



NOTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH JUNE 2023
AT 6PM IN THE MARDEN PARISH OFFICE

1. **PRESENT:**
Cllrs Matt Besant & Anne Boswell (took the notes).
2. **APOLOGIES:**
Cllrs Ian Newton & Andy Turner.
3. **NOTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP HELD ON 21ST FEBRUARY 2023**
Noted.
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**
These had been amended and adopted at Full Council on 14th March 2023 and uploaded to the website under 'Environment'.
5. **AMENITIES ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**
This had been adopted at Full Council on 14th March and uploaded to the website under 'Environment'. It was proposed that now we have an Environmental Policy, we open the group up to residents as it was felt we have reached a hiatus and need more assistance. Also to ask MBC and KCC for help and ideas.
6. **MPC DRAFT ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**
This has not been ratified by Full Council and still needs amendment. Cllr Boswell to meet with Clerks to discuss and place on the July Amenities agenda.
7. **MAINTENANCE STRATEGY**
Cllr Besant has drafted a Maintenance Strategy for Southons Field and the Playing Field which is on the June Amenities agenda and will draft one for the Cemetery soon. This strategy ties in with the draft Estate Management Plan.
8. **CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT FOR MARDEN**
This report was discussed at the February meeting and included in the Spring Newsletter. It was suggested it be used as a rolling initiative and various items feature in the newsletter. Cllr Boswell has included the following in the Summer Newsletter: **Solar Together – Cut Carbon Emissions and Save on Energy Bills; Can I Really Get a Free Insulation Grant; Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Grant; Sustainable Warmth Grants; Help Identify Cost Recovery on your Utility Bills.**

Cllr Besant has asked a resident to provide a piece on **Retrofitting Your Home and will chase for inclusion in the Autumn Newsletter.** The Clerks to place the document on the website under 'Environment'.
9. **COMMUNITY CHARGE POINT**
It was suggested that MPC explores the possibility of looking at an electric charge point at the Memorial Hall, but the Clerk advised this had been discussed at the Memorial Hall Committee and it was thought this would be too expensive. It was suggested that the Admin Assistant explore grants for village halls on EC Chargepoints – KCC have a scheme but not sure this is currently available. It was also suggested that The Unicorn public house could investigate installing one.

10. NALC CLIMATE EMERGENCY NETWORK SESSION – 4TH MAY

Cllr Boswell had attended this session and circulated the notes to Cllrs.

11. NALC DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION NOTES FOR SMALLER COUNCILS

Cllr Boswell had forwarded the document prior to the meeting. These draft guidance notes are for small parish councils with a minimum of 5 councillors. Points of note:

- Make contact with neighbouring parishes to discover what action they are taking. It was suggested we contact Staplehurst and/or Paddock Wood.
- Set up a working group with representatives from the local community to assess the practicalities of a local action plan and seek the necessary funding.
- Declare a Climate Emergency - If 50% of all councils decide not to do anything, Net Zero won't be achieved by 2035. It was felt there was no point MPC declaring a climate emergency if it doesn't achieve anything!

12. NALC – COMMENTING ON LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS – DRAFT GUIDANCE IN RESPECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Cllr Boswell had forwarded details prior to the meeting. It was suggested that once MPC receive agreement from MBC on the proposed amendments to the Marden Neighbourhood Plan, we can then look at new policies.

13. MBC CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT WEBSITE

It was proposed that MPC contacts the MBC Environment Officers as we need more assistance with small scare projects particularly as we don't have enough resources and time. As mentioned in item 4, it was proposed that we reach out to residents to explore ideas and who may be able to assist with projects.

14. MBC CARBON LITERARY TRAINING AND PARISH COUNCIL NET ZERO GOALS

MBC was going to advise when the training was being delivered and were drafting a template for Parish Councils. Cllr Boswell to make contact again.

15. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Cllr Boswell had been approached by a local resident who is an environmentalist and is launching an initiative and would like to pilot this initiative in Marden. It was proposed that Cllr Boswell contacts the resident and invite her to the next meeting.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Attendance of the Environmental Sub-Group meetings at 6pm prior to Planning does not always work out and it was felt if they are held on a Saturday morning this is yet another commitment. Alternatively, they could be held on another evening in the week and if it is agreed to now expand the working group to residents, there is more of a likelihood they are better attended. To discuss at the Amenities Committee on 27th June and take to Full Council.