

## STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### **NOTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2022 AT 6PM AT 'VIRTUAL' LOCATIONS USING VIDEO AND AUDIO LINK**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor Amanda Wheeler (Chair), Councillor Shaun Ford (Vice-Chair), Councillor Dave Dorson, Councillor Lisa Brewin, Patricia Stuart-Mogg (Town Clerk)

**ALSO PRESENT** Deanna Donovan (Sustainable Stamford), Jenny Hall (Resident), Jim Irvine (Resident), John Polkinghorne (Sustainable Stamford), Simon Batty (Resident), Michael Temple (Sustainable Stamford), Lauren Bennett (Langdyke Trust), Kayleigh Nicolaou (Extinction Rebellion), Paddy Jelen (Civic Society), Jane Bateman (Sustainable Stamford) and Rachel Butler (Rivers Trust)

#### **478. WELCOME**

Councillor Amanda Wheeler welcomed all to the meeting.

#### **479. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Gloria Johnson (Town Mayor), Councillor Joanne Winterbourne, Val Harvey (Sustainable Stamford), Hannah Gold (Resident), Jane Rutherford (Resident), had submitted their apologies. These were noted and accepted.

#### **480. TO CONFIRM THE NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 08 December 2021, had been circulated and reviewed. From LCC There were no matters raised and the content was confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

#### **481. ACTION POINTS:**

- i. *Wildflowers* – It was reported from Councillors Wheeler that permission was being sought from LCC for wildflower planting along Tinwell Road and Casterton Road. The Town Clerk confirmed that plans had been sent to LCC Highways plotting the locations and is awaiting a response. Councillor Wheeler invited all members attending the meeting to join her with the planting activity which is scheduled at the end of February and would involve four or five Sunday mornings to sow the seed, following permission being acquired. It was noted that Stamford College and some Nursery Groups were also interested in being involved. Paddy Jelen informed the meeting that the strip of land on Brazenose Lane needs attention as no wildflowers appeared to have seeded. It was noted that the seeds planted by the CAWG were sown to provide seasonal colour. The initial planting involved two types of seed being sown, an annual mix and a perennial mix of indigenous species. The annual mix will flower this year, providing some colour and coverage, the main mix of perennials will flower next year. Professionals were consulted on the type of seed planting. The zones along Tinwell Road and Casterton Road will be different.
- ii. *Tree Planting* – The Town Clerk reported that all the locations selected for tree planting are being plotted each is being assessed for suggested trees to be planted under the climate mitigation strategy. The window for planting is before March when the nesting period commences. It was recognised that planting trees is important and may bring its own challenges, but it is imperative that professional services should be consulted to ensure that the correct provenance tree is being planted. There was a suggestion that consultation with Burghley's Head Forrester may also prove to be beneficial. It was noted residents have come forward to be involved in tree adoption. Rachel Butler informed the meeting that she is had taken over responsibility for the Meadows Millstream and Welland River project for the River Trust. Councillor Mrs L Brewin confirmed that she is also involved with the Millstream and Councillor Dorson outlined the work which involved the Amenities Committee as the Millstream was part of the Meadow which under the management of the

Town Council. Rachel Butler confirmed that the project was being led by Rivers Trust with financial contributions being made by the Town Council and Civic Society. The flow of the Millstream is an issue of which Anglia Water is aware, and it was hoped that this could be addressed soon.

It was noted that several individuals have volunteered to support the project, with the Town Council considering it as a Team Building exercise. During discussions it was noted that tree coverage in Lincolnshire is the poorest nationally and very tree deficient. However, there are pockets of planting being undertaken around Stamford. Adaptation to Climate Change impact should be considered such as the provision of shade rather than planting for sequestration of carbon dioxide and it is important that the correct trees are planted in the appropriate locations. It was noted that the trees offered by LCC were not all appropriate for urban locations. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that she is working with SKDC's Sustainability and Climate Change Officer to develop the planting programme further. It was appreciated that the Town Council has agreed to planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy within her Platinum Jubilee year. It was noted that LCC are aware of the Town Council's initiative and will be bring forward other initiatives to address urban trees. It would be of interesting to investigate how Mediterranean countries are tackling adaptation to climate change

During discussion it was considered that letters should be sent to supermarkets, schools and business with land where trees could be planted. In the letter incorporation of the introduction of electric car charging points in their carparks powered by solar panels should be included and possibly developments with green roofs. This matter could also be raised with the District Council. **Action:** Cllr Wheeler

It was also suggested that shops could be encouraged to install automatic door closures to reduce their heating and air conditioning costs and decrease energy usage. Councillor Ford considered strong pressure should be exerted on the Planning Authority to make sure Developers include efficiently built houses with good insulation, solar panels and electrical vehicle charging points. However, there is an argument that electrical cars have an impact on the climate and what should be promoted are alternatives improving public transport and bus shelters with solar panels to provide energy for the latest electronic bus timetabling.

#### **482. STAMFORD CLIMATE PLAN**

Councillor Wheeler confirmed that a meeting was convened last week to explore the Climate Plan.

It was noted that each Local Authority has been provided with a Climate Crisis guide to reduce carbon emissions, in doing so recognising the importance of securing a vision to implement key actions in all aspects of its business to facilitate and promote endeavours to support that vision.

1. *Consultation:* It was considered that the appropriate initial step is to engage and consult the electorate in all Wards. This engagement should take the form of on-line, paper and face-to-face consultations in order to establish local issues which impact directly on the public within the Wards. This will provide the basis upon which to build the voice of the people.

2. *Council Climate Plan:* Examine all elements of Council business and activities where steps may be taken to mitigate the reduction of the Council's carbon emissions. To introduce an item on each Committee agenda: 'What impact decisions taken have on the Council's carbon emissions?' and to encourage its contractors and partners to support the Council's vision and actions.

3. *Risk Assessment:* Coordinate with Principal Authorities (County and District) to participate in a community-led plan to develop options resulting in the largest carbon reductions and also to better protect, respond to and recover from the effects of climate change (e.g., flooding, heatwaves, drought etc.), together with delivering a wide range of benefits in the interests of public health and wellbeing.

It was important that the next meeting that this matter is the main topic as SKDC's Sustainability and Climate Change Officer will be present. It was also important to request the Town Council reaffirm that there is a Climate Emergency, and a Plan should be adopted. It was noted that the Town Council has already written to Parliament, the Local MP and District to support the Climate Ecology Emergency Bill. **Action:** Cllr Wheeler

**483. STAMFORD MERCURY MONTHLY COLUMN**

The following schedule was reviewed for the Stamford Mercury monthly column on Climate issues:

*January:* Rosie Batty - Plastic litter Recycling

*February:* Jenny Hall – Grow Your Own Food

*March:* Rachel Butler– Water Security

*April:* Kayleigh Nicolaou – Changing to a plant base diet

As these articles are a channel to inform residents and to raise awareness, the focus should be on Refuse – Reduce - Redesign – Recycle – Reuse – Recover so the articles promote eco-sustainability, tackling waste and pollution. It is also important to introduce the consultation towards the Climate Crisis Plan.

**484. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 09 February 2022 at 6pm**

The Chairman - Closed the meeting at 7.20pm.