



Minutes

Name of Meeting	Environment & Sustainability Forum	
Date and Time	14 th February 2023 at 17:00	
Venue	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees	Name	Name
	Holly Jones	Abi Reynolds
	Alexander Lawson	Ally
	Ally De Try	Bryn Davis
	Dina Jung	Helen Hewston
	Sarah Innes	John Hobart
	Marianne Sullivan	Michael Murwill
	Penny Action	R Packham
	Sally Chaucer	Sarah Talbot
	Tom Murphy	Ian Ward
	Claire Critchison	Collin Rowlands
Apologies	Paul Brading	Carol Flux
	Andrew Garrett	Jonathan Bacon
1. <u>Welcome and Housekeeping</u>		
1.1 Apologies received from Paul Brading, Carol Flux, Andrew Garrett, Jonathan Bacon		
2. <u>Dark Skies</u>		
2.1 Bryn Davis Chair or the Vectis Astronomical Society displayed Dark Skies presentation on Screen.		
<p>Q. Marianne – In Bembridge we would like to support reducing light leakage upwards, is there any guideline on what we can advise/comment on planning application that are submitted.</p> <p>A. BD – Look at the designs and check for where there could be any light admitted upwards, for example overhead windows, conservatories and make comments regarding this.</p>		
<p>Q. Marianne – is there any recommendation to reduce light leaking out of windows.</p> <p>A. BD - Curtains and blinds and possibly windows being reglazed with a tint however this will restrict view.</p>		
<p>Q. Penny - If 'cool' lights LED lights are less harmful than the hot lights are lights across the Island being encouraged?</p>		

A. BD – they would be, it is a question of funding. As bright light needs replacing, they would be replaced with the lower light.

4.2 BD asked if HJ could provide update on status of the application. HJ advised application has changed since previous application submitted in 2019. We are needing to submit an expression of interest before we submit a full application, currently working on expression of interest. Replacement lighting has been completed and we are needing to complete new mapping before we submit.

3. Tree Giveaway

3.1 Holly Jones displayed Tree giveaway presentation on Screen.

Q. Sally - where do we find this offer?

A. HJ – Tree giveaway for this winter is now closed. We are wanting to do another giveaway later this year but will depend on funding. If we can this would take place in Oct/Nov. Information will be published on our website [iow.gov.uk](http://www.iow.gov.uk) along with press releases. There are other various tree giveaways throughout the year. I will send information out to all on the call regarding free trees for schools and communities which is run by an organisation More Woods.

Q. Penny - What's happening to the remaining 48 trees?

A. HJ- 2 rounds of giveaways took place. Further discussion is needed on next steps, but we will look at option like offering to schools or keep them until the next giveaway.

4. Pre-Submitted Questions

Q. Has the Forum or IWC (or Biosphere Team) advertised or encouraged participation in the CPRE Star Count for this year?

A. HJ advised weren't aware of it until having seen this question but will speak to Comms about press release/social media

Q. Possible second query – will there be more trees being offered? Or do you want people to make more use of other sources of tree whips?

A. Already answered during trees talk - we hope to make more trees available but depends on budget. There are other sources of whips available - these open at various times through the year so keep checking back:

- [Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust](#)
- [Orchards for Schools | Free orchard and hedgerow packs \(treecouncil.org.uk\)](#)
- [carbonfootprint.com - School Tree Application](#)
- [From the Ground Up | TCV](#)
- [Request free trees for your community woodland, nature reserve, etc. \(eforests.co.uk\)](#)

5. AOB

5.1 Sarah asked regarding the hedge trimming on Fairlee Road on the racecourse as this has been cut to around a meter high which reduces habitat. Is this because it is only cut every couple of years? HJ will take this question away and will provide an answer with the minutes.

****Post meeting note:** Sarah has confirmed she is referring to the south side of the racecourse

Island Roads have explained that different sides of the racecourse are owned and therefore maintained by different people.

They have said that the hedges in the fields on the south side, which were previously uncut, have been drastically cut back by a farmer, but they are not aware if there is a specific reason for this.

The hedge that Island Roads takes ownership of on the south side bordering the footway /cycleway has been cut as per previous years – so this is an annual practice.

Hedges along the north side have also been cut back but not by Island Roads – this has been done in preparation for a new football ground installation.

Next Meeting 14th March 2023