



# Minutes

<b>Name of Meeting</b>	Environment and Sustainability Forum	
<b>Date and Time</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021, 17:00	
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams	
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role/Organisation</b>
	Natasha Dix	IWC, Strategic Manager Waste and Environment
	Colin Rowland	IWC, Director of Neighbourhoods
	Holly Jones	IWC, Climate Change Project Officer
	Bryan Harris	Climate Change and Sustainability Manager, Dundee City Council
	Adrian Axford	IWC, Pension Fund Committee Chair
	Alex Minns	IWC, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods
	Andrew Garratt	IWC, Scrutiny Chair
	Barry Abraham	IWC, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing
	Beth Fox	IWC, Trainee Project Manager
	Brian Tindall	
	Charles Chapman	IWC, Chairman, Licensing Committee
	Chris Quirk	IWC, Chair of Planning Committee
	Christopher Ashman	IWC, Director - Regeneration
	Clare Mosdell	IWC, Executive Member for ASC & Public Health
	Colin (unknown)	Chair of Wight Community Energy
	Daisy B	
	Dave Wallis	Island Roads
	David Stewart	IWC, Leader & Cab Mbr Strategic Partnerships
	David Thornton	Smart Island
	Debbie Andre	Councillor
	Dina Jung	
	Edward Brotherton	
	Emily Tapsfield	Waste Team Business Administrator
	Gary Peace	IWC, Cabinet Member
	George Cameron	IWC, Chairman, County Councillors
	Graham Perks	Councillor
	Helena Hewstom	Shalfleet Parish Council
	Henry	
	Henry Morris	Carbon Catalyst
Ian Stephens	Councillor	
Ian Ward	IWC, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport	
Jennine Gardiner	IWC, Rights of Way Assistant	
Jim Fawcett	IWC, Economic Development Officer, Sustainability	
Joanne Sedgmond	IWC, Voting Services Staff	
Joel Bateman	IWC, AONB Communications Officer	
John Hobart	Councillor, Carisbrooke	
John Howe	Councillor	
John Kilpatrick	IWC, Chairman of Appeals Committee	

		John Metcalfe	IWC, Chief Executive
		Jonathan (Guest)	Chairman, AONB
		Julie Jones-Evans	Councillor
		Karl Love	
		Katherine Baldwin	
		Lee Matthews	IWC, Recreation & Open Spaces Manager
		Lester Slade	
		Marianne Sullivan	
		Matthew Price	IWC, Vice Chair of Planning Committee
		Michael Beston	Councillor
		Michael Lilley	Councillor
		Michael Murwill	Councillor, Brading, St Helens and Bembridge
		Oliver Boulton	
		Paul Brading	IWC, Executive Member
		Paul Fuller	Councillor, Cowes West and Gurnard
		Reg Barry	Councillor
		Richard Steele	
		Rob Brooker	IWC, Waste & Recycling Contract Manager
		Roger Bartrum	
		Sarah Talbot	Fishbourne Parish Council
		Stephen Hendry	Councillor
		Steve Cowley	
		Steve Davis	
		Steve Hastings	Councillor, Central Wight
		Stuart Hutchinson	IWC, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Resources
		Tig Outlaw	IWC, Chair Policy & Scrutiny Comm Regen & Pln
		Tom Murphy	Freshwater Parish Council
		Tricia Stillman	IWC, Commercial Activities Manager
		Venetia Verey	
		Vanessa Churchman	IWC, Childrens Chair
		Wayne Whittle	IWC, Executive Member for Regeneration
17:00	ND	Welcome Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Simon Walker, East Cowes</li> <li>• Carol Flux</li> <li>• Sally Rivlin</li> </ul> MS Teams and housekeeping	
17:10	BH	Dundee City Council – Climate Action Plan (slides attached separately) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress to date</li> </ul>	
17:35	Q&A		
		<b>With the law change around sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles being banned in 2030 will we still be able to buy petrol from petrol stations?</b> Sale of new petrol and diesel cars will end in 2030 but petrol and diesel vehicles will remain on the road for at least 10 years after that, especially as no date has yet been set for the phase-out of larger petrol and diesel vehicles e.g. lorries. Petrol stations will continue to sell petrol/diesel well beyond 2030. Although this will eventually be phased out over time it will not happen immediately.	
		<b>Dundee is hilly like the Isle of Wight – have there been any issues related to this when introducing EV/hydrogen buses?</b> Not so much relating to hills but as Dundee is a city there is less time between charges than there would be on a larger area than the Isle of Wight.	
		<b>Why did Dundee use hydrogen instead of EV buses?</b>	

		There were a lot of factors that went into the choice of buses in Dundee including socioeconomic factors such as building industry and job creation around use of hydrogen.
		<b>Can we share actions between the council and town and parish councils?</b> Yes – HJ to arrange a time to discuss this, potentially via a monthly meeting between IWC and T&PC's
	HJ	<b>You mentioned grass planting in parks has been contentious – why?</b> People assumed they were going to lose a lot of green space in the centres of parks whereas actually the majority of planting schemes took place at the edges of parks that don't really get used that much. DCC learned a couple of lessons here in terms of engaging with the public and ensuring plans are appropriately communicated.
		<b>Cost of EVs are currently very high – what are we supposed to do in this situation when we want to make the change but can't afford EVs?</b> Agreed that prices are very high. Prices will come down over time as the technology is more widely adopted but unfortunately those buying now are still relatively early adopters and so are still bearing higher prices. Some councils and other organisations, e.g. Nottingham council, have been able to secure a lot of funding towards EVs but this funding is not consistently available so you do need to watch out for it.
	SH	<b>Steve Hastings – trustee at Fitbus</b> Steve has been working on purchasing community vehicles and may have access to frameworks that allow purchase of vehicles at cheaper prices. Please email <a href="mailto:sustainability@iow.gov.uk">sustainability@iow.gov.uk</a> and we can put you in touch
18:00	HJ	Isle of Wight Council – Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan
18:10	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
	LS	<b>There are figures around 1°C of warming over 150 years mentioned in the introduction – where have these come from as there are different figures available?</b> The most recent IPCC report (1.5°C of warming, published October 2018) provides these figures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C.</li> <li>The reference period 1850–1900 is used to approximate pre-industrial GMST</li> </ul> A summary of this report is available here: <a href="#">Summary for Policymakers – Global Warming of 1.5 °C (ipcc.ch)</a> (Some further reading here if of interest – 1850 is generally used as a baseline as this is when more reliable temperature records begin: <a href="#">Defining a true 'pre-industrial' climate period - BBC News</a> )
	CQ	<b>What can we do to make changes to listed buildings in line with climate targets?</b> Limited action may be possible to the outsides of listed buildings and those in certain areas. However, there are options to install internal cladding or use cavity wall insulation to help with energy efficiency. The limitations will depend on the type of building and its listed grade.
	LS	<b>Can the Council work with groups like the WWF or Friends of the Earth to help with education and engagement locally?</b> The council would welcome this. IWC has been in contact with some local community groups and will contact representatives at both WWF and FOTE to see what options may be available for us to work together.
	PF	<b>What are we doing about rewilding and nitrate offsetting on the island?</b> Currently in the Island Draft Planning Strategy all new development requires minimum 10% biodiversity net gain. A rewilding plan will be produced but is in very early stages at this point. Nitrate offsetting: HIWWT have been doing a lot of work around this and to prevent runoff into the Solent – information can be found here: <a href="#">Reducing nitrates in the Solent   Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (hiwwt.org.uk)</a>

	DJ	<p><b>Lots of actions around the council but what is actually being done for the public? There is already engagement around the topic so it seems there is too much focus on this.</b></p> <p>A lot of what happens with the Island’s carbon footprint will be completely outside of the control of the council so we can state the necessary outcomes that will be required to meet net zero, and we can state the actions that the council will take to control this, but a lot of the action will need to come from behavioural change which is difficult to do. For example, in the three sectors which have the highest emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing: the change needed is either solar panels or energy from green providers, plus replacing gas boilers with low carbon options: the council can promote options but can’t force people to use different options</li> <li>• Transport: the switch to EVs will happen quickly after 2030 as the new rule is introduced banning petrol/diesel car sales but the council can’t tell people what cars to drive. The active travel team have been doing a lot of work to encourage different forms of transport.</li> <li>• Energy: more of a crossover here – the council is working on the issue with the interconnector but this is ongoing and preventing large scale renewable generation locally. The national grid is gradually decarbonising but the council can’t force this to happen earlier although IWC can help promote different options from energy providers.</li> </ul>
	DJ	<p><b>I’m starting a Green Issues Group – would this be useful for the council?</b> Please email details to <a href="mailto:sustainability@iow.gov.uk">sustainability@iow.gov.uk</a></p>
	Daisy	<p><b>What tree schemes are happening?</b></p> <p>There has been some initial discussion between IWC and various community groups about the need for an overarching tree strategy to ensure we are planting the right trees in the right places and to avoid causing any issues with existing ecosystems. Current planting schemes are being carried out by community groups and are mostly taking place outside of the council although our Tree Officer has provided some advice. Planet Aware are one such group planting approx. 400 trees this year</p>
	Vanessa	<p><b>EVs have their own issues around use of rare metals etc. for batteries and there are higher car thefts of components of EVs – are they really a better option?</b></p> <p>Over their life cycle EVs do have a much lower carbon footprint than petrol/diesel vehicles although it is recognised that there are other issues associated with use of batteries, particularly when it comes to recycling.</p>
		<p><b>What is being done about littering and fly tipping on the Island?</b></p> <p>Littering and fly tipping has become an issue nationwide over the last year. IWC does pick up fly tip on public land as part of our waste contract. However, the council does not manage this on any privately owned land as IWC doesn’t have access.</p>
		<p><b>Where is the most recent council asset list available from?</b></p> <p>The most up-to-date list will be available from the council’s website: <a href="#">Strategic Asset Management - Service Details (iow.gov.uk)</a></p>
	LS	<p><b>EV chargers – will more be available as several of the island’s are privately owned? Can the public use the chargers on council properties? There is one being installed by Morrison’s at Lake</b></p> <p>The council has calculated that 72 EV charges will need to be publicly available by 2030 to meet demand – currently there are 26 available across the island. Supermarkets are also increasing the numbers of chargers available at their supermarkets so this will help with demand as time goes by. Currently unsure about public use of EV chargers in council office car parks but IWC will investigate this.</p>
18:25	HJ	<p><b>Grant funding</b></p> <p>Currently there are approximately 40 different grant schemes available (that IWC has identified so far – there could be more that we haven’t found)</p>

		<p>Only a few of these are open to local authorities. Most are designed for landowners, farmers, community groups, and charities</p> <p>IWC has compiled a list, which will be sent out to everyone after the meeting</p> <p>Please feel free to share this around and IWC would appreciate it if you could let us know if you apply for anything as a result of this by emailing <a href="mailto:sustainability@iow.gov.uk">sustainability@iow.gov.uk</a></p> <p>IWC will update this list regularly – every 1-2 months</p>
18:30		<p><b>Pre-submitted questions</b></p>
		<p><b>An update on divestment would be appreciated.</b></p> <p>The council's investment strategy statement was published earlier this month, around the same time as draft v5.7 of the C&amp;E strategy was completed, so the update from the investment strategy was not included. Information around divestment and ESG can be seen in the council's investment strategy statement at the below link, in section 9.3 to 9.6. New wording has been added to draft v5.8 of the C&amp;E strategy to reflect this. An ESG policy is in the works and is currently expected by the end of 2021.</p> <p><a href="http://iow.gov.uk">Isle of Wight Council (iow.gov.uk)</a></p>
		<p><b>I have been trying to find out when the strategy might be debated and hopefully adopted by the IWC</b></p> <p>It is currently under consultation internally and through the environment and sustainability forum, and is expected to go to Full Council following the elections this summer. We hope it will be adopted no later than Q3 2021 although this is subject to change owing to competing priorities at the minute.</p>
		<p><b>What efforts are being made to inform or educate the population (tell the truth of what we are facing) in order to get their necessary approval?</b></p> <p>The council is expecting to undertake a lot of engagement work around the C&amp;E strategy, particularly within the first couple of years, as it won't be possible to achieve net zero without cooperation from the majority of the population. We'll continue to run these forums approximately once a month and they're open to everyone. We're also currently refreshing the climate change pages on the council website to ensure everything is up to date and that people have relevant information about how the climate is changing and how this will impact them. Other things we are looking at include social media posts relating to climate action, and we may investigate options for engaging with people through local libraries or museums when things begin opening up again although this will depend on resources</p>
		<p><b>What efforts are being made to make this fair and not impact on any particular section of the population (the less well off)</b></p> <p>There is a broader discussion about 'climate justice' taking place – i.e. how can richer countries take action without it negatively impacting those in poorer countries – and this can be looked at on smaller local scales as well. As outlined in the strategy, the council cannot control action that takes place outside of actions controlled directly by the council, so essentially much of the action around the outcomes for the wider island area will depend on individual/community action, which will be at people's discretion unless there are changes in relevant national laws. It's possibly worth noting that purely in terms of energy, a lot of the available grant funding and schemes are aimed at lower income homes as well as those with lower energy efficiency ratings, and several of these schemes (e.g. free or low-cost insulation) will have an ongoing impact on fuel poverty.</p> <p>An equality impact assessment will be carried out when the strategy moves to the next stage of adoption, this will accompany the report to cabinet/full council. This is probably too broad a question to fully answer immediately as there are so many sectors and areas that will need to be taken into consideration, and as mentioned things will change over time both in terms of requirements and available financial</p>

		support and schemes. However, the council is aware of the need to evenly spread both the costs and benefits of any schemes directly organised by us and ongoing assessment will take place to ensure that climate action is as fair as possible across the population of the island.
		<b>Food security</b> This was queried in the February forum – HJ is still working on putting together some information and will get this emailed out to everyone along with the minutes of this meeting within the next couple of weeks.
<b>18:40</b>		<b>AOB</b>
		<b>What is the council doing in terms of glysohates and neonicotinoids – are these banned?</b> Island Roads are currently changing practices around weed management and always follow best practice advice/national law around use of pesticides and other substances
<b>Date of next Environment &amp; Sustainability Forum: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 17:00-18:30</b>		
<b>Topic: Circular Economy</b>		