



Minutes

Name of meeting

Isle of Wight Council Environment & Sustainability Forum

Date and time

Thursday 24th October 2019 at 17.30

Venue

Conference Room 5, Floor 4 - County Hall

Attendees

Natasha Dix (ND) – Principal Manager Waste & Recycling (IWC)
Bethany Fox (BF) – Trainee Project Officer (IWC)

Cllr John Hobart (JH) – IWC
Cllr Steve Hastings (SH) – IWC
Cllr Simon Walker (SW) – East Cowes Town Council
Cllr Sarah Talbot (ST) – Fishbourne Parish Council
Cllr Tom Murphy (TM) – Freshwater Parish Council
Cllr Debbie Andre (DA) – Sandown Town Council
Cllr Paul Fuller (PF) – IWC & Cowes Town Council
Cllr Marianne Sullivan (MS) – Bembridge Parish Council

Jonathan Bacon (JB) – AONB
Dian Jung – Bus Users Group
Tanja Rebel (TR) – Transition Island
Roger Bartrum (RB)
Lester Slade (LS)
Judith Slade (JS)
Gillian Hill (GH)

1.

Apologies

Colin Rowland
Alex Minns
Rob Brooker
Ollie Boulter
Vix Lowthion
Jim Fawcett
Steve Ashman
Dave Wallis
Paul Taylor

2.

Minutes from last meeting

Amendment to minutes to add Cllr Simon Walker to attendees list.

Action points from the previous meeting

Link to be sent for SMP2 – please see link in AOB.

Orphaned land – ND has requested. Property Services are

collating a list. There is no orphaned land as such any more, but there may be parts of estate that could be made available.

3. **Draft terms of reference.**

ND needs to liaise with the Task & Finish group and AONB (Jonathan Bacon) before these can be finalised. They will be circulated when available.

Questions from forum members.

Sarah Talbot.

Home ownership and housing is a significant practical and political issue on the Island. It also has a huge impact on our environment. Second homes, and multi home owners are one of the acknowledged causes – we have a large number of homes that stand empty for much of the year, whilst families need housing, and green field sites are being developed to create housing.

Does the IW Council have a register of home ownership and usage? Critically such a register would record levels of ownership of empty and un-let properties and multiple 'second homes'. This would greatly aid taxation and housing enforcement. It would also introduce transparency and aid our understanding of how all housing recorded as domestic residential stock is really being owned and used on the Island.

Council Tax records hold a record of whether a property is a second home, and empty properties. There is a Housing Strategy that addresses empty properties that have been vacant for two years or longer.

In a recent interview Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England said, "disclosure by companies of the risks posed by climate change to their business was key to a smooth transition to a zero-carbon world as it enabled investors to back winners. - There will be industries, sectors and firms that do very well during this process because they will be part of the solution," he said. "But there will also be ones that lag behind, and they will be punished." We have a long-term responsibility to all our residents and should be encouraging our businesses to be aware of the risks posed by climate change. What action can the IW Council take to ensure that our Island businesses will not lag behind?

This will form part of the strategy that is currently being written and will be brought to the forum. This will set out what we can do via legislation, and what we can't do but can enable others to do via the Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Federation and Town & Parish Councils. We can encourage them to look at the green impact programme, and make sure businesses look at their own sustainability and are climate friendly.

Paul Taylor.

Should the council now be looking into alternative ways of weed control instead of blanket reliance on glyphosate-based chemicals in line with more enlightened councils and countries who have taken the steps to ban this chemical from public open space due to its toxicity as defined by the WHO as a probable carcinogen?

Island Roads do use these as part of the weed spraying programme, but they are used in small amounts and are appropriately diluted. Public Health England currently state that these are not a danger to human health, and until this advice changes, or a suitable alternative is available they will continue to use the product.

Tom Murphy.

The IWC declared a climate emergency in July. 3 months later, what progress has been made towards the zero-carbon action plan for the island?

The climate emergency declaration clearly states in sections 2 and 3 that the aim of the plan is "to ensure the ISLAND'S net carbon emissions can be reduced to zero by 2030." At the last forum, the chair stated it was the IWC's emissions. This is not what the declaration states and to make any meaningful contribution we must aim for the ISLAND'S emissions to be net zero. Discuss please.

ND will be writing an action plan in consultation with the task and finish group that will cover IW Council actions – what we can do, Island wide facilitation actions – what we can encourage, and Environmental baselining.

- *Zero carbon action plan –reduction in office buildings, efficient use of retained space. Also doing at NHS.*
- *ICT: lower power consumption items being procured and used. Smarter travel choices for staff.*
- *Fleet: 4 x EV's purchased and looking at getting 6 more.*
- *Business travel: prioritise sustainable forms of travel for business travel.*
- *Financial support: to the Green Impact Programme which is helping island businesses improve environmental performance and reduce carbon emissions.*
- *EV: free parking permits for EV's and putting together a study to change infrastructure to be prepared for a switch to EVs. OLEV offers grant funding for EV points. LS asked what the voltage provided by the points would be – ND unsure but will check. DA commented that there is a need for single way to pay for these things, e.g. an app.*
- *Energy: heat network studies commissioned for Newport Harbour and Nicholson road in Ryde.*
- *Housing: Warm up Wight scheme, which provides free wall*

and loft insulation for low income households.

- Climate change mitigation: shoreline management plan 2 (SMP2) to map shoreline strategies.
- Waste: The IW has one of highest recycling rates in country. The new energy from waste plant will virtually eliminate domestic waste to landfill, and IWC are also working in partnership with the hospital.
- Planning policy: draft strategy contains policies to promote renewable energy and lower carbon developments.
- Highways: all street lights and traffic lights have been replaced with LED lighting which has significantly reduced the use of electricity on the Island; a proposed dimming and trimming strategy will reduce light levels by 50%. Use of recycled road materials.
- Sustainable transport: funding initiatives re walking and cycling.
- Baseline: IW stand at 2nd best in the country at the moment. 39% of emissions from housing, 23% from transport, 37% industrial and commercial. Weaknesses are:

Housing: badly insulated homes, and lack of take up of green tariffs.

Transport: only 7% use public transport, 3% cycle and 18% walk. This is an Issue due to large amount of rural communities. DJ commented that they are looking for a grant for funding for a survey to ask people why they do not travel by bus, and asked if IWC would have a grant available, ND advised no. SH advised that there is a petition running in Brighstone to take to southern Vectis to increase number/frequency of buses.

Energy – 90MW of renewable energy, but aiming to be 183MW.

Tanja Rebel.

Will Biosphere Status also include efforts to make the Island Blue-Rich White Light free and a low EMR pollution zone?

Biosphere status does not dictate these types of policies.

ACTION: Richard Grogan to attend and discuss Biosphere.

4. **Presentation – Natasha Dix: Waste & Recycling**

Please see presentation notes.

Questions:

PF asked where fireworks can go, as Bonfire Night is fast approaching. ND advised that the best option is to attend an organised display rather than using fireworks at home. After they have been exploded, the cardboard remains can go in the

cardboard bin, if they are not exploded follow the information on the box for disposal, they must NOT be put in the black bin. They should not be kept after the expiry date in your house as they are a fire risk.

DA mentioned that she has had a meeting with representatives from the foodbank, the Co-Op who donate food, and an individual who would like to offer cookery lessons. ND advised that there is a chef at the college who may want to help as he had expressed interest in the past. Tom Murphy said West Wight Time Bank are also doing this.

PF asked for publicity information regarding the low actual cost of disposal of commercial waste to disseminate information to parish councils in case of any queries from holiday let owners. DA commented that it had only cost her £2.70 to dispose of her commercial waste.

MS commented regarding private beach hut owners using public litter bins for their waste. ND advised they should be taking it home. PF stated that they have the same issue in Gurnard, people make comments that the litter bins are too full and should be emptied more often and are not happy to be told take waste home with you. PF suggested that removing bins altogether may be an option.

DA asked re metal shapes filled with plastic waste e.g. bottles. ND commented that they are good at letting waste blow out and away; good for publicity but not particularly practical. DA asked how they are emptied, ND advised collected as a whole unit.

PF raised composting, asking how we can get people to compost their own garden/food waste, and requesting more communication to encourage this. ND advised that this can be added to the campaign profile for next year. DA commented that her previous council had a promotion where residents got a reduction on compost bins. PF also mentioned trying to get people to grow their own food as well.

PF mentioned companies such as Steve Porter that produce lots of pallets that could be used to build compost bins, or other items of furniture, could this be looked at? ND advised that there will be a re-use shop and facility for re-purposing wood at Lynnbottom.

MS advised that they are having a beach litter pick on Saturday, and tend to get a lot of fishing net, can it be recycled? ND advised that it is difficult to recycle because of the structure and degradation. PF asked JH if he was still a member of IFM, could work be done with the fishing community to encourage sustainable fishing, and that nets are properly disposed of. JH advised that many nets get caught on underwater obstructions such as wrecks, but that with the potential return to territorial waters this could be more easily controlled.

ST asked if a separate leaflet could be made available regarding

plastics, as people are still confused as to what can and can't be recycled, and a leaflet could be included in the local newsletter delivered to residents. ND replied that it is easier to look at what can't rather than not what can as it is a much shorter list. In general: bubble wrap, clingfilm, polystyrene, and hard children's toys are not – a good rule of thumb is that if you can scrunch it and it springs back then it can be recycled. Tom Murphy said had conflicting information from a talk by Simon Butler. ND clarified that this is incorrect, it is paper that scrunches and springs back that cannot be recycled e.g. metallic/glitter

JB commented that it would be useful to put waste information into holiday let units so that holiday makers know how to separate any waste produced. ND advised that this could possibly be looked at next year; this year was about duty of care.

PF commented that it is easier to list what can't be recycled, can we have an overhead with the information and make sure it is distributed to everybody. [Poster to be circulated with the minutes]. DJ asked if it would be possible to have stickers provided to put on the black bin, ND advised that unfortunately there is not a budget to do this.

5. **AOB.**

Information regarding the Warm up Wight insulation scheme:
<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Future-Energy-Initiatives/Energy-Initiatives/Warm-Up-Wight>

Downloadable poster regarding which waste receptacle to use:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/view/recycling-poster-2016>

SMP2 link:

<http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp/main.htm>

The next meeting will be Thursday 21st November 2019 at 17.30 – Conference Room 5, Floor 4, County Hall.

Presentation: Jim Fawcett: Renewable Energy.