

# KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the Virtual Environment and Sustainability Consultation held on  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 6.00 pm

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**PRESENT:** Cllrs D Biddleston, C Brennan, C Buxton (Chair), D Cooper, A Greenfield (Vice Chair) and A Wait

Philippa Paget.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dawn Drury – Acting Town Clerk (ATC), Jon Parker, Ros Durrant

In accordance with the Schedule of Delegation approved by Town Council on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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, seed giveaway and tree planting.

**1. PREVIOUS MINUTES/NOTES**

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

**2. PROPOSED ECO FESTIVAL – 14<sup>TH</sup>/15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Ros Durrant was introduced, and she informed the Committee that she has taken over from Clarice Corfield as Chair of Churches Together.

Ros reported that their Committee had had a couple of meetings since the last festival and it had been agreed that this was something that they could build on. Some proposed dates of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October have been suggested and she has been in touch with all the relevant departments of B&NES to get the ball rolling. The main difference in the event this time would be that they hope to obtain a trading license so that stall holders may sell goods. It was confirmed that the stalls would be Eco businesses or charities and organisations with eco credentials. Their committee would welcome any thoughts and ideas and would be pleased to receive information on any clashes with other events. They are aware that B&NES have a similar Biodiversity event planned for around the same time, but Ros is awaiting clarification of the dates so this.

A question was raised in respect of the later date for this year's event and Ros explained that they would very much like to have the schools involved and holding the event in early September gave them no preparation time. Concerns were raised about the

weather being colder then. The Space has been booked for inside stalls and signage for these will be improved for 2022.

It was suggested that the Town Council could get the young people to design a poster and give an award to support the event. Ros said that the idea this year was to engage with Two Rivers School which is a passive building. Last time, their committee engaged with young people by asking them to donate art and they held a small exhibition in the Baptist Church. Cllr Buxton suggested getting the school children involved by actively listing their schools' green credentials.

The Acting Town Clerk said that she could give Ros contact details for all the headteachers of schools in Keynsham. Cllr Biddleston suggested contacting the school PTA groups too.

Additional added on events may be included, such as talks on the Friday evening with a panel answering questions, a food related event involving Temple Canteen to give information on vegan food (events to showcase some of the town's sole trader eco businesses), also, possibly a foraging event too. Cllr Biddleston suggested people giving their favourite vegetarian/vegan family recipes to share and perhaps having some taster sessions.

Ros will be invited to future meetings to give updates.

### **3. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)**

It was reported on the Keynsham Road link improvement (the section between Keynsham Railway Station and the Bitton Steam Railway Station) the Bristol East Fringe cycling and walking groups as a stakeholder received an update on this from South Glos. and Atkins at their last meeting. This was the first interim report from Atkins, the consultants engaged on the project. They have initially presented four different routes that they will be assessing. Three of these are off-road and one following the Keynsham Road. These routes will be assessed through a matrix assessment process covering aspects such as environmental impact consideration, costs, timescales, safety and directness. They are hoping to carry this out in the next month or so. The aim is to report back to the stakeholders by the end of March with a shortlisted selection of down to one or two routes. It was also reported that WECA funding has been secured to then move to an outline business case and move it to the next step.

The stakeholder groups have expressed to the consultants that they should do a thorough assessment of the Keynsham Road option to bring it up to standard (to be used as a benchmark for the other routes to be assessed), as some of the off roads carry some significant challenges.

Cllr Wait thanked and congratulated Jon Parker on all the work that he has put into this cross-boundary stakeholder group project. Cllr Wait reported that things were slower on the Keynsham side of matters in respect of cycle routes which are very few. He believes that things will change in respect of this with the introduction of the Bristol – Bath mass transit system that will run along the bypass through part of Keynsham, which could

bring some opportunities. There are to be cycle routes included along the A37 and A39 roads and routes for Keynsham may follow, but it is thought that the Wellsway is not destined to be a cycle route. There should be an upgrade coming forward between the High Street and Hicks Gate which seems essential to get people to the Park and Ride at Brislington by bike rather than car.

There has been some mention on a route from the Keynsham East Development/edge of Saltford linking to Bath and also cycle lane provision on the A4.

There is also to be a hub at Keynsham Railway Station for people to catch buses to the bypass, plus improved cycle facilities for people who wish to catch the train.

Jon added that their stakeholder group has submitted an input on improving active travel in the area of the Alder Moor Way - the Longwell Green retail area – as part of the planning application for works opposite M & S. The proposed development is quite extensive with up to 440 employment posts. The developers refer to it as a sustainable site where people should be able to walk or cycle to work. Being close to the ring road cycle path a link would allow cyclists to go south on to Hicks Gate then up into Keynsham.

Philippa raised the point about ensuring that the Keynsham Town Centre be made as accessible as possible, as quickly as possible to ensure that people can get to their local shops and visitors are able to arrive not only by car but by bike. This includes ensuring all the necessary links are in place including the installation of important connections including the bridge over the river at Somerdale. Ward Councillors will do their best to push in respect of this.

All Councillors were thanked for the input in the cycle path link matters to date.

So long as the link with the stakeholder group and Councillors Wait and MacFie (as Keynsham Town Councillors) is maintained the Town Council support will be maintained. Other Councillors can always feedback or pass on information to the stakeholder group through Councillors Wait and MacFie. The project will be publicised as a cross boundary joint project.

Councillor MacFie said that as far as Town Councillors are concerned working towards getting a better, more secure, cycle storage facility at the Railway Station is a must. It was such suggested that this be taken on by Keynsham Town Council and support be gained from B&NES and funding opportunities be investigated. He reported that it should be possible to get ten bikes into one car parking space.

Councillor Cooper passed on some information on grants for cycle projects and cycle shed projects that provide and improve facilities. Companies such as Biffa, Wren Waste Group, Sport England, British Cycling and Highways England all offer grant funding.

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

Councillor Buxton reported that some of it we have no control over and some of the targets are so unrealistic for the Town Council to achieve, so a couple of the sections have been put on to one side of word in a table. Councillor Buxton then requested a meeting with the Acting Town Clerk or a Councillor who understands the green issues of the Town Council to go through the same, with the intention of pulling out the items that have been completed and moving them to a separate sheet. Then what is remaining from the sheets highlight those that are realistic to complete, and these will be brought back to Committee to allocate someone to lead on. If you take out the items that we have done and it is under the project plan headings, then these items can go on the website. It is all there in the framework, but it just needs sorting. The Acting Town Clerk confirmed that she would meet before the next E & S Committee meeting in March on a Wednesday to suit Cllr Buxton. Some diary dates will be sent to Councillor Buxton. Cllr Cooper offered to make any future plans into an eye-catching design format that would encourage people to look at it.

Cllr Greenfield said this sounded like a good plan and the projects could also be marked for those that could be undertaken by the Town Council and those that could be taken on by a Community Group, and other projects the Town Council could support or assisting with grant funding. He also said that he looked forward to getting a webpage/website solely to promote the project plan and projects and include links to the good resources on the NALC website.

Cllr Cooper suggested that Town Council website provider be asked whether it would be possible to have an Environmental Committee blog that Councillors can contribute to. A dedicated Town Council Environmental Facebook page was suggested.

A future plan when more staff are in post would be to create an additional environmental issue web page and Town Council Environmental Facebook page.

#### 5. WOODLAND TRUST TREE ORDERS

Tree/hedgerow planting dates have been set for Manor Road Pavilion on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 9.30 a.m. and at Teviot play area on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00 a.m. 330 wild hedgerow trees per session will be planted and further 210 are being delivered by Woodland Trust on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Any spare trees will be used at the Fox and Hounds Conservation area and the Allotments. Members of the community, Rotary and Keynsham In Bloom have been invited to join the planting sessions. All Councillors are invited.

Cllr Hal MacFie will be leading on this Saturday's event. The Acting Town Clerk will print promotional flyers.

## 6. SEED GIVEAWAY

A wildflower seed give away has been suggested. The Acting Town Clerk will contact Somerset Market to book a stall for 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022 or in April. Also, a donation of seed packs to the Churches was suggested.

A planting instruction leaflet will be produced. It was suggested that Cornflower Annual Mix be purchased. The seeds will be packed into labelled small envelopes with an image of the flower meadow on one side and the Town Council logo on the other side of the pack. Cllrs Greenfield and MacFie will lead on project group for planting up the seeds.

It was suggested the instruction leaflet be for rewilding a plant pot. The Acting Town Clerk will donate compostable seed trays to give away too.

## 7. CPRE DONATION

It was suggested that the Acting Town Clerk take this as a recommendation to full Council.

## 8. QUEEN'S JUBLIEE CANOPY – PROPOSED COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

This matter will be added to the next Agenda and the Acting Town Clerk will circulate the types of trees recommended by B&NES Arboriculturalist, so that prices can be sourced.

## 9. KEYNSHAM TREE PLANTING PLAN – CURO

The information of planting was received and noted. The Acting Town Clerk will circulate the Curo contact details to Councillors Wait and MacFie.

## 10. JOURNEY TO NEXT ZERO CARBON CONSULTATION

The Committee ran through the consultation questions. The responses will be considered and ratified at the next Planning and Development Committee meeting.

## 11. EVENTS AND SPEAKERS 2022

It was suggested that an officer of B&NES Council be invited to the Annual Town Meeting to talk about Carbon Net Zero. Suggestions to be brought to the next Town Council meeting.

## 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next virtual consultation is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 6.00 p.m. via virtual Zoom Video conferencing possibly (TBC).**

Signed: .....  
(Chairman)

Date: .....

DRAFT