



NOTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND JULY 2024 AT 6.00PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE, MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN

1. **Present:**
Cllrs Matt Besant, Anne Boswell, Adrian Rabot, Mike Summersgill, Andy Turner were present. One member of the public (SF) was also in attendance.
2. **Apologies:**
There were no apologies.
3. **Notes from Environmental Sub-Group held on Tuesday 30th April 2024**
The notes of the meeting on 30th April 2024 were agreed.
4. **Action List from Environmental Sub-Group**
This had not been updated since the last meeting.
5. **Earth Charter Brainstorming Session Monday 3rd June**
Ran through some of the principles of the Earth Charter and started to look at what we had already achieved and what actions we can take going forward.
6. **Engagement with MP**
It was agreed at Amenities on 23rd April for Cllr Boswell to draft a letter asking what actions they were proposing on the environment and about step-free access at Marden Station. As the General Election is on 4th July, this would be drafted once the new MP for The Weald of Kent has been elected.
7. **Climate & Ecology Bill**
MS was going to speak to NALC but this has not been progressed.
8. **Parish Councils Environment Network (PCEN) Meeting 26 June 2024**
Cllr Summersgill chaired and Cllrs Besant and Boswell attended – see also items 9 and 10 below regarding Carbon Literacy Training.
9. **Carbon Literacy Training**
Feedback from PCEN meeting. Around 25 parish councillors from Maidstone Borough attended the Carbon Literacy Training which was presented by KCC on behalf of MBC. However, a number of Councillors had not been accepted for certification. MBC/KCC may run it again but Cllr Summersgill would speak to MBC on why people didn't achieve certification. It was emphasised at the NALC session (item 10 below) that Parish Clerks should attend the SLCC training and all MBC and MPC Councillors be encouraged to do the training.
10. **NALC Unleashing the Power of Local Councils to Tackle the Climate Emergency – 26th June**
Cllrs Boswell and Summersgill attended. Cllr Boswell drafted notes and points of interest included:
Woodland Trust
Can make a positive input to Neighbourhood Plans, free trees – online application delivered March and November and it was agreed that Cllr Rabot express an interest for 3k trees (share with other parishes such as Staplehurst/Collier Street) from the National Highways Agency.

Marden Wildlife Group

A request for a QR code be made for info on what's in the orchard behind the Parsonage.

TPO's

Clerk to be asked to contact MBC on the current situation with TPO application for Copper Lane.

Management Plan for Trees on New Developments

The Environment Act states it's a criminal offence if a developer/management company is in breach of 10% BNG. KCC were going to monitor but have not done so.

11. NALC Climate Emergency Network Session – Thursday 9th May

Nothing of note to mention.

12. Making Space for Nature Project

Where would we like to see future nature recovery targeted? Suggestions included: Back of Meades Close which was recently purchased (PROW running through it); creation of a wetland area as in flood plain; Chestnut area in Playing Field (think this has been mapped); Beult at front of Turkey Farm which is an ecological dead zone (riparian zone 2-5m); Lucks Way Open Space.

13. Hedgerow Management Policy

Cllr Boswell had contacted Marden Wildlife and two local farmers who advised they do regular hedgerow condition surveys on farmland and results uploaded to a national register: <https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org/healthy-hedgerows-survey>. They suggest MPC join in with what's already going on and would like more volunteers involved.

14. Solar Panels on the Roof of the Public Conveniences

Quotes received from the Little Green Energy Company – 5 panels to provide approx. 2,280kWh of electricity for the year during sunlight hours at an installation cost of £4,990 including scaffolding (quote doesn't include batteries) and Cllr Rabot had received a quote from Greenscape Energy (Solar Together Kent). Cllr Turner had had no luck with the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council grant officer. If we are unable to source a grant for this project, consider using MPC CIL money collected and ask MBC (as owners of the building) if they could consider waiving the cost of their Building Alteration Licence. NB. Since the meeting Cllr Boswell had spoken to the MPC Chairman and the Clerk who didn't think it was feasible for the electricity to be used by the library (as owned by KCC), instead it could be used to offset the costs of the public conveniences. A solar farm company had approached MPC regarding grant funding and this was due to be discussed at the Full Council meeting on 9th July.

15. Pond Restoration

Cllr Boswell had put an article in the recent MPC newsletter along with a shout out for a Pond Warden. Cllr Summersgill reported that the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership were not sure that the funding from DEFRA would continue and the pond also needs to be close to a river.

16. Thermal Imaging Camera

MBC and/or Kent Fire & Rescue have them and it was proposed to explore if we could hire/borrow and use to look at loss of heat from dwellings and public buildings e.g. Memorial Hall. Cllr Summersgill has been unable to find anybody from MBC to see if they have a thermal imaging camera.

17. Action plan for Climate Emergency

Cllr Summersgill reported that Heatwave Wardens have now been included in the Kent Resilience Forum but not as a primary consideration – ‘heatwave precautions’ but could not extend to Flood Warden scheme.

18. Retrofitting

Cllr Besant had asked a resident to provide an article for the newsletter. Cllr Summersgill had attended a Retrofitting session, but it focused on improvements to domestic properties and wasn’t much of a guide. English Heritage has guidance for improving old properties. Clarendon Homes are upgrading their social housing and using external insulation rather than internal – cost savings on heating.

19. Other Issues**Plastic Free Campaign**

SF suggested having an online call with Oliver Sterno, Community Leader of Plastic Free Eastbourne and he is happy to have a Zoom meeting on 3rd Sept at 6:00pm.

20. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd September at 6pm in the Parish Office.

21. Items to discuss at next meeting:**AV Points**

Put pressure on MBC re charge point in car park, Network Rail and Memorial Hall.

Contacting Village Organisations/Business

How we engage with village organisations and businesses on their environmental and biodiversity plans. It was suggested we could have an open morning letting the village know what we are doing, have a stall at a village fair or arrange something for the Great Big Green Week in 2025.

The Great Collaboration/Place Based Initiative

100 actions local councils could take to tackle climate change.