



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7:00pm

[Online via Teams](#)

NOTES

In Attendance

Cllr Pat Osborne

Cllr John Dallison

Cllr Hugo Mieville

Linda Scott-Giles

Yvonne Mieville

1. Apologies

Cllr Roger Carter

Janet Tyson

2. 'Plastic Free Town' Status

Yvonne had not yet had the opportunity to carry out the actions from the last meeting so she will speak to some selected local businesses who she knows are already adhering to plastic-free status to determine if they are willing to commit to the campaign. Their logos can then be used on the leaflet Yvonne is preparing the wording for and Linda will design the leaflet and send it to print.

As a reminder, in order for the town to become a plastic-free town, Surfers Against Sewage have the following four requirements:

Set up a plastic free steering group

- Evidence is required that there is a group having regular meetings and it was agreed that we would use these meetings because they are relevant and include the same people who would attend both meetings.
- Pat suggested it is an item on the agenda every month, which was agreed.

Governance – this will be an agenda item on 31st July 2023

The motion to the council must say:

1. Council will remove plastic from its properties
 2. Council will promote this publicly to residents and businesses
 3. Name a representative of the council to sit on the steering group
- Pat added that the Action Plan evidences the commitment and subsequent actions.
 - Yvonne also referred back to the Minutes from May 2019 when council agreed to support the Blandford War on Waste.

Get Business Champions

Six businesses are required to sign up to this, due to the size of the town, and businesses already doing something and using alternatives are eligible. They need to register via the dashboard. The leaflet will be distributed throughout the town centre businesses.

Get Community Allies

- 20 allies are needed – schools, youth organisations, sports clubs, masons, rotary, business group, repair café, the WI, Hall & Woodhouse, Museums, trade unions, Community Fridge, the churches, playgroups and nurseries, the leisure centre and the library.
- The allies need to agree to the initiative.
- Yvonne asked for people from the working group to participate by agreeing to speak to a number of groups.
- To invite the aforementioned groups and reach out to them in one session. We can then reach out to any other required after that session. It was agreed that we could make use of the Community Expo in September and a 6pm meeting prior to a council meeting to invite businesses and organisations to attend, however the dates will be set in due course.
- Pat felt it was an achievable initiative and gave us a reason to reach out to the local community.

Yvonne will sort a pack of information and will draw up a letter to be sent to the local groups and organisations. Yvonne will also send out a list of groups so people can consider who they might like to present to.

3. To receive any updates

Annabelle Valentine has been painting her designs around three drains for the Only Rain Down the Drain campaign.

The Green Fair was held in June and, despite the weather, it was a successful event.

The most recent litter pick went well and there was less litter. Most of the rubbish collected consists of cigarette butts, vapes and coffee cups.

Linda has encouraged all staff to sign up to the Litter Lotto app, which has a Dorset pot of money for winners too.

Pat updated attendees that the Dorset Coastal Forum have their conference in September and Dr Pam Buchan has asked Pat to speak about Blandford being the first inland council to adopt the Motion for the Ocean.

4. To agree next steps

As above.

5. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 13th September 2023 at 7pm (online).