

Members discussed:

- Whether the project could proceed without grant support. The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised that this would be for the sub committee to decide.
- Whether to replicate the project at Bridport Football Club Car Park. The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised that this had been looked at, and officers' recommendation was to learn from the initial project at Plottingham before deciding on other sites, or whether to consider funding alternative carbon reduction projects. He also advised that Octopus Energy were not able to accept business customers at present, so the engagement with Energy Local Bridport would only be for supply of electricity at this point.
- Whether a further grant from Low Carbon Dorset would be available for a future repeat of this project. The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised that a second project would need to show innovation. Members considered whether supplying energy to nearby local businesses might achieve this.

Following discussion, members indicated a preference to proceed with the installation at Plottingham only at this stage, in accordance with the previously agreed project plan.

With reference to alternative future projects, the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised that he was in discussion with Low Carbon Dorset regarding the Raise the Roof project to deliver a prototype building as a demonstrator for the Vearse Farm development.

The Chairman thanked the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer for his work.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer be noted.

32. PLASTIC FREE BRIDPORT

Cllr Ian Bark updated members on the Plastic Free Bridport initiative. He advised that work with community groups was now complete and the next stage would be to engage with businesses. This was being held back to allow businesses to focus on the challenges of COVID-19. Cllr Bark advised that the project would need the formal minuted support of Bridport Town Council as a requirement of plastic free status.

Members considered:

- The use of the term 'plastic free' and the need to be clear that the aim was to reduce the use of single use plastics as far as possible.
- The benefit of including initiatives in settings that are usually overlooked such as hairdressers. Cllr Karen Hunt agreed to liaise with Cllr Bark on this.
- The prevalence of plastic packaging in shopping deliveries. Members considered promotion of the best means of disposal.
- A reflective piece for the next Mayoral blog, asking "how green was your Christmas?"

RESOLVED: that Bridport Town Council supports the Plastic Free Bridport initiative, and the project to achieve plastic free status.

33. DORSET COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the draft consultation response, ENCL: 3574.

The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised there was a need for proof reading for typographical errors.

Cllr Karen Hunt reported that she has some additional comments for inclusion.

Responding to a suggestion from Cllr Julian Jones, the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised that a request for the strategy to include measurable targets had been included in the draft response.

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that he had asked a question at the last meeting of Dorset Council's Full Council, about the intended actions after the closure of the consultation. The response was that there would be statistical analysis and the results would be monitored. Suggested amendments would be considered by the Climate Emergency Executive Advisory Panel in February 2021. A revised draft strategy would then be tabled for committee, Cabinet and Full Council in April 2021. Members expressed concern about the short time between closure of the consultation and consideration by Dorset Council members.

RESOLVED: that following incorporation of comments from Cllr Hunt, the Town Council's response to the consultation be submitted to Dorset Council under delegation by the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman and Cllr Kelvin Clayton liaise to agree a written expression of concern about the consultation process and timescales, for submission to all members of the Dorset Council Climate Emergency Executive Advisory Panel.

RESOLVED: that a media release be issued highlighting the Town Council's response to the consultation, with a link from the home page of the Council's website.

34. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

The Chairman reported that she and the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer were developing priority actions from the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan. Views from all town councillors would be welcomed.

35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next sub committee meeting will take place on Thursday 28 January at 11am.

RESOLVED: that meetings of the sub committee for 2021 be scheduled for the last Thursday of each month, all at 11.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.26pm.