



NOTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6.00PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE, MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN

22. Present:

Cllrs Matt Besant, Anne Boswell, Adrian Rabot, Mike Summersgill and Andy Turner were present. Cllr Paul Dobinson and two members of the public (SF and EP) were also present.

23. Apologies:

No apologies were received.

24. Notes from the Environmental Sub-Group Meeting held on 2nd July 2024

The notes of this meeting were agreed.

25. Plastic Free Campaign.

Oliver Sterno, Community Leader of Plastic Free Eastbourne joined the meeting via Zoom to explain how the community of Marden can get involved in the Plastic Free campaign:

<https://plasticfree.org.uk/> As a first step, MPC need to lead by example to remove single-use plastic items and encourage plastic-free initiatives to promote the campaign and undertake a plastic audit.

SF and EP are provisionally happy to take this initiative forward and a Local Resistance Steering Group would need to be established which would include at least one parish councillor.

Independently owned businesses in the parish would need to be involved (at least 5) who would agree to remove at least 3 plastic free items e.g. biodegradable food wrap, loose tea rather than tea bags, replace balloons with paper balls; work with Marden Primary Academy and raise awareness with village halls, the Church, Library and link up with community organisations. In addition, try to involve some of the big employers in the parish e.g. Burtons, Scarabs. Need to run two events to raise awareness of the campaign locally e.g. community clean up but separating non-recycling and recycling (*separate event to the Village Spring Clean where difficult to separate items*) and making a sculpture out of the waste. The school, scouts and Police Cadets could be involved in this (in the village centre only). Bearsted CAN are close to becoming a Plastic Free Community and MS will liaise on what they are doing. EP mentioned about screening a plastic Ocean Film (£120) at an event with refreshments. Wingham Parish Council held a 'Plastics Amnesty' event in June.

26. Action List from Environmental Sub-Group

AR looking at reformatting the action list.

27. Earth Charter Brainstorming Session

MB to create a table on the principles of the Earth Charter and what was discussed at the first session on 3rd June.

28. Engagement with MP

Letter sent to Katie Lam, Weald of Kent MP at end of July re climate emergency, asking where she stood on environmental issues, her ongoing support on the Climate & Ecology Bill and support for step-free access at Marden Station. EP has also sent an email to Katie Lam. MPC had not received a response yet.

29. **Parish Councils Environmental Network (PCEN) Meeting**
Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 2nd October at Hunton Village Club commencing at 7.00pm.
30. **Solar Panels on Public Conveniences Roof**
AR had received three quotes for five solar panels to provide 2,280KWh of electricity during daylight hours which was being discussed at Full Council. MPC had applied for a grant of £5k to Voltaia and waiting to hear if successful. MBC advised as a first step need to have a structural survey undertaken of the building to ensure the toilet block is safe to withstand an additional load of PV panels and once this has been done, MBC legal team will prepare a Licence of Alterations and provide costings. It was also suggested that as we need a Licence of Alterations, we can consider the installation of the water fountain which was deferred because of the cost of the licence.
31. **Carbon Literacy Training**
Raised at Full Council meeting on 9th July 2024 where it was agreed that all Cllrs and office staff be encouraged to undertake Carbon Literacy Training once MBC launch their next round of training. Local councils can also access the Carbon Literacy Project toolkit free of charge: <https://carbonliteracy.com/toolkits/> and EP has agreed to provide a piece for the Spring Newsletter on her Carbon Literacy action.
32. **NALC Climate Emergency Network Session**
Next session due on 12th October.
33. **Making Space for Nature Project**
MS attending training session on 26th September.
34. **Tree Management**
MB proposed to apply for another 1,000 saplings from TLC who have provided the last two lots of trees which would be planted to extend the hedgerow at the back of the Cemetery area late Winter.
AR has expressed an interest for 3,000 saplings from the National Highways Agency, but these could be for 2025/6 and shared with adjacent parishes. Discuss further in 2025.
A request was raised that the area where the existing saplings are planted at the back of Cemetery could be trimmed by the Caretakers – to discuss at next Amenities meeting. Also need to put in place a watering plan for 2025.
The Parish Clerk to chase the progress with MBC on Copper Lane TPO application.
35. **Hedgerow Management**
AB had sent the draft policy to MB but this has not yet been agreed.
36. **Pond Restoration**
An article had been placed in the Summer Newsletter asking for a pond warden in but nobody had come forward. MS still trying to get information from the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership. <https://kentdowns.org.uk/our-projects/heritage-ponds/>
37. **Thermal Imaging Camera**
MS has had no luck with MBC Environmental Health re hiring/borrowing a thermal imaging camera to look at loss of heat from dwellings and public buildings e.g. Memorial Hall. However, it was noted that an article had been published by Faversham Town Council operating a Thermal Imaging Scheme.
38. **Biodiversity Net Gain Training Slides**
To be deferred to the next meeting.

39. MBC Nature Recovery Declaration

Noted.

40. KALC Request for Climate Change Case Studies

Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) has requested that councils provide information on any projects irrelevant of the size and impact that councils have undertaken. MPC could provide information on solar panels, carbon literacy training, tree plants etc.

41. Engagement with Village Organisations, Businesses

Sub-Group to start planning for an open morning event, or hold a stall at a village event on what MPC are doing, arrange something for the Great Big Green Week in 2025.

42. Other Issues

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

MS is pushing with MBC for one to be installed in Marden car park and is talking to a new officer who is putting something together.

43. Date of Next Meeting

Proposed date Tuesday 19th November commencing at 6pm.

44. Items to discuss at Future Meetings:

Zero Waste on Wheels Van

Marden Ecohub Facebook page. AB to do an article in newsletter.

KCC + Take the Jump

See article from KALC news. KCC + Take the Jump area making a bid for National Lottery Action Fund – MPC could get involved.

Retrofitting

Cllr Besant has asked a resident to provide an article for the newsletter. We could look at getting a group of volunteers together e.g. local builders to explore the benefits and speak to the Little Green Energy Company.

The Great Collaboration/Place Based Initiative

– 100 actions local councils could take to tackle climate change:

<https://greatcollaboration.uk/> NALC Emergency Committee notes refer.

KALC Carbon Footprint Calculator

Whilst one was undertaken by the Admin Assistant for the parish as a whole, consider undertaking one for just MPC – see article on Kingsnorth Parish Council and how they have reduced their carbon footprint from 17.8 Tonnes CO₂E to 12.5 Tones CO₂E by replacing their diesel vehicle to electric, installing solar panels and installing charging points etc.