

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 18 August 2022 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark (Chairman)

Rose Allwork	Karen Hunt
Kelvin Clayton	Dave Rickard (from 11.08am)

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer) and Caroline Pearce (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer).

PUBLIC FORUM

Three members of the public attended and two addressed the Public Forum.

Glenda Willis spoke about the work of the Chapel in the Garden, including that aimed at supporting people in fuel poverty. A café on Wednesday and Saturday mornings was open to all, and a variety of spaces were available with heating that was due to be upgraded. Glenda considered this an opportunity to engage in offering space as support to people affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Ed Brand spoke in relation to the provision of properties willing to participate in a 'warm rooms' initiative in the coming months and how this would be administered and promoted. Churches were already involved in similar work and this presented an opportunity to develop a network of venues that could offer food, information, and advice. Ed advised that he was happy to be involved as an individual volunteer.

Cllr Dave Rickard joined the Public Forum at this point (11.08am)

Caroline Pearce (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer) provided extensive details of a similar scheme established some years ago in Northumberland, including how planning and logistical obstacles had been overcome, to provide a very resilient service, in all weathers. She advised that she had made contact with a range of potential providers of warm rooms.

A discussion followed regarding the potential role of the Town Council in facilitating a network of warm rooms, and considered:

- Accessibility of venues;
- A timetable of availability;
- Support to groups providing such a service;
- Training requirements;
- Funding;
- Capacity;
- The desirability of countywide involvement by Dorset Council;
- A mapping and assessment exercise as a starting point for developing the service;
- A possible pilot exercise involving a small number of organisations; and
- The need for volunteer support.

10. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 23 June 2022 be agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

13. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer, ENCL: 3733, who summarised progress, and proposed revised actions detailed in the report, including:

- Amendments to take account of food security as a priority area;
- Progress with development of an investment plan for Bridport, and a proposed public session on 15 September 2022 that would consider the environmental aspects of the plan;
- Further updates required following discussions with Co Cars, and following the installation of replacement windows at Mountfield; and
- Progress with solar car ports.

Members discussed:

- The relative benefits of using energy generated by solar car ports for Council and public electric vehicle charging rather than selling into the grid;
- The possibility of using energy generated for e-bike charging as part of an e-bike club scheme; and
- Town Council divestment from Barclays Bank, which would be a matter for consideration at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer be noted, and that the revisions therein be approved.

14. FOOD SECURITY

Consideration was given to a report recommending actions from the last task and finish group meeting on the 21 July 2022, ENCL: 3734.

Members discussed:

- The scope of action on local food initiatives, and in particular whether this included home grown food, horticulture, allotments and agriculture. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that establishing the scope would require further work and consultation, and that the Melplash Show presented an opportunity;
- A preference for an initial focus on businesses and growers;
- A definition of 'essential' food; and
- The need for a manageable and swift mapping exercise.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer be noted, and that the actions therein be approved.

15. ENERGY CHAMPIONS

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer reported that:

- Proposed events for the Great Big Green Week, with advice leaflets;
- A roadshow event planned to be held in the Skilling area involving the Energy Champions, Citizens Advice, Ridgewater Energy, Magna Housing, and the artist Jo Burlington. Dorset Council had provided funding, for the roadshow and for infra red cameras;
- A further roadshow event planned for the Court Orchard area;
- Activity to promote the LEAP scheme; and
- Resilience training scheduled for 15 September 2022 that would help to develop a Flood Warden scheme.

Members considered:

- The need for flood alleviation support to be identifiable to the public; and
- The number of people that would receive resilience training, which was reported to be 15.

A further discussion followed, aimed at developing the principles for a 'warm rooms' scheme in Bridport. Members discussed:

- Whether sessions should be in the morning, afternoon, and evening ;
- The immediacy of need;
- The suitability of existing spaces in the town;
- Mapping criteria for venues against available spaces;
- The role of the Town Council in coordinating a scheme;
- The need for spaces to be warm, friendly and available daily;
- Involvement of volunteers such as Ed Brand, who had spoken during the Public Forum;
- The possibility of the Youth & Community Centre as a venue, which Cllr Kelvin Clayton advised he would consider in his capacity as Chair of the Youth & Community Centre Trust;
- Addressing any 'gaps' in provision;
- The possibility of the Children's Centre as a venue;
- The potential use of after school clubs; and
- The need for both an immediate response and a longer-term strategy.

RESOLVED: that a warm rooms mapping exercise be undertaken, and that existing availability be promoted.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

16. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

No communications were reported.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 29 September at 11am.

The meeting closed at 12.47pm.