

The Climate Emergency Working Party Notes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 1st December 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr Lou Goodger, Cllr I Capon, Mr P Smith and Mr S Jarvis.
Also, in attendance: Mrs K Graddock, Deputy Executive Officer

Apologies

Cllr I Crawford and Mrs J Gristwood.

Re-wilding of Verges

Mr Jarvis mentioned that he had personally started the re-wilding project off his own back and re-wilded the corner of Elmfield Road and started a patch opposite the Muddlebridge Allotments. Cllr Capon was extremely disappointed as he felt that the councillors on the Parks and Playing Fields Committee have done a lot of work trying to get over how important the CEWP is. He mentioned that the Council is answerable to Devon County Council with regards to grass verges. He felt that he had pushed the working party backwards and that Devon County Council have clear guidance and could not support the re-wilding without authorisation.

The DEO also expressed her disappointment and said that the CEWP has no authority to complete work without authorisation. Mr Jarvis wished to see the Council provide packs - packet of seeds to anyone wishing to adopt a verge as this gives people ownership and changes their whole thought pattern.

It was agreed to pick a couple of nice areas that are easy to do now, that are manageable for the first year. To figure out what they do and to gather support from the residents. Useful information can be found here;

https://www.tarkacountrytrust.org.uk/uploads/1/5/4/4/15448192/wildflower_verges_-_getting_started_guidance_notes.pdf

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/wildlife/managing-verges-for-wildlife>

Recommendation: That the CEWP choose 3 areas for potentially re-wilding next year as well as the Elmfield Road location.

Action Plan

Recommendation: That the DEO compile a table format of the Action Plan and it's brought to a future meeting to discuss further and allocate items and timescales.

Community Energy Group

Mr Smith said that If we want to benefit from the more commercial (50kw) renewables, we need a proper structure and professionals. How would we tackle it, do we do something jointly with Barnstaple Town Council? Fremington Parish has 3 solar farms and a wind turbine and it generates a lot of energy. If we be more proactive in the future, we could create a significant income.

Some members felt that a group outside of the Council should be set up given the relatively difficult and frustrating processes and opinions of the CEWP group. The

Parish Council's role should be to support initiatives that help or benefit the community.

Yelland Pottery Lane Community Tree Planting

It was mentioned that there were only tubes there, nothing left or sticks that are dead. The DEO to speak to North Devon Council to ascertain what is happening with this.

Devon Carbon Plan Consultation

Mr Jarvis collating information and thoughts at the present time.

Body Boards - Plastic Free North Devon

Members agreed that this initiative was extremely worthwhile. Fremington Quay has rare wildlife, that lives on the Estuary, therefore it was

Recommendation: That the Parish Council support the banning of the Body Boards.

Any other reports

Martin felt that there should be covers for the plastic recycling boxes and the Council should write to North Devon Council to ask them to consider this.

Recommendation: That the Council writes to the Waste and Recycling Department to ask them to consider covers for the plastic recycling boxes due to recycling being blown all over the parish.