting would be Monday 14 July 2025.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE