



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**



**LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD**

Minutes of the Environment & Green Spaces Committee meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held
on Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr A Kay (Chair)
Cllr S Gibson
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr A Potter (Vice Chair)
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr K Vigar
Cllr J Vittles
Cllr K Bessant
V Baker – Admin Clerk
C Hogg (Green Spaces Officer)

Members of the Public: Lisa Otter-Barry, Christopher Humphries, James Crawford and 17 others.

See Appendix 1 for public comments

41. Apologies- There were none

42. Declarations of interest- There was none.

43. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Franklin and seconded by Cllr Vigar and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Environment & Green Spaces Committee minutes held on 16th November 2021.

44. Chairman's report – (as attached)

Wiltshire Council's Cabinet had today approved the council's Climate Strategy and Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy, Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan – two documents that will help to shape the next five years of the council's carbon reduction and environmental plans. (see attached report).

45. Domestic Heating project

Simon Forsyth, Energy Advisor for Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon asked if the Town Council would support their survey/questionnaire which would collate data for a carbon footprint of the town, identifying domestic heating as the primary contributor to carbon emissions in homes. Since the last EGS meeting a 'liaison meeting' had been set up between CF and a 'not for profit' organisation known as C.H.E.E.S.E (Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts), its aim, to reduce energy bills by thermal imaging which will identify areas of heat waste in homes. (See attached report). Cllr Gibson explained that in light of the enormous rise in fuel bills the CF questionnaire, assisted by C.H.E.E.S.E, would seem an appropriate way to help residents reduce their energy bills; especially aimed at low-income households to help reduce fuel poverty. Further discussion on this took place. A provisional launch date for

an event on March 11th was suggested to highlight various cases of heat loss in a variety of properties, this in turn would identify ways in which householders could improve their energy efficiency in small but less expensive ways. The event would allow householders the opportunity to speak to experts who would give practical advice and ideas without any financial commitments.

It was proposed by Cllr Kay seconded by Cllr Bessant and with all in favour **RESOLVED** – to approve the Bradford on Avon domestic heating project as follows:

- a. presentation of CHEESE and others as appropriate
- b. display of findings of local surveys (as available)
- c. provide quick clues for heat loss improvement
- d. further promote survey and advice
- e. demos or displays of other technologies, etc, concerning sustainability of domestic fuel and

to work towards more sustainable homes with reduced fuel waste and carbon footprint and to help provide practical and affordable 'retrofit improvements, and to recommend a budget up to £2k for the project launch. It was further **agreed** to raise investigation into other budgetary sources at the next Full Council meeting.

46. Climate & Ecology Emergency events programme

A calendar of proposed projects Climate and Ecology Emergency events was circulated with the agenda. (see attached) It was **agreed** that 4 events a year was a realistic target for the various suggested themes; Cllr Kay asked for volunteers to assist with running these events.

47 Living Green Wall

Cllr Gibson reported that the design was all paid for, and the legal side had been sorted. The owners of the adjacent building had given permission for the water to provide the watering process. Stevie Edwards asked if the Living Wall could be publicised on BOATC social media website to generate more interest and further sponsorship for this Town Council project.

48. Food waste, Fairtrade, Community Fridge projects

This year is for BOATC to support reaccrediting its Fairtrade community status. The Chair reported that 21st Feb - 6th March is FT fortnight and a number of events will be arranged including the Co-op on 1st March. It was requested for the Fairtrade logo could be added to the BOATC website and advertise FT events to raise the profile of this organisation. There is some synergy with refreshing our Plastic-free community status.

The food waste composter, (approved at a previous EG&S meeting) had been received and installed near the Youth Centre. Chris explained that this was a 'trial' pilot scheme offered to those residents living in nearby flats, without a garden. Leaves have been collected by the Town Wardens, to form a 'base' and food waste would be introduced slowly to the composter. The Community fridge had made progress with 3 Volunteers committed to looking after the fridge by keeping records to comply with Health and Safety. Town Wardens would act as 'back up'. The fridge would be open 2 -3 days per week for a couple of hours on these days. Talks with the Hub were in hand to direct those who might benefit from the donated food (identified by yellow stickers) received from shops, but it was envisaged that anyone in the community could make use of the unwanted food as this was not 'means, tested. Cllr Bessant asked if a leaflet could be designed to put in the Hub food boxes to inform people of this service.

49. Green Spaces update

Chris Hogg explained that the Asset Transfer due to complete this week will mean that BOATC will take over a number of areas currently managed by Wiltshire Council some of these are play areas. These sites passed over by WC are accompanied by health and safety reports

and have the sites have been assessed by the Town council, who have identified much of the equipment needing significant repairs.

50. Lighting Strategy Update

Chris explained that there had been difficulties with delivery of this project. Further meetings have been arranged to try to resolve the issues and once completed a future launch could be incorporated into a Wildlife focus event later in the year.

51. Asset Transfer

It was noted that after a considerable delay the Asset Transfer (1st April) is now in its final stages and BOATC will begin the challenging task and responsibilities of managing various areas of land.

52. Correspondence to note

An email from Westbury Town Council was noted informing BOATC that they had written to the Secretary of State to 'call in' the planning application for the proposed incinerator on the edge of Westbury. Chair requested clerk to find out how much Westbury Council need to fund this effort and suggested taking this to FTC in March.

53. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 5th April.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

DRAFT

Appendix 1

Lisa Otter- Barry asked three questions concerning on proposed works for management of Ash Die back in Becky Addy Woods (see attached).

Christopher Humphries also spoke on this subject and a dialogue took place. It was reported that the Town Council had already responded to questions regarding Becky Addy Woods in previous correspondence with FROBAW and that the Town Council had a legal responsibility for public safety.

Joyce Shaw asked why Wiltshire Council didn't collect food waste. Cllr Kay responded saying that BOATC does not collect food waste as we have no licence to do so. It was noted that WC **will** collect food waste in 2023, when it becomes a statutory requirement.

She also asked if the string lights on the Town Bridge will be removed and the lanterns to be used instead. Cllr Gibson reported that to repair the lights would mean closing the bridge, meanwhile some remedial work had been done, but further faults had been uncovered and had not resolved the problem hence why the temporary string lights remain.

Jes Wire informed the committee that the CPRE are running their annual Star counting event planned from the 26th Feb- 6th March for more information click on this link <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/star-count-2022/>

This involves counting stars with the naked eye in the constellation of Orion in order to assess level of light pollution.

LOB Questions to BOA Town Council Green Spaces and Environment Committee meeting 1st Feb 2022

1. (Three part Question)

1a) Please could the council state how the tree works in Becky Addy Wood are to be funded and Will the cost be made public? At the last meeting of this committee the funding source was not known.

1b) Last October, a number of trees in the wood were wrongly assessed as "dead" and are now showing Spring buds.

If the health of the trees and therefore the risk of harm to the public were to be re-assessed at the correct time of year, and if the trees wrongly assessed as "dead" last October were to be excluded from the felling, would the chair agree that a significant sum of money (as well as important ecological habitat) could be saved from the public purse?

1c) If funds are coming from a grant, will the grant holder be informed of the above, and that the extent of disease in the trees has been seriously questioned by the Friends of Becky Addy Wood, a partner organisation and major stakeholder ?

2. We understand that several licences will be needed for the felling.

The first of which would be a Forestry Commission felling licence.

Has this licence been applied for and if not when is it planned that this application will be submitted?

Others have asked this question but no response has yet been received.

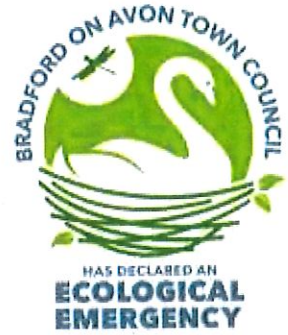
3. Do the committee members believe that they had enough information at their last meeting on the 16th November to make a decision to accept the findings of the October 2021 tree survey which none of the Councillors, nor the Friends of Becky Addy Wood had had sight of at the time of that meeting ?

Lisa Otter-Barry

Chair FROBAW

119A Upper Westwood BA15 2DP

Under 2mins



Alex Kay, Environment & Greenspaces Chairman's report for Tuesday 01/02/22

Environment

1. Greener Christmas cards: 750 cards distributed around town.
2. Climate & Ecological Emergency Display in Library: new material needed: domestic heating info.
3. CHEESE & CFBOA domestic energy meeting 21/01/22
4. FairTrade meeting 26/01/22
5. Wiltshire Council Neighbourhood Planning presentation 27/01/22
6. Eco-Pavilion update meeting 28/01/22
7. Christine's Sustainable Supermarket Climate Challenge, ?March 2022: teams of 5 needed, get info from Christine's, a big prize can be won ... be the neighbourhood doing the most towards reducing your carbon-footprint

Press release from Wiltshire Council 25/01/22 on Climate Emergency and Green-Blue Infrastructure Strategies:

Cabinet to consider next steps for tackling climate change in Wiltshire

At its meeting on Tuesday 1 February, Wiltshire Council's Cabinet will look at the next steps for tackling climate change and improving the natural environment in the county, as it seeks to approve the Climate Strategy and the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy, Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan.

There were more than 1,300 responses from residents, businesses and organisations across Wiltshire in the recent Climate Strategy consultation and Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan consultation, held between 1 September and 17 October 2021.

The Climate Strategy sets out the next five years of the council's journey to becoming a carbon neutral county, covering seven themes: transport; homes and the built environment; natural environment, food and farming; energy; green economy; waste; and carbon neutral council. The strategy also features high-level objectives for each of the themes. As part of the consultation, respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the objectives. Most people agreed with the objectives, with 90% of respondents 'agreeing' or 'strongly agreeing' to all but five of the objectives.

Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan sets out the future for supporting and enhancing Wiltshire's natural environmental assets for the benefit of people, nature and to help address climate change.

Cllr Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, said: "We had some very valuable responses to these two consultations, and this feedback have been thoroughly analysed, with officers providing detailed reports, which we'll consider in Cabinet.

"If approved by Cabinet and then Full Council, we'll adopt both the Climate Strategy and Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan, and their principles and objectives will be weaved into everything we do as a council. Using these strategies as a framework, services are drawing up delivery plans to help us to reduce carbon emissions both as a council and across the county.

"We have already reduced our own carbon emissions as a council by 80% since 2013/14, but we have more to do. If Cabinet agrees to these two strategies it will be another huge step forward for our plans to tackle climate change and support the natural environment in Wiltshire."

If Cabinet agrees to take the revised strategies forward, they will then go to Full Council on 15 February for final approval and adoption.

To read the Cabinet reports, people should go to <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=13780>



C.H.E.E.S.E & BOATC & CFBOA: Domestic Heating Project Meeting Friday 21st January 2022

Attendees:

Michael Andrews, CEO THE C.H.E.E.S.E PROJECT C.I.C
Patch Young, Survey Manager THE C.H.E.E.S.E PROJECT C.I.C
Matthew Roake, Climate Friendly BOA, Energy Advisor
Simon Forsyth, Climate Friendly BOA, Energy Advisor
Cllr Sarah Gibson, (BOATC & WC), Mayor
Cllr Alex Kay, BOATC Energy & Greenspaces Chair
Ian Brown, Director of Operations, BOATC

Background

- It is recognised that domestic energy use is a significant component of the carbon footprint of Bradford on Avon and is potentially something that as a community and as individuals, it is one that we can make an impact. The rapidly increasing fuel costs make this even more important for the wellbeing of our residents.
- The Town Council agreed (Sept, '21) to support a Climate Friendly Questionnaire to gather details of BoA domestic heating use, the results of which would provide data granularity to the carbon-foot print calculations (e.g. 3.6t Ce on average per household from <https://www.cse.org.uk/>). By multiplying up for the town as a whole this survey data could help build a baseline view on the scale of the "fabric" problem in the town's entire housing stock (Current CO₂ impact, potential for CO₂ savings and budgetary cost of remediation).
- CHEESE (Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts) <https://cheeseproject.co.uk/> is a not-for-profit organisation set up specifically to address fuel poverty by using bespoke heat-tracing technology and methodology which can provide detailed heat-loss information from homes. These leaks can be addressed, often quite simply and cheaply to some extent, resulting fuel and cost savings.
- We discussed a practical way forward to support Bradford on Avon homes by combining the CFBOA questionnaire design and results with sample thermal-tracing survey results on a range of different houses, with the aim of providing some simple solutions to save energy and thereby also fuel and engaging residents to consider improving efficiency (and reduction in waste) of their domestic heating.
- This is considered the beginning of a longer-term project which could act as a pilot for other communities across Wiltshire.

Actions & recommendations: subject to approval/detail:

1. Climate Friendly (Simon F) to work with CHHESE to align questions to optimise data-gathering and for release via BOATC and CF channels asap (already approved);
2. Purchase thermal-trace surveys and advice for a sample of 5 or so basic house types in the near term for preliminary results to be used in local workshop/event.
3. Provide budget for thermal-tracing surveys in (near future, maybe next early next winter) as prizes for completing the domestic heat use questionnaire and/or subsidised surveys of more housing to add to database and improve cover of understanding of problems and remedial actions.
4. Consider other small fuel-saving 'prizes' to raise profile
5. Details of budget for 2022 to be established, but approval for immediate heat-trace survey costs to be made available (up to £2k).
6. Delivery of anonymised data on the energy efficiency status of all houses surveyed in BOA, ideally by at least type and age of property (aligned with survey classifications?) to build a baseline.

7. Obtain advice on what CHEESE has done in conjunction with other local authorities and what they think has worked for improving the energy efficiency in those areas.
8. BOATC event pm Thursday 11th March (tbc)
 - a. presentation from CHEESE and others as appropriate,
 - b. display of findings of local surveys (as available),
 - c. provide quick clues for heat loss improvement,
 - d. further promote survey and advice,
 - e. demos or displays of other technologies etc., concerning sustainability of domestic fuel.
9. To be discussed at Environmental & Greenspaces Committee Meeting Tuesday 1st Feb 2022 from 7pm, St Margarets Hall, Bradford on Avon.