

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on
Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors C Buxton, C Brennan, A Greenfield (Chair), B Simmons and A Wait. Ward Councillor H MacFie

Jon Parker (Oldland Parish Council), Clarice Corfield (Churches Together) and Erica Davies (Keynsham Wombles) and Philippa Paget (Independent Traders Group)

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

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor D Biddleston and D Cooper.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

79. DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

80. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 5th January 2021 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).

81. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr. Jon Parker Oldland Common Parish Council.

82. AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA ORDER

RESOLVED

That the agenda order be amended to take item 11 first in order, followed by item 8 and then to receive a presentation by Erica Davies of the Sustainable Food Trust.

83. ENVIRONMENTAL CELEBRATION DAY

Clarice reported that there had been some difficulty in gaining permission for usage of the Market Walk for an outside event in September. Conversations between Salford Ward Cllr Alastair Singleton, Cllr A Wait and B&NES Property Services has resulted in the event being permitted and the land hire fee being waived.

Clarice has booked The Space for both Friday 17th September's Environmental Talk and Saturday 18th September for an exhibition of Environmental stalls.

Clarice reported that Vicky Youdan is assisting with promotion of the event and has a list of potential community organisations, charities, and businesses to contact in respect of taking part in the event, and gaining sponsorship. Further communications will be sent to local residents and businesses informing them about the event.

A donation of £230.00 has been received from Fair Trade and this will be put towards the running costs of this event.

A further update will be presented at the March Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting.

84. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)

Cllr Jon Parker of Oldland Parish Council reported that a meeting of the cycling and walking steering group was held on 12th January 2021 and Cllr A Wait attended this. The attendance of this meeting has now broadened to include Keynsham Town Council, Siston Parish Council, Hanham Abbots Parish Council, Bitton Parish Council and Oldland Parish Council. It was agreed to rename the steering group as the Bristol East Fringe Walking and Cycling Group (this may change but it is the working title of the group at the moment). A working set of Terms of Reference were agreed by the group (Cllr A Wait has a copy of these).

This group agreed that over the next few months they would review the Constitution of the group, as at the moment they are very much under the auspice of Oldland Parish Council, and there may also be a move to make it more of a community group association. This group will look at the pros and cons of this action over the next few months.

In terms of the Keynsham Road link and the associated roads, a major bit of vegetation has been removed, and clearance undertaken on the route as result of the previous site visit. This is a step in the right direction, and it has exposed the full width of the current path. Clearly though more improvements are needed to be made to bring the path up to the proposed standard.

There was a B&NES and S. Glos meeting on 13th January 2021, which Cllr A Wait and other key Councillors attended. This meeting was billed to initially review the Keynsham to Willsbridge route but in the main focused on a proposed cycle route from Somerdale across the river using the future Chocolate Quarter Bridge over towards Hanham Abbots and the Chequers public house, then using the modified tow path to head into Bristol. It was hoped that this would action S. Glos to consider the landing of that route within this authority, prompting them to look at landownership, landowner permissions and any land acquisition. Actions have been put on S. Glos to review this and come back to the group. From this meeting, Cllrs Parker, Wait and MacFie were actioned with looking at the North/South route which is affectively from Keynsham Railway Station area up to the Willsbridge Station area.

These Councillors have since met and reviewed what routes are available, including quite a few off-road options going east and west of the river. They came to the conclusion that as a lot of the off-road routes will require a lot of discussion with landowners etc., it looks like it will take years to implement those routes. These are good long-term routes but in terms of the short/medium it looks like the best option is to press for further improvements to the Keynsham Road cycle route and whether there be pathway improvements works to make it safer for both pedestrians and cyclists to use this particular route.

There is also a further potential option, in that as you approach Willsbridge you can cut across land to avoid the Willsbridge roundabout and head towards the actual Bristol to Bath cycle path. This has also been suggested to S. Glos as a route to explore. From all the proposals put to S. Glos they have come back with the suggestion that once Lockdown is over, and it is permitted, there should be an onsite meeting in the Keynsham Road area to review all the issues now that the vegetation clearance has been undertaken, with a view to implementing further improvements.

Cllr A Wait reported that financially the Chocolate Quarter Bridge is covered, so it is just a case of sorting the position on the S. Glos side of the river. WECA will need to be involved if the route goes beyond S. Glos into Bristol which is what WECA's role is about, connecting authorities.

Cllr Wait reported that access to the Railway station is very difficult particularly from the overflow car park. Access to the station is by a very narrow footpath up the A4175. On the opposite side of the road the footpath finishes at Avon Mill Lane, meaning that if cycle path stops it does not encourage people to use them. Cllr Wait has proposed to B&NES members that a path should be built from the station overflow car park linking to the S. Glos Willsbridge path up to the Chocolate Quarter cycle path. With some thought the latter path could be extended to meet up with the new Chocolate Quarter bridge on to Willsbridge and beyond to Bristol.

Cycle provision in the actual station also needs to be improved and currently it is very poor with very limited cycle lock up facilities.

It was reported that the station overflow car park sec.106 agreement has funds for a trackway 3 metres wide along the riverbank to join up with the path that goes through the Chocolate Quarter. This proposed route is part N5 of the National Cycle route. Part of this

agreement was also for traffic lights at Avon Mill Lane, but this has never happened. Also, there is a lot of waste scrub land to the rear of the actual station that could be acquired to cut a path through from Avon Mill Lane to the Station. Involving Network Rail in discussion was suggested.

It was reported that a further path from the Station car park leading up the inside of the wall (near the existing bike shed) to come out at the traffic light crossing, leading into Somerdale would not be feasible as Network Rail have some major electrics buried beneath these grounds.

A question was asked whether, as there is already a cycle path on the Keynsham Road albeit needing improvements, were all cyclists supposed to be using this cycle path and not riding on the actual road. Also, should cyclists going in both directions be using it. It was reported that the highway code states that cyclists can ride on a highway and can choose whether or not to use an adjacent cycle path. Currently, the path is not considered a safe route for cyclists, so the majority tend to use the main road. Hence, the need to get the improvements to this path and encourage people to use it. It was suggested that there should be some publicity or clear instructions for both driver and cyclists. Another issue highlighted from a cyclist's point of view is that when the cycle path runs out near Willsbridge roundabout there is a real difficulty accessing the carriageway into traffic to then turn right on the roundabout. For cyclists to use the cycle path, you need to get motorists to understand that they should allow these cyclists space to get back into the flow of traffic. This is a difficult issue and any idea of making it mandatory that people use the cycle path is impossible. The only other option would be to get the status changed so that it is only a footpath forcing cyclists on to the main road. This may then mean cycle paths having to be marked on the roads reducing the width of the road for motor vehicles.

At least there is action to try and address all the issues. Those involved in this work were thanked for all their input.

85. SPEAKER THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD TRUST

It was explained the talk would be undertaken in two parts. Part one this month and part two at the March meeting.

Erica gave an interesting and informative slide presentation entitled 'What does eating sustainably mean for Keynsham'. The talk covered the following items:

What is sustainable farming? – farming in harmony, rotational crop farming, no industrial meat production, food goods sold locally, no artificial pesticides or fertilizers.

Eating sustainably in Keynsham. Things to look for – where were the goods produced, how is it packaged, who produced it, what does it contain and minimising production.

Questions and actions:

What will happen to the packaging after I have used the product?

Aim not to buy products in plastic even if recyclable.

Think about plastic that may be used in the production of grown produce.

Avoid palm oil, soya and rapeseed oil.

Think about the farming systems.

How far has the products travelled to be sold?
Who is retailing the product and how it got to them?
Who produced the food – how were they treated and were they paid fairly?
Is the product a Fairtrade or organic produce?

What does shopping for food look like for me?

Do I buy local?
Do I use local cafes and delis?
Do I grow my own?

How can we make sustainable food cost effective?

Seeking changes at policy level.
Education – cooking from scratch.
Community growing projects.
Space provision for effective projects.

Erica was asked if she was optimistic that things are changing and she reported that they were and that people's awareness was improving.

When asked what one thing members can do to help? It was suggested to eat as locally as we can. Do not dismiss dairy completely as the production of this, in this country is very good with most of our dairy cattle being fed on grass.

Erica was thanked for her talk.

86. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

These were covered within items on this agenda.

87. KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT PLAN

Cllr Greenfield reported that the work that he had undertaken on the project plan has unfortunately been lost due to a computer issue. He will however, work on this over the next few weeks, putting together a Timeline, etc. He will forward this to all on the Committee before the next meeting. He will then do a presentation on the project plan.

ACTION Cllr Greenfield

88. WOODLAND TRUST TREE ORDERS

Cllr Greenfield reported that he had been in conversation with Cllr Fricker, who is the Town Council Representative on the Manor Community Woodland group, and that they would be interested in some trees, especially to replace some of the trees that they have lost due to Ash die back. Cllr Fricker has put Cllr Greenfield in contact with Patricia Scammell and she has said that the Town Council would need to seek permission from Jeremy Drummond of B&NES in respect of any tree planting in this woodland. Currently, Cllr Greenfield is waiting to hear back from Mr Drummond. If it is a go ahead, a decision can be made as to whether to add this site to our list of tree planting areas or as a

replacement project area. Philippa added that some of the tree removal due to Ash die back would not need to be replaced as this would open the tree canopy and allow more light into the woods and assist with biodiversity.

Cllr Wait reported that he had met with Mark Cassidy (Team Manager – Parks and Bereavement Services, B&NES) on site at Teviot Road play area. Mark is working to get trees planted in B&NES and he has reported to Cllr Wait that they are currently looking at planting trees on a wide grass verge between Saltford and adjacent to the old Broadleaze nursery site on the Bath Road. At this site they are going to plant some 3m birch trees.

At the site visit, Cllr Wait and Mark Cassidy were joined by Bob Elcombe and they discussed the idea of possibly turning the Teviot Road green area into a community village green with wildflowers, forestry and open space to make it the centre of this little community. There is Sec.106 monies that could fund this project. The area does need a lot of work including clearance of the near by brook but could be very rewarding.

In respect of tree and hedge planting Mark Cassidy is going to consult with residents with the plan to do some planting in the Autumn. It was reported that whips would be provided for this by B&NES.

In respect of hedging around/within the play area it was suggested that this would be a plan for securing a good border to the play area, as the existing fencing is estimated to last probably another ten years before it becomes no longer be viable. Philippa added that in respect of hedging in this area, the choice of hedging should be thought about e.g., not thorny bushes or those with poisonous berries but to still have a variety of flowering and berry hedging to encourage all types of wildlife. The Woodland Trust hedge pack may need sorting through, and some may not be used in this location.

It was suggested that funding for wildflower seeding and bulbs could come from the RHS.

In respect of the Holmoak play area, the missing hedgerow and replacement of dead trees needs to be investigated and the matter referring back to Barratts if no action has been taken.

It was agreed that a few small projects should be started now with the view to expanding in the future.

Cllr Simmons suggested that all tree planting/landscaping plans should be checked on all new developments to ensure that developers are actually planting what was agreed under sec.106 agreements on each site.

RECOMMENDED

[That the Town Council order hedgerow whip packs - one for the area to replace the hedge that has been removed near the Manor Road Pavilion and one for Teviot Road play area.](#)

That the position with planting at Holmoak be investigated with the intention of getting Barratts to complete any missing hedgerow and replace any dead trees.

89. Climate and Ecological Bill

The Committee discussed and agreed that the ideas were good, and that Keynsham Town Council should support the Bill and declare an Ecological Emergency. Cllrs agreed to assist with the work involved in respect of this.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) Keynsham Town Council decides to declare an Ecological Emergency.
- (ii) Keynsham Town Council supports the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.
- (iii) Keynsham Town Council informs the local media of this decision.
- (iv) Keynsham Town Council writes to their local MPs, asking them to support the Bill.
- (v) Keynsham Town Council write to CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill expressing its support (campaign@ceebill.uk)

90. TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Noted and carried forward to the next agenda.

91. PROPOSED SPEAKERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Erica Davies to speak further on the Sustainable Food Trust at the March meeting.

Other suggestions were noted and carried forward to the next agenda.

A request was made for a discussion in respect of buses and buses services and this will need to be added to an agenda in the future.

Also, a suggestion of Karen Renshaw the Ecological officer from B&NES being invited to speak to the Committee once an Ecological Emergency has been declared.

Cllr Greenfield reminded Committee members of a forthcoming webinar (on 3rd February) on wind power.

92. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Signed: Date:
(Chairman)