



Minutes

Name of meeting

Isle of Wight Council Environment & Sustainability Forum

Date and time

Thursday 19th September 2019 at 17.30

Venue

Conference Room 5, Floor 4 - County Hall

Attendees

Natasha Dix (ND) – Principal Manager Waste & Recycling (IWC)
Colin Rowland (CR) – Director of Neighbourhoods (IWC)
Alex Minns (AM) – Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods (IWC)
Rob Brooker (RB) – Contract Monitoring Officer (IWC)
Russell Chick (RC) – Planning Team Leader
Grace Booth (GB) – Planning Ecology Officer (IWC)

Cllr John Hobart (JH) – IWC
Cllr Chris Quirk (CQ) – IWC
Cllr Karl Love (KL) – IWC & East Cowes Town Council
Cllr Sarah Talbot (ST) – Fishbourne Parish Council
Cllr Tom Murphy (TM) – Freshwater Parish Council

Roger Bartrum (RB)
Steve Ashman (SA) – Island Roads
Claire Hector (CH) – ARC
Ian Boyd (IB) – ARC
Dian Jung – Bus Users Group
Tanja Rebel (TR) – Transition Island
Alison Logan (AL) – Niton Primary School
Gillian Cardwell-Hill (GC-H)

1.

Apologies

Emily Crew (IWC)
Cllr Steve Hastings (IWC)
Kayleigh Richter (IWC)
Nikki Wood (Gurnard Parish Council)
Ollie Boulter (IWC)
Cllr. Paul Fuller (Cowes West & Gurnard)
Cllr Julie Jones-Evans

2.

Minutes from last meeting

No amendments or comments received.

Action points from the previous meeting

Action point for Item 4 (Climate emergency motion) for a representative from Planning or Regeneration to be invited to attend

the forum: Russell Chick and Grace Booth in attendance.

3. **Draft terms of reference.**

Presented by Chair.

4. **Questions from forum members.**

Tanja Rebel.

Can the Environment Forum keep looking into the whole issue of Environment - not just Climate - Emergency? This to prevent one-eyed focus which will allow for mistakes being made such as Diesel and Biomass in the past and most recently an Environmentally harmful Smart Agenda.

As per the terms of reference, the E&S forum will over the next six months focus on the topic that contribute towards the Climate Action Plan that the council committed to deliver following the motion to consider Climate Emergency. Following this period we will review the focus of the forum for the following six month period.

Sarah Talbot.

An article published by The RAC on the 9th September 2019 states as follows, "The call from the Local Government Association (LGA) comes after a recent spate of accidents involving heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) across the country. These have included lorries crashing into bridges and blocking routes unsuitable for them due to their weight, width or height – after drivers ignored restrictions."

Noted

Our Island roads are increasingly logjammed, and the size of lorries using all our roads continues to increase in size. Are there any plans in place to restrict the size of vehicles using our roads, or will we continue to accept everything without restriction?

There are roads on the island which are restricted to HGV's. However, HGV's are required to service businesses and residents for a variety of reasons so these cannot be placed on all roads.

What support will the Isle of Wight Council give the Environmental and Sustainability Forum for the financing of projects?

The Forum is a facilitation and consultative body, resourced by officer time by the council. It will not however be a source for project funding.

Will the IWCC act in future to stop trees being cut down to facilitate road works?

The removal of trees only occurs when absolutely necessary to facilitate road improvements works or to facilitate safe road operations.

With recent research and good practice showing the importance of wildflower verges, what action will the IWCC take to achieve more ecologically friendly road verges?

The IWCC has recently reduced the number of verge cutting in rural areas to 2 cuts per year. This aligns to recent good practice presented to the IWCC.

Further question asked by IB (not pre-submitted):

Can we consider the mechanisms for using Section 106 monies to fund projects?

RC replied that until recently, we could only take contributions for specific projects – but this has now been widened and will allow a greater distribution.

5. **Presentation – Professor Robert Nicholls: Climate change and sea level rises.**

Please see presentation notes.

Questions:

Q: How can sea defences be constructed to prevent passing flooding down the coast?

A: There are a lot of soft and hard engineering solutions available and scientific research is looking into coastal cells and their management in integrated zones. In Portsmouth what they are doing is reasonable and we aspire to better solution. SMP2 of the IW covers the whole coast and the thinking is in the right direction.

Q: Do you look at flash flooding ways that mitigate this?

A: Farms are losing hedgerows and vegetation, increasing water in the system which is affecting weather patterns – the land is waterlogged. We need to think of the catchment of the whole system rather than encourage rapid drainage. We also need to consider compound flooding where a storm and a high run off event converge and the sea acts as a dam, preventing fluvial water draining to the sea e.g. Houston – Hurricane Harvey

Q: You considered three alternative/engineering schemes such as floating?

A: Human ingenuity is boundless, and it is an option of some countries. It is sometimes oversold when you actually count the numbers and people tend to have risks.

Q: But why isn't it in the standard list of options?

A: It isn't really a major adaptive solution at this time there is also the option of reclamation of land.

Q: Do you study the salination of land post major sea flooding?

A. That is an interesting subject – in Bangladesh it travels 100km in land after major flooding, but it isn't a UK problem.

ACTION: send link to SMP2 and find out when next revision will begin.

KL thanked Prof. Nicholls for his presentation and stated that it is important to look at in his ward as it is on the coast and will help look at the strategic options. JH commented that he was party to erecting temporary barriers for flooding and believed East Cowes have the same. Prof. Nicholls commented that this is helpful, as forecasting systems are getting better to assist emergency response.

DJ commented that the talk was fascinating, and asked if it could be made public and spread across the Island? Prof. Nicholls replied that in England we are better placed than others to deal with this issue, and that yes, he is happy to talk when invited. GB mentioned that Café Scientifique is a great venue and does podcasts. JH commented that he has been to wider talks at the National Oceanography Centre.

6. **AOB.**

JH requested list of parcels of orphaned land.

ACTION: ND to request from AM and Lee Matthews.

TM advised that Freshwater Parish Council brought forward a motion to support the IWC climate change action plan and put Climate at the heart of decision making – would like to draw other parishes attention to this and encourage other TPCs to do the same.

TR stated that she was representing Transition Island and commented that tomatoes are still growing well outside County Hall, and that she hopes that other Town and Parish Councils are looking at growing their own. TR further advised that there is a ‘Stop 5G’ meeting in the Newport Utilitarian hall on 5th October, and on 20th October a fund raiser in Wilberforce Road. TR will be holding an Eco-philosophy presentation at the Bargeman’s rest after the forum.

JH commented on water conservation on the Isle of Wight, that his concern is fresh water and its conservation on the Island – particularly as extraction licences are being restricted. This will create a demand from agricultural industry for water security and possibly development of localised reservoirs. RB replied that there are some changes to septic tank regulation that will affect the clean water in rivers. IB asked if localised water harvesting from buildings was a possibility? AL stated that water education is equally important.

KL Looking at parking and noticing people concreting over gardens, Conservation Optimism recently had a forum – there are a lot of great stories where there are examples of projects that are not as great as what the island delivers.

CH mentioned a Discovery Bay event that is upcoming in Sandown Bay – this is a free event on the 13th October in Dinosaur Island in the education room 10:30 to 4.

DJ stated her support for children who strike tomorrow as part of Extinction Rebellion – note there is an ER protest in a fortnight in London. ER are running training courses for those who wish to protest and protect themselves in the event of arrest.

The next meeting will be Thursday 24th October 2019 at 17.30 – Conference Room 5, Floor 4, County Hall.

Presentation: Waste & Recycling Isle of Wight Strategy – WaR Team