

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB-COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday 23 June 2022 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark (Chairman from item 2)

Rose Allwork                      Karen Hunt  
Kelvin Clayton                  Dave Rickard

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer), Caroline Pearce (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer) and Helen Scholes (Co Cars) until 11:46am.

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ian Bark be elected as Chairman of the sub-committee.

Members thanked Cllr Rose Allwork for her work in chairing the sub-committee to date.

### PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

### 2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 26 May 2022 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that agenda item 6 (Car & E-Bike Clubs – Consultation) be brought forward for consideration at this point.

### 5. CAR & E-BIKE CLUBS – CONSULTATION

David Dixon summarised the consultation process. A residents' survey had been overseen by Co Cars and ran until the end of May 2022.

Helen Scholes of Co Wheels then gave a presentation on the survey, the main points being:

- 144 people, or 1% of the population, had responded.
- Issues in respect of a car club included a mix of trip types, booking durations, and the availability of cars. 43% said they could either give up a car, or not buy one if a club was in place. Pressure on fuel prices could be an encouragement to consider the car club as an alternative to a second car.
- On e-bikes, 85% of respondents had indicated either yes, or maybe, to using an e-bike scheme. There had been a good spread of responses and a large degree of positivity and potential uses, including connections to work, transport and retail.
- The survey had provided a mailing list of 105 people for further engagement.

Members discussed:

- Possible further work on e-bikes, to include cargo bikes.
- Addressing issues of charging points and car locations, to enhance the viability of a car club scheme.
- A need for precise circumstances to be established, to estimate scheme costs.
- Factors affecting the viability of an e-bike scheme, including docking types, and the number of bikes.
- Possible grant support for an e-bike scheme, focusing on the environmental, deprivation, and inclusion impact.
- The extent of support and partnership offered by Co Cars in implementing car and e-bike schemes, which would need further discussion with the company.
- A need to engage with Dorset Council and charging point provider Mer, in developing possible locations.
- Electricity network capacity, to support the required charging points.
- Engagement with surrounding parishes, where demand had been identified.
- Whether an e-bike scheme would be technically more feasible than a car club, with reduced power requirements, pop-up docks, and less space required. Locations and land ownership would remain as challenging issues.
- Survey response levels indicating perhaps two cars, and up to six e-bikes across two docks. Helen indicated that her colleague Mark Hodgson would be best placed to advise on these matters.
- Potential support from Dorset Council through its charging partner Mer, who were also looking at rapid charging points.
- Interest in a car club in Lyme Regis.
- Opportunities to engage on a wider basis through the Dorset Climate Action Network, and with holiday parks and the developers of the Foundry Lea development.

RESOLVED: that David Dixon should further engage with Mark Hodgson at Co Cars, Dorset Council, Mer, holiday parks, and local parishes, and explore costs and funding for a further report to the sub-committee.

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that he had raised the possible integration of Dorset Council's Local Plan, Climate Emergency Action Plan, and Transport Strategy, with Cllr David Walsh. The Local Transport Plan was an obstacle, as it was jointly drafted for Dorset and BCP Councils, the latter being reticent about policy decisions.

The Town Clerk provided feedback from Bude & Stratton Town Council on its involvement in a car club scheme. The Town Council was not a direct partner, but had provided storage locations. The scheme was operating and had experienced some early power capacity and reliability issues.

## **6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

In respect of the Energy Champions project, Caroline Pearce reported that:

- She had engaged with stakeholders to clarify their local activity and avoid duplication.
- She had also met with the energy champions.
- Locations for energy stalls were being sought, and the Bridport 'Glut' stall was considered a possible location for a July event.
- A meeting with Citizens Advice, who also provide energy advice, had elicited possible future work in September.
- The Medical Centre was another possible location.
- A roadshow, partnering with Ridgewater Energy, was planned for October in Skilling or Court Orchard.
- Work was ongoing to develop a social media presence for the energy champions.

Members considered:

- The level of involvement with the volunteer energy champions, which was reported to be reducing.
- The potential for work with Magna Housing, who had already provided some information.
- The need for delegated funding to develop these activities.

RESOLVED: that £2,500 be allocated for further development of the Energy Champions project, and that spending decisions be delegated to the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer for this funding and any remaining funds available from the original project allocation.

David Dixon reported that:

- Dorset Council had been engaged in development of proposals arising from the Access & Movement Study, which would be brought forward to members.
- He had been working with local business on achieving 'net zero'. A survey was the most likely means of gathering views and information.
- He had also engaged with Crowdfunder and Stir to Action, to fund drop-in sessions that would contribute to an investment plan for Bridport. This could be used in support of Shared Prosperity and other funding bids.

RESOLVED: that the reports of the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer be noted.

## **7. FOOD SECURITY**

Cllr Rose Allwork reported that she had circulated a document for discussion. Members considered how best to take this matter forward.

RESOLVED: that a task and finish group comprising sub-committee members be convened, to consider food security.

**8. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES**

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that he would be meeting with Chris Loder MP the following day, and would raise the issue of car clubs with him.

The Town Clerk provided an update on progress towards the installation of solar car ports. The Town Council had agreed to underwrite the cost of grant support, should the project be delayed by Western Power Distribution's timescales for provision of a three-phase supply, but it was expected that the project would be delivered by the required grant deadline of November 2022.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: that the meeting scheduled for 21 July 2022 be cancelled, and that the next meeting take place on 18 August 2022.

The meeting closed at 12:35pm.

**The next Sub Committee meeting was due to have taken place on Thursday 21 July 2022, but this has been cancelled and the next meeting will now take place on Thursday 18 August 2022 at 11:00am.**