

# Climate Change & Biodiversity

## Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm

Held online using Microsoft Teams

### NOTES

#### In Attendance

Cllr Pat Osborne

Dr Sylvia Hixson Andrews

Cllr Hugo Mieville

Cllr Roger Carter

Isabella Ellis

Cllr John Dallison

Janet Tyson

Yvonne Mieville

Linda Scott-Giles

#### 1. Apologies

None

#### 2. Introductions

Pat welcomed past TBS student, Isabella Ellis who joined the meeting for the first time. She is in Year 4 of a Physical Geography degree and is currently spending time in Sweden as part of the course. Isabella spoke about use of the term 'climate trauma' instead of referring to 'climate change', with it being a more appropriate use of language to emphasise the impact. Isabella explained that she has a presentation she is able to talk through and a general discussion was then held.

Sylvia feels that the term climate change explains what is happening – for example, if we are recognising that it is flooding because of change we can plan for that and also adapt to it. Scientists opted for the term 'climate change' to recognise the ways in which they can stop that change and ways in which to mitigate against it.

Janet pointed out that a small number of people need to change their consumption habits and it isn't going to happen until all of us channel our energy in the right direction.

Pat explained that, until significant changes are made with regards to what is publicised and presented to the public through media, it is difficult for the shift to take place. For example, with petrol heads and smoking – both are damaging to the environment but continue to be portrayed on mainstream media and this should cease in order to help change people's views of what is acceptable.

Roger praised Isabella for her efforts and spoke about how difficult it can be to help people understand the severity of the issues we are all facing.

Yvonne raised local flooding issues and Wessex Water pumping the sewage back into the water table. Hugo added that no new reservoirs have been created since 1978.

Janet recommended using commonly used language to avoid people finding the subject matter confusing.

Isabella delivered her presentation and spoke about projects she had been involved in at the Blandford Town Museum. Attendees were really impressed and thanked Isabella for her efforts.

Isabella would like to do a Masters in the future and when she is back from university in the summer she would like to help support the work of the group by carrying out various activities in Blandford.

Sylvia raised the environmental group at the Museum and mentioned the 11<sup>th</sup> June event, which is a Sustainable Fair. Sylvia would really like to see more councillors attend these green events. The Museum also has a new touchscreen that will be used specifically for climate change matters. The Museum Gardens is becoming a climate resistant garden and there are more events coming too.

Yvonne mentioned that the CUBC will be holding a clean-up event on the Bank Holiday Monday of the Coronation weekend.

Pat thanked everyone for attending, with special thanks to Isabella for joining the group and sharing her ideas and experience.

The meeting finished at 8:05 pm.