

The Climate Emergency Work Party Notes of the Meeting of the 11th May 2021 at 6pm via Zoom

Present: Mr S Jarvis (Chairman) Mr P Smith, Mr M Sosnoswki

Also, in attendance: Jude Wood, Administration & Projects Manager

Apologies:

Cllr Lou Goodger

Biodiversity Action Plan

Mr Jarvis was concerned that the re-wilding procedures do not consider what he had in mind and he asked if could change some things around. He was also concerned about the volunteers having to undertake the DCC highway safety awareness e-learning course as he felt this would be off putting for volunteers and asked that he could be suggested it was voluntary. Mr Jarvis also felt that 'Assessing the Area' was not necessary in the procedures. Mr Jarvis advised that Cllr Craigy of Bideford has made a start on 're-wilding' some land in Bideford. It was advised that Parks & Playing Fields were happy with the procedures as they.

Recommendation: Mr Jarvis to look at making some changes to 'Procedures & Guidelines for Enhancing Community Wildlife within the Community' ('re-wilding procedures') and to speak to Cllr Craigy with regards to their procedures for 're-wilding' in Bideford

Information Packs

Discussed the list and some amendments were suggested. Mr Jarvis asked if 'consider changing to a bank that doesn't use fossil fuels' was listed under the 'Quick & Easy things'. It was that it was not appropriate for this to be added for political and morality reasons. Mr Snosnowski spoke about a search engine Ecosia is a search engine based in Berlin, Germany. It donates 80% of its profits to non-profit organizations that focus on reforestation.

In addition to the above Mr Snosnowski mentioned that the Co op throw out their produce when nearing there expiration date instead of recycling or passing on to those that might need it. Mr Jarvis said this was something that we can look into but not relevant to add to this particular list of suggestions.

Recommendation: Administration & Projects Manager to make changes to the list of ideas as suggested and to look at Ecosia.

Hydrological Survey

University of Exeter did not wish provide/recommend anyone to conduct the survey. Plymouth University have put forward the name of a contact Andy Turner who is the overall lead on the Environmental Science Undergrad Programme Project Allocation.

Recommendation: Administration & Projects Manager to make contact Andy Turner.

Publicity

Gazette gave no response to the possibility of an Environmental Column.

Recommendation: Mr Jarvis to speak to Archant with regards to the possibility of a column.

Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill

It was noted that there was agreement from Full Council to support the CEE Bill.

Fremington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)

Mr Smith wanted to know if it was ok to circular NHP to CEWP. NHP has been sent to 361; feedback from 361 was favourable. 361 may be open to a Zoom meeting. Mr Smith highlighted the Energy Section within the NHP. Mr Jarvis mentioned that the Aura Power application for the solar farm on the A39 had been approved.

Recommendation: Administration & Projects Manager to speak to the Executive Officer with regards to circulating the NHP to CEWP

361 Energy

Zoom call discussed as above. NHP as discussed above. Mr Smith would like to form a Community Energy Group within or outside the Parish Council, Mr Smith would like it noted that he is very keen to get this up and running and will be looking for people to join the energy group. Some Community Energy Groups have a common forum called the Devon Community Energy Network and they have set up an organisation on how to find the funds and initiate community-based renewables.

Fremington Environmental Fair

Resurrection of Fair was discussed, and date of the 11th of September 2022 was suggested to be held at the Beechfield Centre. Mr Smith mentioned that RES Devon was interested in attending the Fair. Mr Jarvis has a list of those companies previously invited.

Recommendation: Mr Jarvis to pass list on to CEWP members and Administration & Projects Manager. Administration & Projects Manager to send out new invitations to attend the Fair.

Orbital Circular, Vol 8: O2 Launch

Topical item from Mr Smith Circulated to members of the CEWP for information.

Solar Panels for Beechfield

Some companies were suggested to contact for quotes; Mole Valley Farmers; RES Devon & Sungift Solar. Mr Smith advised the Western Power may not allow more than 4kw. Mr Jarvis suggests we have some funding of around £3k Mr Sosnowski offered to 'top up' this up personally if needed. Mr Smith suggested this could be something the Community Energy Group could help raise money for solar panels. Mr Sosnowski asked if were looking at solar water heating; Mr Jarvis suggested not at this time, but it could possibly be looked at in the future

Recommendation: Administration & Projects Manager to get some quotes for solar panels; find out payback period and how much electricity is used at the Beechfield Centre in a day and how much we would export to the grid and what form of heating is at the centre.

Any other matters

Ms Sosnowski asked about rubbish bins and what the outcome was. – NDC are currently working on a litter bin strategy to identify areas of need.

Members expressed their wish to return to face to face meetings when restrictions allowed and safe to do so.

Members requested the possibility of reminders being set up for monthly meeting of CEWP in their calendars.

Date of next meeting provisionally booked for the 15th June providing Working Party for Superfast Broadband can be moved up to the 22nd June.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm