

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the Virtual Environment and Sustainability Consultation held on
Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors C Buxton (Chair), C Brennan, D Biddleston, D Cooper (part of the consultation), A Greenfield (Vice Chair), B Simmons and A Wait

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Drury – Deputy Town Clerk (DTC) and Ward Councillor H MacFie

In accordance with the Schedule of Delegation approved by Town Council on April 22nd 2021, the Deputy Town Clerk is required to exercise delegated power (in consultation with the members of the cttee) to make decisions on the following items:

Any matters relating to Keynsham Town Council Environment and Sustainability Project Plan and the CTKS Environmental Celebration Day.

1. INDEPENDENT TRADERS' PRESENTATION BY PHILIPPA PAGET

Philippa reported that a lot of the businesses feel that they are doing a lot for the environment in terms of the products that they stock and supply. The flower shop's trade standards are that they must move away from using plastic e.g., avoiding oasis foam.

Businesses are being encouraged to change one way or another because of their business standards or because they believe in it such as Conscious foods. The main point that needs to be given to this group is that Keynsham is the local centre not only for the residents of Keynsham but for those that live in the Chew Valley. It benefits everyone if the businesses thrive, and for the businesses to thrive the access to those businesses is crucial. Whether it is to do with the road systems or better pavements, or anything that helps people get to our town centre and to use the massive range of services from the library to accountants and other businesses. A lot of people do not know what is available and they bypass Keynsham choosing to shop elsewhere.

Philippa reported that she is aware of people that do not visit Keynsham simply because they cannot park. So, to change their minds things need to change, making access easier so that they can use the facilities – shops, services, library and the lovely park.

Keynsham should become a hub, as it has excellent links for transportation by bus, train or even walk or cycle on to other places.

We need to make Keynsham as welcoming as possible to help the local businesses. At a recent B&NES webinar for Town and Parish Council's parking was highlighted as essential to avoid overspill into residential areas and avoid parking on pavements. Therefore, the need for good parking or accessibility by bus, bike, etc., will allow Keynsham to become a destination centre for shopping, leisure and sport. So, we need people to support our businesses.

Q & A

A question was raised about access to Keynsham Library and that parking in the multi-storey, close by, which does not seem to be an issue stopping access to this service.

It was suggested that the businesses and services of Keynsham would encourage people to think about what time they come to Keynsham and choose quieter times to guarantee parking close by. However, a lot of people with young children would want to be coming to Keynsham in the morning for pre-schools and activities as that is when most of the activities seem to be going on for young families.

What was in mind in respect of making Keynsham more welcoming when it comes to parking, etc?

Keynsham should be the go-to place for local people which is good for the environment (cutting out travelling). It is good for the community and the businesses. Parking is being squeezed and it is an appeal for it not to be squeezed. The possibility of a second level of parking on Ashton Way was mentioned.

Highlighting buses that come into Keynsham from the outskirt estates and pointing out that parking is free on a Saturday in Bath Hill East is essential.

Suggestions for ideas of possible additional parking was requested.

Increasing parking at the Railway Station or close by is crucial. Such commuters/travellers may also then be encouraged to visit the shops.

It was reported that the roundabout at Hicks Gate is to become a drive through roundabout and if a Park and Ride close by feeding Keynsham could be sorted, this could solve a lot of problems. There is also a shortage of long-term parking for those that actually work in Keynsham. Furthermore, some residents from Riverside are now using bays on Temple Street. Concerns were raised for the prospective homeowners of the new flats on Ashton Way should a multi-storey car park be built.

What issues do the traders think that the Town Council can help them with regarding the environment.

Smaller sustainable bus services were suggested.

A question was asked about the pink scooters in Bath and how well they were being utilized?

This pilot is going well in Bristol but there are strict rules about where and where not these scooters can be used. There is a huge problem when you get them being used on the pavements. Users must have insurance and a provisional license to use the scooters and then there is the issue of enforcement of this. It seems to work better in Bristol than Bath and people are now hiring them out on a monthly basis. In Keynsham there are currently no legal routes set up and unfortunately these would exclude routes such as the Bristol to Bath Cycle Route.

There is movement a foot to make private scooters legal.

A question was asked whether one of our local shops could rent out such scooters.

It was reported that Keynsham is not big enough to run the operation of a pickup/drop off scooter hire program. For individuals in Keynsham, it would be a case of them renting them for their themselves.

It was suggested that Keynsham needs a new marketing video making to promote all the good things about Keynsham and why people should visit to shop, for leisure and for the sports facilities.

It was thought that this may be part of the wayfinding and promoting of the town that B&NES will be doing as part of the Cultural Consortium bid. It was confirmed that there is funding for a video promoting the Keynsham businesses which is to be made shortly. There is also the KTC film equipment available for use if need be.

2. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)

Jon Parker reported that the promotion of active travel links from the North of the River is essential as all current routes are death traps for anyone using a bike. The idea of improving access to Keynsham is essential, and he suggested that collectively the discussions above just add weight to improve both of the active travel routes to the North of the River so that people are not forced to just use cars to access Keynsham.

On the Keynsham Road active travel route, we have had confirmation that S. Glos are undertaking the improvement study which will run during this year. The Bristol East Cycling and Walking group have submitted their thoughts and aspirations as part of this study and thanks have been expressed by S. Glos for this input. S. Glos will speak to this group shortly in respect of the study details and how they are going to take this forward. Both Andy and Hal have copies of the submission if it is required for further circulation to the Committee.

During the WECA Mayoral election process letters were sent to Dan Norris and the other candidates seeking their support for this campaign to sort Keynsham Road. The group received a very supportive response from Dan Norris, and now that he has been elected Mayor we have followed this with another communication seeking his continued support. At yesterday's group meeting it was decided that Dan should be invited to a site meeting

at some point. He lives locally and it would be great to have him on site talking about the plans.

One of the key short-term issues is maintaining the vegetation along this shared route and the formulation of a volunteer group to complement the work of S. Glos in keeping back the vegetation if planned. Both Sustrans and S. Glos are supportive of this initiative. There will be a meeting in the next week or so with all interested parties to sort the Health and Safety aspect of such a plan. Volunteers to support this group were asked for.

3. KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT PLAN

Deb and Alan have met via Zoom and spent three and half hours going through the plan and the plan is still not complete. Both agreed what needs to be done and Deb said that she would finish the plan off. A lot of good progress has been made and thanks were expressed to Deb. It is hoped that this will be completed before the next meeting. The next stage will be to put it into work packages for the nominated Councillors to take away and work on.

4. WOODLAND TRUST TREE ORDERS

It was reported that the Woodland Trust Website is once again offering free trees and the grid references for the proposed sites have been found and once this meeting is finished the Deputy Town Clerk will place an order for the trees that Keynsham require for the two projects.

5. ENVIRONMENT CELEBRATION DAY

Clarice reported that the group have once again had problems with B&NES stating CTKS could not have as many stalls as they had planned for outside. A plan had been sent to B&NES and comments were that the proposed position of the stalls would restrict the restaurants that have outside seating. Cllr Singleton and Clarice had a meeting with Linda Todd from B&NES and after a few suggestions for re-positioning stalls the plan was passed.

Mike Burke had reported at CTKS's group meeting that he had been told that there would be some funding (approximately £500) for the event through the Cultural Consortium fund. It was confirmed that this was correct, and B&NES would be able to say which budget these funds would come from.

A grant application has been submitted to Keynsham Town Council and request that the monies could be paid up front was made. It was explained that this would be considered at the grant decision making consultation and then approved at full council on 22nd June 2021. On the proviso that receipts would be supplied at a later date.

In the Event application to B&NES it was recorded that there would be no stalls selling items however, it has come to light that Fairtrade would be giving away samples. It was confirmed that this was not a problem, and the group would not be selling items.

There is a bit of concern to the number of groups booking stalls, currently there are only 16.

CLlr Biddleston confirmed that he would be available to do some video recording on the day and he and Clarice will contact each other to discuss requirements for on the day.

6 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL BILL

Charlotte reported that she is liaising with Cheryl in respect of this matter. It was suggested that Cheryl be contacted in August and this matter be taken to September E & S meeting as things are very busy in the Town Council at the moment.

7. PROPOSED SPEAKERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

This matter to be discussed at a future consultation or meeting.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next virtual consultation is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 6.00 p.m. via virtual Zoom Video conferencing.**

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

Signed: Date:
(Chairman)