



Minutes

Name of Meeting		Environment and Sustainability Forum
Date and Time		2 nd June 2021, 17:00
Venue		Microsoft Teams
Attendees	Name	Role/Organisation
	Colin Rowland	IWC – Director of Neighbourhoods
	Holly Jones	IWC – Climate Change Project Officer
	Reniera O’Donnell	Ellen MacArthur Foundation
	Sarah O’Carroll	Ellen MacArthur Foundation
	Bethany Fox	IWC – Trainee Project Manager
	David Adams	Councillor, Nettlestone & Seaview
	Alex Lawson	Cycle Wight
	Chris Ashman	IWC – Director - Regeneration
	Brian Taylor	AgeUK
	Dina Jung	
	Jennine Gardiner	IWC – Rights of Way
	Helena Hewston	Shalfleet Parish Council
	Chris Jarman	Councillor, Totland & Colwell
	John Hobart	Parish Cllr, Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council
	Lester Slade	
	Paul Fuller	Councillor, Cowes West and Gurnard
	Rob Brooker	IWC – Waste & Recycling Contract Manager
	Sarah Talbot	Fishbourne Parish Council
	Sharon Lake	Councillor, East Cowes Town Council
	Tom Murphy	Freshwater Parish Council
Ian Ward	IWC – Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport	
Dave Wallis	Island Roads	
Vince Wedlock-Ward	Future IOW	
Wendy Murwill		
17:00	CR	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Jonathan Bacon • Henry Morris, Carbon Catalyst • Councillor Steve Hastings • Natasha Dix, Strategic Manager Waste & Environment <p>MS Teams and housekeeping</p>
17:10	RO/SO	Introduction to the Circular Economy and how Local Authorities can support and embed circular activities
17:40	Q&A	
	LS	How can the circular economy help reduce emissions? We should be focusing primarily on that
	RO	EMF produced a report covering this in 2019: Completing the Picture Only about 55% of climate targets can be met through changing the type of energy we use and how we use it. The remaining 45% reduction will come from other areas, primarily resource use. Making, manufacturing, and using items has a huge footprint.

		Keeping items in use for longer instead of disposing of them and making new items will use less energy and reduce emissions. The circular economy is the framework to achieving this.
	DA	The government don't seem serious about meeting a lot of the targets they've set and are not fully engaged with issues.
	SO	A colleague at EMF works closely with both DEFRA and BEIS. Currently, the circular economy is in the 'environment' space – however, it needs to be considered more in terms of economic development and trade. EMF is also working with large businesses to encourage shifts in business models. The aim is to remove the 'wrong' choices from customers at the root.
	RO	The government has recently put £30 million into five research centres for the circular economy and they are ramping up activity. Local authorities, universities, and businesses are taking on the circular economy agenda. An example is the required circular economy planning statement for all new development in London. The government is going in the right direction but needs more time to implement further action.
	LS	Billions are still being spent on fossil fuel subsidies – how does this align with circular economy activity?
	RO	A sudden overnight switch is not possible but there is more and more emphasis being gradually placed on a circular economy approach
	SO	In the last 10+ years of the EMF, we have tracked circular economy policy globally. There is exponential growth towards circular economy principles. Progress is slow but it's important to stay positive – without this change will never happen.
	PF	One priority for IWC's new administration is the Island Plan. What can we incorporate to future-proof the Island in circular economy terms?
	SO	There are two key examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. London's circular economy planning statement: this is a requirement for all new developments 2. Procurement: this is highly complex and requires a completely new approach in many cases. Many LAs need to consider taking one step to begin with and building up from there.
	RO	Politicians need to move away from quick wins that are vote winners, such as parking spaces. It's easy to undo good work in favour of these quick wins. We need to move towards a sharing economy and use community spaces to support this, e.g. by introducing car sharing clubs instead of more parking spaces.
	CJ	How does EMF determine its approach by modelling? As the population increases there aren't enough resources to go around no matter how resource management is modelled.
	RO	We don't focus on individual behaviour change as EMF takes the stance that system change is the key. While it's great that so many people are making strides to live more sustainability and this should be encouraged, the root of change needs to come from the system rather than the individual as individual action will never be enough to meet global needs.
18:00	BF	Isle of Wight Council reuse service
18:10	Q&A	
	LS	How much CO2 will the energy from waste plant produce?
	BF	This was a question I had initially – it will be much lower than that from waste going to landfill. The 2020 emissions conversion factors from the UK government are in the table below, shown in kilos of emissions produced per ton of waste. Please note that combustion figures are likely to vary slightly by facility according to filters or scrubbers used at each plant – these figures show a UK average. The new plant on the

		<p>Isle of Wight has been built with low emissions in mind and are of a very high standard, far above the current legal requirements.</p> <p>N.B. minimal amounts of plastics, glass, and WEEE should be entering landfill or combustion across the UK as these items are much more commonly recycled</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Waste type</th> <th>Combustion</th> <th>Landfill</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Household residual waste</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>437.372</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organic: food and drink waste</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>626.907</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organic: garden waste</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>578.992</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organic: mixed food and garden waste</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>587.377</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commercial and industrial waste</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>458.176</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper and board: mixed</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>1,041.836</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clothing</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>444.976</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WEEE - mixed</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>8.986</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glass</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>8.934</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plastics: average plastics</td> <td>21.317</td> <td>8.934</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Waste type	Combustion	Landfill	Household residual waste	21.317	437.372	Organic: food and drink waste	21.317	626.907	Organic: garden waste	21.317	578.992	Organic: mixed food and garden waste	21.317	587.377	Commercial and industrial waste	21.317	458.176	Paper and board: mixed	21.317	1,041.836	Clothing	21.317	444.976	WEEE - mixed	21.317	8.986	Glass	21.317	8.934	Plastics: average plastics	21.317	8.934
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	BT	Are there currently any intentions for methane capture at the Energy from Waste plant?																																	
	CR	The global warming of methane is much higher than that of carbon dioxide (4-400 times greater although figures vary). The Island's landfills are closed and systems are in place to capture any methane emissions.																																	
	HJ	The scrubbers used at the new EFW plant are of an extremely high standard. These are in place to capture NOx and SOx.																																	
	SL	In the presentation you mentioned several activities around training for reuse – when will this take place?																																	
	BF	We want activities to begin ASAP, but planning is required. Changes will be gradual over the next few years. Currently we expect that more activity will be underway by the end of 2021.																																	
18:15	HJ	<p>Isle of Wight Council – office items for reuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IWC had an office refresh in 2019/2020 and are still holding several items of furniture, which they are offering to anyone who can make use of them. List of items available attached – these are available on a first-come, first-served basis 																																	
	PF	Can we distribute contact details for office reuse items/send out a press release?																																	
	CR	Yes, we will issue a press release with further details. Contact email to request items for reuse: please email sustainability@iow.gov.uk																																	
18:20	HJ	Pre-submitted questions																																	
		As the Forestry Commission has re-opened the Urban Tree Challenge Fund for applications (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund) , will the IWC be taking advantage of this opportunity for a much needed boost for its urban tree population?																																	
		We have set up a team internally who are currently planning for future tree planting. We have discussed these grants; however, the consensus is that there is a need for an island-wide tree policy and further planning to ensure we are putting the right tree in the right place before we can begin applying to larger scale grants. Although we don't think it is likely we will have sufficient time to apply in this round of funding, this grant opens annually, along with several other forestry-related grants (about five new ones have been announced in the last few weeks), and we will begin applying as soon as we are prepared to do so. A Planet Aware project planting about 400 trees has just finished with support from IWC and a similar small-scale project is likely to take place when the new tree planting season begins in October.																																	
		A prevalence of fires along the beaches some which have caught overhanging trees, and also at the junction of the old railway line and Park road Wootton.(Also in this																																	

		<p>area, nothing has been done regarding the rubbish on both sides of the road, where the bridleway crosses, and walkers can park. Particularly bad on the Wootton side in the bushes) The dreadful flailing along this path and the fact that all the material is left, encourages fire making I'm afraid. This is extremely dangerous and destructive.</p>
		<p>According to a 2011 FOI response some areas of the island have local bylaws prohibiting fires so people should not be lighting fires on beaches where this applies. We will discuss this issue with our colleagues in the Fire service and the new Cabinet member for the Portfolio</p> <p>No Bonfires or Barbecues signs - a Freedom of Information request to Isle of Wight Council - WhatDoTheyKnow</p>
		<p>In various areas of tree planting on the Island, both private and council led, the plastic sleeves to protect the saplings from rabbits, are just left lying around after the tree has grown. This is very evident along the path by the woodland graveyard in Wootton, and in the Euro field behind the Lakeside hotel and up at Quarr and must be the same all over. Can reminders be sent to the land owners to rectify this, and remove and recycle the sleeves?</p>
		<p>There are recycling services dedicated to tree guards, but these do charge for use of the service and recycling may be difficult if there is any soil or organic matter contamination of the plastic. They cannot be recycled by standard recycling services. We can look at pulling a campaign together to ensure landowners are aware of the recycling scheme and promote through landowners' groups and associations</p> <p>Tree Guard Recycling - Agri Cycle Plastic farm waste recycling & recycled products (agri-cycle.uk.com)</p>
		<p>When up on Arreton Down yesterday, I noticed the acres of plastic in the fields around the Arreton valley, much of which had been ripped by the wind. It is used I presume to warm the soil or protect crops from frost, but it is un-environmental. Is there another way? Can it be recycled?</p>
		<p>There are several uses for plastic over fields. Sometimes it is used to prevent weeds from growing, other times it prevents crops from frost or speeds growth by warming soil. It can also prevent crops from drying out by retaining moisture in soil. Apparently 40% of agricultural plastic comes from this covering (aka plastic mulch) and it can increase crop yields by up to a third. There is an EU standard for biodegradability, but it's not widely used owing to its cost and I'm unsure if it will apply in the UK following Brexit. The UK Farm Plastic Responsibility Scheme formed in January 2020 to provide low cost recycling, but biodegradability is seen as the best solution on a longer-term basis. It is difficult to recycle owing to soil contamination. There are recycling schemes for this plastic and we do need to consider the balance between local food productions and plastic use to assist and protect food crops</p> <p>Why food's plastic problem is bigger than we realise (bbc.com)</p>
	BT	<p>Is there a map of land for tree planting? We need to make sure any offsetting is not being double counted</p>
	CR	<p>We are working to ensure that the council doesn't double count any areas for carbon offsetting</p>
	HJ	<p>The tree group mentioned earlier is aiming to produce a map or document outlining areas of land for tree planting or other forms of planting. This is in very early stages so can't say yet when this will be available to share. We are working from an existing open space document (for council-owned land) but there are a lot of factors to consider for planting.</p>
18:25	CR	<p>AOB</p>
		<p>None raised</p>
<p>Date of next Environment & Sustainability Forum:</p>		
<p>Topic: Covid recovery and climate change: 'build back better'</p>		

