



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 7:00pm

Held [Online via Microsoft Teams](#)

NOTES

Attendees:

Cllr Pat Osborne

Cllr John Dallison

Sylvia Hixon-Andrews

Janet Tyson

1. Apologies

Cllr Alan Cross

Linda Scott-Giles

2. To formulate responses to the Dorset Council consultation: **Planning for climate change**

Dorset Council is consulting on the following, to provide guidance on how climate change is taken into account in planning applications and decisions:

- **Interim guidance and position statement** - to help decision makers weigh up the benefits of addressing climate change with other material considerations. The statement provides an overview of the legislative, national and local policy context and addresses sustainable design and construction and planning for renewable energy schemes.
- **Sustainability checklist** – sets out questions for applicants to check in relation to their schemes' sustainable design and construction.
- **Amendment to Paragraph 39 of the Dorset National and Local List of Requirements** – amending the existing requirement to submit a sustainability statement for relevant planning applications to include the proposed sustainability checklist.
- **Listed buildings** – what you can do for climate change - to help householders with what they can do to increase energy efficiency in their listed buildings and understand what they would need consent for.

The consultation is running from 20 April to 8 June 2023. You can view the draft documents and comment online at: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-for-climate-change

This will then be a recommendation to the Planning meeting on 5th June 2023 for Councillors to consider.

We have agreed to meet again to discuss a response to Dorset Council Consultation Paper on Planning for Climate Change. Pat will distribute his thoughts to the consultation one week before the next meeting to allow others an opportunity to digest and critique – 17th May.

3. To receive any updates

Updates were received from all participants.

A discussion was held about how we might try to engage more people in the community with climate and environmental issues.

Sylvia has requested Town Council support to share social media messaging on the Great Big Green Week and Sustainability Fair via its Social Media Channels – Pat agreed to refer to Linda.

4. To agree next steps

The group will meet again to agree a stance on the DC consultation.

5. Date of next meeting – TBC