



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Group Meeting

Thursday 26th September 2024 at 7pm

Held online via Teams

NOTES

In Attendance

Cllr Y Miéville

Janet Tyson

Cllr John Dallison

Linda Scott-Giles

Yvonne agreed to chair the meeting in Pat's absence.

1. Apologies

Nicci Brown

Keziah Rookes

Cllr Terry Clarkson

Cllr Sheila Chapman

Cllr H Miéville

Pat Osborne (Chair)

2. Keziah Rookes, Climate Sector Officer in the Sustainability Team at Dorset Council

Part of Kez's role will be working with town councils to help reduce carbon emissions across Dorset. Keziah had given apologies and will aim to be at the next meeting.

3. To consider the inclusion of 'Nature' in the title (suggested by Cllr Quayle at the Town Council meeting held on 29th July 2024)

Yvonne explained to attendees that she had watched the Dorset Council meeting when the Councillors adopted a nature emergency.

It was suggested at a Town Council meeting that the name of the Climate Change & Biodiversity Action Plan.

John asked if the word biodiversity would still be included Janet said she felt it was worth considering and if adding the word nature would make the work and agenda seem more focussed.

It was agreed that the name could be changed to Climate, Nature & Biodiversity Working Group/Action Plan. However, it was also considered that the word 'biodiversity' could be removed, which **can be discussed at the council meeting on 30th September 2024**. The definitions of each are shown below.

- Nature

The physical world, including all living and non-living things, and the processes that occur within it. Nature includes the Earth's geology, water, climate, and all other inanimate components.

- Biodiversity

The variety of living things on Earth, including their interactions and the ecosystems they form. Biodiversity is a core part of nature, and includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

4. Update on 'Plastic Free Community' status

Yvonne and Hugo met with Pat to plan ahead after the last meeting, and it was planned to meet in the summer to go around the town to encourage people to sign up but they were unable to set a date. This will take place soon.

5. Update from Blandford War on Waste/Clean up Blandford

- The litter pick collection took place on Saturday with the support of the Rangers, and they have started to note the hours
- The vape shop next to Iceland has a bin for used vapes, which seems to help with reducing vape litter.
- There are a lot of cigarette butts by the taxi rank, outside barbers, charity shops, take-aways, pubs, etc. and they would like to ask these places to put something out to collect the butts instead of them being left on the floor. **Yvonne asked if a letter could be written by the Town Council encouraging them to put a receptacle outside their properties and that we offer to provide them with a bucket and sand, making the point they won't be emptied by the council staff.**
- John said there is the Keep Britain Tidy campaign and there are also agreements you can get businesses to sign up to where they look after the areas at the front of their shops/businesses. He said it is called a Business Environmental Charter and is from [Business Charter Litter Watch](#). **It is recommended that this is an agenda item on the October full council meeting.**
- Janet asked if any fine could be imposed for businesses not looking after their areas, but Yvonne explained that we don't have the authority to do so. People will only be fined for littering if caught in the act and penalised by the Police.
- Attendees discussed the stickers being stuck on the bins outside Spar and at the corner by the church.
- The last litter pick of the season is being held on 19th October 2024.
- A discussion was held on weeds, spraying using chemicals and removal of them.

6. Update from Blandford + NP group

John updated that a meeting was held with Wyatt Homes and they are following the Design Code, which refers to environmental measures.

7. Dog mess

Yvonne mentioned that, during litter picks, the dog mess hasn't been too bad.

Yvonne asked for more dog poo campaign posters, laminated, from Linda so she can put them up at The Milldown and Stour Meadows.

Linda explained that she had done some research on dog waste campaigns and will add some more information at the next meeting.

8. Any other updates

Yvonne mentioned one of the litter pickers said there were trees down in the river and wondered who they could be reported to. Linda asked Jon to report.

9. To agree next steps

Matters to be taken to full council meetings.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 23rd October at 7pm