

# KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6.00 pm

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**PRESENT:** Councillors D Biddleston, C Buxton, A Greenfield (Chair), H MacFie, B Simmons and A Wait.

Jon Parker and Steve Skidmore (Oldland Parish Council), Clarice Corfield (Churches Together) and Erica Davies (Keynsham Wombles).

**Speaker:** Heather Elgar (Woodland Trust)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dawn Drury – Deputy Town Clerk (DTC)

## 61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor C Brennan and Philippa Paget (Independent Traders Group).

## 62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

## 63. DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

## 64. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 be confirmed as a true record by the Chairman and were signed by the Chairman (hard copy supplied in advance to the Chair for signing).

## 65. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr. Jon Parker & Steve Skidmore from Oldland Common Parish Council and Heather Elgar of the Woodland Trust.

## 66. AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA ORDER

RESOLVED

That the agenda order be amended to take item 8 first in order to receive a presentation by Heather Elgar of the Woodland Trust.

### **SPEAKER FROM WOODLAND TRUST AND WOODLAND TRUST TREE ORDERS**

Heather gave an interesting and informative slide presentation entitled 'The role of trees in Keynsham's response to the climate & nature emergency. The talk covered the following items:

- Trees and carbon (land management)
- Where to plant trees – Right tree, right place and right reason. Also, right habitat in the right place.
- Expanding existing woodlands and the importance of hedgerows.
- The nature recovery network & rewilding and nature regeneration.
- Trees assisting with water flood management including woodland on hills to reduce flooding along streams.
- The importance of woodland being within walking distance for the community (a woodland being within 500m of a person's front door).
- Protection of ancient woodlands (1600 ancient tree inventory) and hedgerows. The map shown to those present revealed no woodland in this category within the Keynsham area. For future reference - ancient hedgerow information can be found via Parish Online.
- Streets without trees.
- Woodland opportunities and the forthcoming release of the Emergency Tree Plan for the UK – January 2020).
- Agroforestry, loss of trees and the protection of existing trees.
- The need for adopt a tree replacement policy.
- Use of native tree species and UK & Ireland sourced trees (these are provided as whips free from Woodland Trust).
- Trees that will climate change resistant in the future.
- The Tree Charter UK.
- Examples of good practice to look at Wild About Trees Frome (planted 1300 trees in 2020) and Bridport Area Tree Plan.
- The imminent release of the West of England Tree Strategy and funding for tree planting.
- Replant Bristol initiative – to plant one tree per employee.

Members present were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Heather suggested when considering tree planting locations to be realistic and start with sites where permissions can easily be sought. More tree orders will be taken by Woodland Trust will be released shortly and these will be for planting next Winter (November 2021 to March 2022).

Three sites for planting (all owned and leased by the Town Council) which trees could be ordered for included:

- (i) Manor Road playing fields some hedgerow planting to replace poorly maintained and overgrown hedging recently removed to accommodate the construction of a new wall to a neighbouring property (a stretch of approximately 25 – 30m).
- (ii) Holmoak play area hedgerow and small trees.
- (iii) Teviot Road playing field (close to the play area) to screen new Hygge Estate housing and provide a green landscaped view.

Further sites for future consideration Somerdale and school in the Academy Trust in Keynsham.

#### RECOMMENDED

That Cllr A Wait and the Deputy Town Clerk will research and bring back information to the next meeting.

That Cllr D Biddleston will contact landowners in respect of trees for the Somerdale site and schools.

Heather was thanked for her presentation and she informed those present that she would forward the numerous links that she had mentioned in her talk.

These links have been received and are listed below:

- Planners' manual for ancient woodland and veteran trees: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2019/06/planners-manual-for-ancient-woodland/>
- Residential developments and trees: a guide for planners and developers: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2019/01/residential-developments-and-trees/>
- Emergency Tree Plan for the UK: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2020/01/emergency-tree-plan/>
- West of England Nature Recovery Network: <https://www.wenp.org.uk/nature-recovery-network/>
- I mentioned that a West of England Tree strategy is in development (through the West of England Nature Partnership) - hopefully this will be available in the coming months.
- Ecosystem services mapping: <https://www.wenp.org.uk/state-of-environment/>
- Defra has an online mapping tool where you can find identified ancient woodland and priority habitats: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> (Habitats and Species > Habitats > Woodland)
- The Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory is an expert-verified database of ancient & veteran trees (protected by the NPPF). It's not comprehensive but growing: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk>
- Here's a study which concludes that ongoing maintenance of woodland is cheaper than that of different grassland regimes: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2011/05/trees-or-turf-for-urban-green-space/>

- To apply for Community Tree Packs: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>
- To apply for support for large scale planting: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/>
- The Tree Charter, which you might be interested in signing: <https://treecharter.uk>

## 67. UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Updates on progress from action points of last meeting were received as follows:

- (i) The Deputy Town Clerk reported that Cllr Biddleston's article 'Which tree to plant in your garden and help the environment' has been sent to The WeekIn for publication.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk reported that she had distributed further questionnaires re. the E & S Action Plan and that she will collate and insert this information into the plan.

RESOLVED

That the plan be sent to Cllr Greenfield for review, update and comment in respect of timelines, at the next meeting **ACTION CLLR GREENFIELD**

- (iii) The Deputy Town Clerk reported that maps of the first three sites on the tree planting schedule have been distributed to Committee members.
- (iv) Cllr Buxton reported that Erica Davies of the Sustainable Food Trust would speak at the next Committee meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 meeting.

## 68. SUSTAINABLE FOOD TRUST SPEAKER

Erica reported that Megan (of the Sustainable Food Trust) would be joining her to give the presentation on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021. She reported that she needed to make the Committee aware that she did not support vegan views.

Cllr Brennan asked if this presentation should be aimed at grass roots level for all to understand and should give ideas as to what each person can do as an individual and how to go about achieving these simple changes.

## 69. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)

- (i) Cllr A Wait was nominated as the Town Council's Representative to the steering group in respect of the connecting cycle and footpaths (Cross county Borders)

RECOMMENDED

That Cllr A Wait be the Town Council's Representative to the steering group in respect of the connecting cycle and footpaths (Cross county Borders).

- (ii) Cllr Jon Parker of Oldland Parish Council reported that the aims, objectives and outputs of the steering group are available and can be lifted from the Oldland Parish Council website. It was suggested that the proposal to submit a full report to Keynsham Town Council in respect of the aims, objectives and outputs of this steering group be deferred to the February Town Council meeting. The reason being that the Terms and Reference of the Steering Group are due to be approved at their January Steering Group meeting and this in addition to the aims, objectives and outputs would inform the members of Full Council and provide guidance to all Councillors in respect of this matter.

#### RECOMMENDED

That the report in respect of the aims, objectives, outputs and terms of reference be deferred to the February Town Council meeting.

- (iii) An updated report in respect of the connecting cycle and footpaths (Cross County Borders) will be deferred to the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting in February as by then the group will have had the next Steering Group meeting and discussions in respect of the proposed bridge across the River Avon.

Cllr Jon Parker reported that the Oldland Parish Council Consultation had now finished, and the data and issues logged and collated. Initial findings show that 60% of response referred to the Keynsham Road cycle/footpath was an issue and needed improvements. There were cycling issues noted including difficulties at Broadmead Roundabout.

## 70. KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT PLAN

As reported at item 67 (ii) above.

## 71. ENVIRONMENTAL CELEBRATION DAY

Clarice Corfield gave a short update as follows:

The Space has been provisionally booked for a speaker on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to launch this event. The main event being on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Contact has been made with B&NES Council Events Department and advice has been given to Clarice. The booking for the actual event cannot be made until clarification is received in respect of the event online dropdown box as currently there is no option for Market Walk.

Funding, sponsorship, insurance and fees have been looked at initially and the Deputy Town Clerk will give further assistance in respect of these.

Churches Together currently have funding of £300, an application for £1000 of Environmental funding will be submitted to the Town Council in April and sponsorship will be sought. It is estimated that £2,000 - £3,000 will be required. It is thought that there

will be some funding through the English Heritage Bid as this event has been included within the 4-year project plan.

Steve Skidmore (Oldland Parish Council) reported that he had some funding links that he could forward to Clarice.

## 72. B&NES LITTER SUMMIT/CONFERENCE

### RECOMMENED

That Cllr B Simmons be the representative on the litter Summit/Conference Steering Group for their meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

## 73. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM NOVEMBER PERSONNEL MEETING

- (i) It was noted that that until the backlog of work is caught up, the Council should not initiate any further new projects or activities unless required in response to COVID.
- (ii) The Committee reviewed its list of activities/projects and placed them in order of priority in accordance with staff capacity and any legal deadlines required.

### RESOLVED

That the priority of E & S Committee the projects be as follows

- a) Tree planting.
- b) Cycle and footpath matters.
- c) Environmental Celebration Day.
- d) Dedicated E & S Committee webpage/FB page for posting relevant information and articles.
- e) Invitations to speakers to inform the Committee on Environmental and Ecology matters with the objective of getting other outside organisation and people involved in the Environmental & Sustainability Committee projects.

## 74. TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Noted and carried forward to the next agenda.

## 75. PROPOSED SPEAKERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted and carried forward to the next agenda.

## 76. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next virtual meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 6.00 p.m. via virtual Zoom Video conferencing.**

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

(Chairman)

DRAFT