



Minutes

Name of Meeting		Environment and Sustainability Forum
Date and Time		17 th December 2020, 18:15
Venue		Microsoft Teams
Attendees	Name	Role/Organisation
	Natasha Dix	IWC, Strategic Manager Waste and Environment
	Holly Jones	IWC, Climate Change Project Officer
	Dina Jung	
	Sarah Talbot	Fishbourne Parish Council
	Carol Flux	Natural Enterprise
	Fred Woodworth "Cornflake"	
	Jonathan Bacon	Chairman, Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
	Colin Palmer	Chair of Wight Community Energy
	Paul Fuller	Councillor, Cowes West and Gurnard
	George Wilks	CycleWight
	Steve Hastings	Councillor, Central Wight
	Steve Cowley	Shalfleet Parish Council
	Christopher Ashman	IWC, Director of Regeneration
	Jim Fawcett	IWC, Economic Development Officer
	Colin Rowland	IWC, Director of Neighbourhoods
	Michael Murwill	Councillor, Brading, St Helens and Bembridge
Tom Murphy	Freshwater Parish Council	
John Hobart	Councillor, Carisbrooke	
Lester Slade		
18:15	ND	Welcome and apologies
	HJ	MS Teams and housekeeping
18:20	ND	Updated Terms of Reference
18:25	HJ	Climate and Environment (C&E) strategy update: pathways to 2030 and 2040 using emissions reductions, carbon offsetting, or a combination of both C&E strategy expected to be sent out for comment to the Forum members within the next month
18:30		Questions and comments re. C&E strategy
	SC	Can we investigate woodland grants?
	HJ	Yes – there is a lot of forestry grant funding available currently
	JB	May be more difficult that thought to access funding as Red Squirrel Trust has had difficulty in accessing funding for tree planting
	TM	Has been involved in several tree planting schemes/funding applications – will discuss with JB. Also mentioned a local carbon credit trading platform and regenerative agriculture as options to explore.
	DJ	Suggested a scheme that could involve everyone on the IoW purchasing a tree to plant
	ND	Some councils have set up similar schemes, e.g. tree nurseries, but we don't want trees to be the only offsetting action

	CP	Have we got a 'tree baseline' of what we're working from, e.g. satellite images?
	HJ	We are working from government figures stated in this report: AncientWoodlandInventoryWight.pdf (wildonwight.co.uk)
	LS	We should be taking more action than just planting trees to help the planet recover
	ND	There will be much more outlined in the C&E strategy – we will be taking an approach that combines emissions reductions and offsetting as well as other actions relating to the Biosphere and environment
	CF	Salt marshes should be included in the plan as they are a large carbon sink. How much carbon could regenerative agriculture offset? Tree planting alone should not be the solution
	HJ	Tree planting numbers given in the C&E strategy update were to illustrate the scale of action needed to offset emissions – we do not expect to be planting as many trees as that but will be looking at a combination of measures
	CA	In response to further action query from LS – the Green Homes Grant is now available for home decarbonisation projects Green Homes Grant: make energy improvements to your home - GOV.UK
	ST	Queried recent hedge and green corridor slashing – seems to have been more drastic than in recent years
	ND	The Council follows strict rules but does not necessarily own all this land. Please can ST send further details to sustainability@iow.gov.uk ?
18:50		Forums topics for 2021
	HJ	Runs through a list of 20 topics the Council has proposed as possible topics to be discussed during 2021's E&S Forums Full list available in presentation Asked forum members to vote on their preferred topics, selecting a maximum of 12 options from the list in the below poll: Topics for 2021 E&S Forums (this poll is still open so please cast votes if you would like to)
	FW	Would like to hear more about EVs for non-personal use, e.g. delivery vehicles, and use of solar farms and energy
	ND	There is a Cenex study covering EV use
	HJ	More information on alternative energy solutions will be available in C&E strategy
	DJ	Would like to know why hydrogen or electric buses are not being used/if they are being considered. David Brown has agreed to co-funding electric buses.
	CR	Buses are already subsidised for £2 million+ by the council so we would need to find additional funding. Electric vehicles may not be powerful enough for some Island roads so we may need to examine hydrogen. We can discuss in more detail at a future forum.
	CP	Expressed surprised that electric buses were not an option. Commented that Wight Community Generation may be able to help with renewable generation plans, but does not think the Island grid has capacity for any large-scale projects currently.
	ND	Proposed using the January forum to discuss public transport options
	LS	Suggested EVs over hydrogen buses owing to fossil fuels associated with hydrogen manufacturing. Also proposed battery storage to overcome grid issues.
	DJ	Can we find a future speaker from an electric bus company or an EV researcher to speak more objectively at a future forum?
	CP	Offered to expand more on grid connections at a future forum
19:10		Pre-submitted questions
		I would like to know what steps the Council is or will be taking to use alternative methods to control weeds, which does not involve the use of Glyphosate or other dangerous pesticides (as listed by the W.H.O.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council's contractors work within UK law and best practice and are constantly looking to exploring alternate weed control methods

		<p>I would like an update on EV charging on the Island , also the status of UKOG with respect to the country council, especially as during lockdown so much new information has come to light, e.g. gravitrisity, the liquid air battery that is being built, and other large scale power storage projects making gas not only highly polluting but greatly overpriced and completely unnecessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current UK government recommendation is 1 charge point per 1000 registered vehicles by 2030. we will need to have at least 72 EV chargers available on the Island by 2030 and will review this requirement as time goes on – currently 26 are available • Plans to explore battery storage for the island are included in C&E strategy as an action to explore
		<p>The rates of cycling as a transport mode in Island towns are extremely low. Does the council accept that the main barrier to cycling is perceived danger on the road, and what plans are there to change transport policy to encourage modal shift?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is certainly one of many barriers that our active travel officers have been working on for several years. We will be continuing to look at opening up further cycle routes such as the Freshwater to Newport route under planning, as well as making use of the active travel funding to improve existing routes.
19:15		AOB
	FW	Requested previous Forum minutes
	CP	Requested wider range of speakers for future forums
	ST	Requested dates of future meetings
	ND	Confirmed meetings to take place on third Thursday of every month at 17:30 (except for January 2021 when it will fall on 28 th)
	Cornflake	Can we add Biosphere status as a forum topic for 2021?
	SC	Expressed concern at level of production of renewable energy as we still need a fourth connector – however, this is not planned until 2031. Should be brought forward as a priority