



**NOTES FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST
FEBRUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE**

1. PRESENT

Cllrs Besant, Boswell & Turner.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Newton

3. AGREEMENT OF NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

Notes from Environmental Sub-Group held on 6th December – agreed.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

ratified at Amenities on 25th October 2022. However, Cllrs agreed the wording needs to be amended and suggest delete “The Deputy Clerk will clerk any meeting” to “A nominated individual to take the notes”.

5. AMENITIES ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Cllrs agreed the policy does not need to be amended at this stage.

**6. MPC DRAFT ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND GROUNDS
MAINTENANCE**

The draft was taken to Amenities on 24th January 2023 and Cllr Boswell has made further amendments along with the Clerk. Cllrs discussed and suggested various further amendments. Cllr Boswell will discuss with the Clerk before Amenities.

7. CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT FOR MARDEN

The Admin Assistant was thanked for preparing this report which was broken down into consumption based and territorial emissions. It shows that Marden’s carbon footprint is above that of Maidstone which is also higher than the UK average. Most likely reasons are inefficient housing stock and unsustainable travel. It was also suggested making a comparison with another Parish e.g. Staplehurst on their carbon footprint.

This document to be used as a rolling initiative and various items can be featured in the Parish Newsletter. It was suggested:

- Trying to encourage residents to retrofit their homes and to feature a ‘Showcase House’ and how much saving has been made e.g. installation of solar panels;
- Feature the Government-backed EC04 scheme to help provide funding for households to help them improve the energy efficient (EPC) of their home and help to reduce their carbon footprint.

8. NALC DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

Cross reference to the Marden Neighbourhood Plan and see if there are any principal activities that we could implement e.g. engaging with the community by holding a household survey – see item 11 below.

9. OFFSETTING EVENTS EMISSIONS

<https://co2.myclimate.org/en/event>

This is a complex document covering all eventualities and to be used at the King's Coronation Event on 8th May 2023. It was suggested that the Clerks be mindful that any products that are purchased for the event are not plastic such as plastic hats and separate bins be used for rubbish. The Parish Council needs to show that we are trying to be sustainable and the event be marketed as 'Eco Friendly'.

Stallholders should be mindful of being sustainable e.g. no plastic cups. It was suggested that attendees could use the same glass/cup for all their drinks. One way of doing this could be attendees purchase a cup on arrival to use on all the drink stalls – 1000 Vegware Compostable Cold Cups 16oz - £118.99 for 1000.

It will be difficult to understand what the carbon emissions are at the event, and it was suggested that the stallholders most likely to generate emissions e.g. the BBQ, the stage etc. be asked how much energy they think they will be using. A post event analysis to be undertaken and the Parish Council can mitigate the environmental impact of the event by the planting of various trees and saplings which we are currently in the process of doing. n.b. A typical tree can absorb around 21 kilograms of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year. However, this figure is only achieved when the tree is fully grown - saplings will absorb significantly less than this. Over a lifetime of 100 years, one tree could absorb around a tonne of CO₂.

10. MPC OPEN SPACE BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Refer to MBC Climate Change & Biodiversity Policy

<file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/Biodiversity-Climate-Change-Strategy.pdf> Can be used to inform local planning policy and decisions. *Defer item – Cllr Boswell will look at.*

11. NATURE RECOVERY PLAN

running alongside the MNP and to tie in with Estate Management Plan.

Defer item – Cllr Besant will look at.

12. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Event and/or Survey for Residents to Complete - Involving the local community can be time consuming but is vital to secure support for new initiatives as well as providing a source of ideas, volunteers and resources. There are several techniques that may be employed, including:

- A household survey, that can generate a local mailing list of interested people
- Community workshops on particular topics
- “Walking workshops” with a tour of the local area
- Talks by specialist professionals
- Online maps for people to locate and post ideas and suggestions
- Neighbourhood and wellbeing planning events
- Open house events from residents who have made low carbon changes
- Supporting all the above through newsletters, social media and websites.

13. MBC FEBRUARY SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKMBC/bulletins/34762e6>

Items include: The Big Green Week 12-18 June – did not come up with anything the Parish Council could organise in time for the event.

14. ONGOING ITEMS**Carbon Literacy Training**

MBC Sustainability Officers will advise once ready for delivery.

Parish Council Net Zero Goals

MBC Sustainability Officers drafting a plan/template for Parish Councils and other resources.

Local Climate Action Plan

NALC has drafted this template and the Admin Assistant has put into a document. This could be a useful tool and the Environmental Group to revisit at a future date.

Good Practice Template Review

NALC has drafted and could be a useful tool in the future.

NALC Climate Emergency Session

14th February – Cllr Boswell attended and gave feedback

KALC

NALC had suggested that County Associations should be sharing info on funding opportunities and creating a Climate Change Toolkit to share with Town & Parish Councils.

Action: The Clerk to check out the KALC Members Page to see if there is any info on there.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18th April at 6pm in the Parish Office.