



Minutes of meeting held by Bradford on Avon Town Council

Environment & Planning Committee at St Margaret's Hall

On

Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr S Gibson (Ex officio)
Cllr A Kay (Chairman)
Cllr J Parker
Cllr A Potter
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr K Vigar
Val Baker (Clerk)

Members of public: Stevie Edwards (Lamb Yard Residents representative), Rachel Berger (Climate Friendly) and 3 others

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr J Vittles

2. Declarations of interests

Cllr Parker reported she was a close neighbour to 60 Avonfield planning application 2021/03764.

3. Elect a Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Vigar seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr A Potter as Vice Chairman.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Parker seconded by Cllr Bessant and with all in favour **RESOLVED:** to approve the virtual E & P minutes for 21st April 26th May and 2nd June 2021.

5. Planning applications

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr Franklin seconded by Cllr Parker and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** to send the planning recommendations to Wiltshire Council.
- (ii) There were no delegated decisions to be made.

Cllr Gibson asked Cllr Trimble to ensure that he views the Weekly Planning lists when published by Wiltshire Council, so that BOATC E & P are made aware of anything controversial or that may need to be 'called in'.

6. Correspondence relating to planning applications to be considered at this meeting – There was none.

7. Application for Street Trading consent

A Street Trading Consent application for a new Coffee/food van to be positioned in Bradford on Avon Car Park, opposite the Station in Zone B, where currently the parking bays are not used, was considered by members. Concerns were raised about an additional coffee van being located close to the existing 'Coffee Girl' van outside Bradford on Avon railway station and other coffee facilities nearby in Tithe Barn area or in the town centre, adding that too many could be uneconomical for the

owners and could result in losing this facility altogether. There were further concerns about additional litter but generally the committee did not object to the application.

8. Electric Vehicle Charger

Approval had been given by BOATC to install two double LED charging points outside the Youth Centre on Frome Road. The DNO (Distribution Network Operator) had approved the power supply and Council Officers were continuing to work with BWCE (Bath & West Community Energy) and Electric Blue (EV charging company) with the project. Installation will begin week commencing the 7th June work and a 'switch on' date will be agreed. There are hopes for a much wider network to be initiated in the future.

9. Teracycle -update

This facility which had recently been launched at Bradford on Avon Youth Centre on the Frome Road offers residents the opportunity to recycle plastics that are not able to be recycled in the normal WC recycling bins. A helpful link on the Town Council websites helps identify the types of plastic that can be recycled, with the opening times listed - Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Cllr Kay wished to thank Ruth Walton who had done a fantastic job on supporting and researching this project.

10. Other Signage projects

As part of the Asset Transfer all sites that are being transferred by Wiltshire Council are currently being audited by the Green Space Officer. Generic signs identified by Climate and Emergency and plastic free logos will be installed which will provide information about places of interest, their ecological benefits and history of the town.

11. Green wall update

Stevie Edwards gave a brief intro about the concept of the Living wall which was first launched back in 2019. Planning permission had been granted and the Director of Operations has been dealing with the legalities. £20,000 has been raised so far for the wall which leaves a shortfall of £15,000 for construction. Wessex Water and First Port had been approached for possible funding to meet this. It was proposed by Cllr Kay seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour **RESOLVED:** To recommend that the Town Council continue to support the fundraising and to 'top up' the funding from Bradford on Avon Town Council Covid recovery reserves, to ensure installation for the proposed installation date of August/September 2021.

It was noted that the Town Council had contributed towards the planning application and for the initial design process, and that the Area Board had also contributed to this project. There was a requirement for the Communications Officer to 'plug' this over the summer to encourage more local funding.

12. Green Spaces update

Cllr Franklin read out the report as attached.

13. Bee Happy event

Cllr Kay and Chis Hogg (Green Space Officer) have been working with a student from St Laurence school on a project, who with the help of the Town Wardens constructed an insect spa (large insect/bee hotel and a stumpery) at Sladesbrook. The insect/bee hotel structure is made from old pallets from use on the Avoncliff weir project. The stumpery is made from a felled apple tree buried in the soil which attracts stage beetles; once finished the site will be registered under the National Beetle Stumpery network. The spa will be completed with a small water feature.

Due to Covid restrictions, Ellie was unable to continue the work with her classmates on the site, so it was suggested, as an alternative, that they work towards a 'Youth Eco Festival' to be held at Sladesbrook called 'Bee Happy'. Small grants had been awarded from the Ecological and Climate budget towards this. Children's entertainer and other stalls will be arranged. Cllr Gibson added that shops could also get involved and participate by organising a 'Bee trail' as this would link the two areas and encourage a greater footfall and help expand the event. It was envisaged the event will be held sometime in August. Date to be confirmed soon.

14. Big Green Week

The 'Big Green Week' which is a national Climate Coalition event (18th – 26th September) is being organised to encourage awareness and action with respect Cop 26. Rachel Berger from Climate Friendly explained that a local event is being arranged on September 25th in Westbury Gardens and

St Margaret's Hall. There will be an information stall, a sustainable food stall, an Extinction Rebellion enactment to name but a few, with live entertainment and music. A virtual Green Homes was also being arranged and other organisations like Fairtrade, Oxfam, Wiltshire wildlife Trust, who will be arranging their own stalls/events culminating in this fair/festival. A display in the library foyer for Climate and Ecological issues was also planned (depending on COVID rules). Cllr Kay considered that £500 could be given from the Climate and Emergency budget to assist with publicity and venue hire. Cllr Gibson added that the Town Council should allow for Officer's time and suggested Climate Friendly could apply for a grant from the Area Board. Rachel requested that the event should be widely advertised in surrounding villages and advertised in the Town Council Newsletter to publicise this event to encourage people from the edge of town that would not necessarily get involved. Cllr Gibson said that she would inform the local parishes about this forthcoming event.

15. Wiltshire Council Climate Emergency Webinar - this was forwarded to all Cllrs to choose who should attend as only 1 space was available. Cllr Kay attended the event with a further 48 representatives attending the webinar. Topics were discussed in detail and 'not building on green space' was a repeated theme. She listed her 4 priorities for Wiltshire becoming Carbon Neutral:

1. Carbon – zero regulations for all new builds NOW and commitment to support for existing housing-stock to decarbonise
2. Protection and ecological enhancement of greenspaces and greenbelt
3. More local renewable energy supply including 'onshore wind turbines'
4. Electrification of public transport and investment to make very accessible for clear alternative, reduction in traffic

16. Wiltshire Council Strategy working towards Climate Change – this document was circulated with the agenda (as attached). Issues were raised about traffic and better infrastructure, better planning policies with respect to sustainability were common views on the chat line. It was noted that the Leader of Wiltshire Council (Cllr Richard Clewer) had recently been elected as Chair of the Climate Emergency Group.

17. Chairman's report (as attached)

18. Planning and issues update – Cllr Kay reported that all planning meetings from now on would be delegated and reviewed by the Town Development Committee, on the proviso that any controversial planning issues would be reviewed in TC meetings, as necessary. Applications concerning Environmental issues will be reviewed by the Environment and Green Space committee as appropriate.

19. Correspondence for action – There was none.

20. Correspondence to note – Westbury Incinerator application is being raised at the Wiltshire Planning committee on 22nd June. Cllr Kay encouraged people to listen to this debate online and to make your comments known via the link.

Cllr Bessant gave a brief talk on 'Doughnut Economics – this is a visual framework of sustainable development - shaped like a doughnut – *combining the concept of planetary boundaries with the complimentary concept of social boundaries*. Smaller communities like Preston and Cornwall councils have developed their own doughnuts to help them make choices and progress that means their environments are protected, impact on climate change is limited and actions are taken to look after the whole of the community. She encouraged members to listen to Kate Raworth's concept on <https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

Appendix 1 – Members of public comments

There were none.



Alex Kay, E&P Chairman's report for Tuesday 16/06/21

Environment

1. **EV charging network update:** The NDO have approved and are working with BWCE, this week (w/c 7th June) on the installation and once all installed they will agree the 'switch on'. This was a project to 'start the ball rolling' with EV points and we have plans to expand as a wider network. We haven't yet considered the income but this will become a part of the EV project as it expands.
2. **Recycling, litter and dog poo bins:** We have audited the current stock and prioritised for replacement and will look to start once the transfer from Wiltshire is complete. We intend to look at dual purpose, general waste and recycle. We will be looking to remove dog poo bins as part of this process: this waste can go in with general waste which is more cost-effective and provide more locations for disposal.
3. **Asset Transfer update:** IMMINENT!!!!
4. **Signage** – We are auditing the sites and will create a range of signs/info boards that can be used to replace (overtime) existing and use on new projects.
5. **Grant request** to fund market stall and/or shop to display, promote and provide advice on Climate projects. Awaiting asset transfer to finalise.
6. **Big Green Week Sept 18-26:** A series of events in this week to raise awareness of the climate crisis, and encourage action, and explain the importance of COP 26. CFBaA has a number of ideas for events, and we would like to work with any other organisation in the town who is interested, and with the Town Council to put on a lively programme on a range of climate related topics. COP26, 1-12 November
7. **Westbury Incinerator:** going to WC Planning Committee 22 June 2021
8. **Doughnut economics:** consider project to assess projects against environmental and community impact.
9. **Bee Happy event at Sladesbrook:** proposals from Ellie St Laurence student) for stalls; Noeline Beesley lined up to do entertainment for children. The event will need to be delivered as a town council event. Ellie completed her plans for a "habitat resort" at Sladesbrook Park with her family, which was also combined with the burial of timber, including from a storm-felled tree, with the aim of providing long term habitat for the rare Stag Beetle. This is sited in an area where we now manage the grass as a meadow, with flowers blooming now.
10. **Food Waste:** WC collection, community fridge ...

Planning

1. **Wiltshire Area Localism and Planning Alliance. (WALPA)** working together to inform WC about flaws in planning app and hopefully gain improvements. Continue with campaigning to protect Neighbourhood planning and local planning influence.
2. **Neighbourhood plan update:** arrange meeting of new Councillors to form a work plan to get update work started.

Brief introduction to Doughnut Economics

Doughnut Economics was developed by a talented economist called Kate Raworth who worked as a research economist for Oxfam

She had been concerned that measuring a country's success by growth and GDP was misguided. Uncontrolled growth allowed wholesale destruction of ecology and damage to the climate as well as huge negative impacts of social conditions for large amounts of the population. Uncontrolled growth is simply unsustainable.

Kate developed the doughnut to visually describe an economy that bases its success on **thriving** rather than **growth**.

On the outside of the doughnut are environmental factors such as CO2 emissions, water quality, air pollution levels etc. On the inside of the doughnut are social factors such as availability of clean water, affordable housing, living wage etc.

Economies can use the doughnut to guide their choices and measure progress, if environmental factors rise out of the outside, take measures to squash them back into acceptable levels. If social factors drop into the centre, take action to raise standards so they again sit within the acceptable levels.

Smaller communities like Preston and Cornwall councils have developed their own doughnuts to help them make choices and progress that means their environments are protected, impact on climate change is limited and actions are taken to look after the whole of the community.

Intro video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqJL-cM8gb4>

