

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the Virtual Environment and Sustainability Consultation held on
Tuesday 28th September 2021 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors C Buxton (Chair), A Greenfield (Vice Chair) and A Wait

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. PREVIOUS MINUTES/NOTES

Previous minutes and notes will be carried forward to the next physical meeting.

2. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)

The group have been very active with three working party group sessions undertaking vegetation clearance of the cycle/footpath between Keynsham and Willsbridge. Following the clearance of one section it was surprising how wide the path actually is once cleared. A couple of hundred yards were cleared at the first working party. With the second working party clearing a section by the small bridge by The Lock Keeper and the layby nearby. It is estimated that the group will undertake another two or three, two hour sessions to clear the vegetation at the Willsbridge end with other sections in between being cleared in the future. There were four in the working party – Alan, Andy, Jon and Geoff (from three separate Town and Parish Councils which is a great collaboration). Lots of people thanked the working party for what they were doing, and these sections are now improved considerably, but are still woefully inadequate, but this down to the design of the footpath and cannot be easily fixed.

A meeting was attended and the officer from S.Glos has reported that they are thinking about extending the end of path at the Willsbridge end through a road on the right which

could connect with the cycle track at the Bitton Railway Station. There are a few more volunteers that have said they will join in with future working party sessions.

A question was asked “is there any action proposed to encourage people to use the track now that work has been done to clear it?” Slightly more people were using the path than those that were not, but these seemed to depend on the type of cyclists, general leisure user or serious cycling enthusiast! WECA should have a campaign to encourage cyclists standard of cycling. With it being a substandard cycle path, you cannot expect people to use the footpath all the time. A further question was asked “Can it be a WECA priority to have the path upgraded, as it is a very useful route to do?” Dan Norris is very aware of the cycle path and its issues, and he discussed this with members at the recent Eco Festival event.

3. KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT PLAN

Cllr Buxton is meeting with Cllr Cooper next Tuesday to make the Environment and Sustainability Project Plan into a more workable document, which it is not currently. They will also add some deadline dates and time limits and see what can realistically be done.

Thanks were extended to Cllrs Buxton and Cooper for pushing this forward.

Members were reminded of the Climate Emergency Networking event that is scheduled for 29th September 2021.

4. WOODLAND TRUST TREE ORDERS

It was reported that the trees will be delivered to the Town Council office during working hours between 1 – 12 November (no specific date is given).

Planting will take place on Saturday 20th November at Manor Road and Saturday 27th November at Teviot play area. Both dates between 10 – 1 p.m. (members of the public to bring their own tools). Planting will be weather permitting and if cancelled will be publicised on the Town Council Facebook Page.

A consultation flyer will be produced by the Acting Town Clerk for delivery to nearby residents in both planting sites to obtain views before the events.

The Acting Town Clerk will seek permissions from B&NES Council.

The events will be promoted in the Keynsham News with members of the public being asked to sign up to join in.

Questions on the consultation should include:

- Do you have any objections to hedging trees being planted at Manor Road/Teviot Road?
- Do you have any questions in respect of this planting project?
- Do you want to join us and help with this project?

Please send your questions to the Town Council.

The consultation flyer to explain why we are undertaking the project:

To support the Town Council's Climate Emergency declaration by planting trees to improve the environment and encourage biodiversity. Trees will soak up Co2 improving pollution.

Explain the hedging will be maintained by the Town Council Ground Maintenance Team going forward.

Flyers to be circulated by Councillors (30 for each site).

A message to be sent out to all community groups about the event.

The Queen's canopy – another tree planting for community groups. This is to be forwarded to the community groups. Trees available from October 21st up to the Jubilee planting. Trees to be delivered in March 2022. The Town Council will assist community groups with promotion etc.

Suggested sites from the Town Council tree planting list need to be reviewed.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL CELEBRATION DAY

The event was reported as being a great success. The feedback on the speakers talks held on the Friday night ranged from very impressive messages given and the topics were a real eye opener.

There was really good interaction at the 30 plus stalls. It was a good event for the stall holders.

The Town Council were thanked for their financial support.

Thanks were expressed to Clarice and her team for putting on a great event. Stalls were attractive.

Publicity was good.

A question was asked:

- Could this be an annual event? It was thought that it could be possible. There may be cultural consortium monies for this type of event.

The expenditure was not as much as expected and there may be some monies to come back to the Town Council as this is public money.

6. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL BILL

Cllr Buxton will be meeting with Alan Jenner to work on the Bill. The Acting Town Clerk will pass on his details.

The Town Council budget needs to be sufficient next year to hold several Climate Emergency events. There may be monies in the 2021/2022 budget.

There is a plan to work on an Ecology Bill in the future, perhaps doing events such as free seed giveaways.

A couple of agenda items were suggested for November:

- a) Farmers Market stall for 12th March - Mothering Sunday for free seed give away.
- b) Friends of the Earth – 50 things a Council can do for Climate Change.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next virtual consultation is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 30th November 2021 at 6.00 p.m. via virtual Zoom Video conferencing possibly (TBC).**

The meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.

Signed: Date:
(Chairman)