

NOTES OF THE **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2020** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs A Jones Chairman (Presiding)
Mrs C Bunday Vice Chairman

Councillors D Corney-Walker D Howe
C Davieson M Joyce (Dep Mayor)
M Hocking Mrs Lesley Sheffield

In attendance: Mrs K Crout

By Invitation: Mrs Audrey Compton ACTION on Climate
Kate Benham ACTION on Climate

Officers In attendance: Kelly Burrige - Events Co-ordinator
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

CE11. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Richard Jenks (Mayor) and Colin Parker.

CE12. INTERESTS

None declared.

CE13. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 9th October 2019 were received and signed as a correct record.

CE14. PRESENTATION – ACTION ON CLIMATE IN TEIGNBRIDGE

The Chairman introduced Audrey Compton, Founder Member of ACTION for Teignbridge and the Chairman of ACTION for Teignbridge Kate Benham to the meeting and invited them to update Members on the work for Climate Emergency in the town.

Ms Benham explained the background to the organisation, stating that it had formed following the District Authority's Declaration of Climate Emergency and was founded as an advisory body within the community of Teignbridge.

The group has a membership of over 200 volunteers based in Teignbridge and is supported by sharing information across the website and through social media. Ms Benham invited Councillors to attend forthcoming forum meetings to be held at Dawlish and Ashburton. The details of which would be provided.

Mrs Compton provided Members with her background interest in the local environment as a farmer, and countryside ranger living and working in Devon for over

50 years she had an appreciation of the effects of climate change on the environment at first hand. With the aid of presentation slides Mrs Compton raised the following key points:

- Rethink the way we live;
- Resist advertisements to buy the latest products;
- Reduce consumption and waste nothing;
- Rejoin the natural world;
- Develop community strategies that would strengthen communities;
- Select quick effective achievable goals to gain momentum;
- Tackle popular ideas to enable the community to join in and move forward;
- As a Planning consultee to assist in good decision making for use of land and future development without impacting the environment;
- Help residents and businesses cope with severe weather;
- Encourage community based travel initiatives;
- Improve air quality and control the amount of air pollution;
- Allow young people to stay to live and work in the communities they were brought up in;
- Management of council assets, buildings and amenities;
- Using green energy power source;
- Promote car sharing in the town;
- Develop community allotments and tree nurseries;
- Influence lighting schemes;
- Manage verges for wildlife and
- Encourage green tourism.

The Chairman invited Members to raise further questions in addition to comments made within the presentation, those being:

- The global impact of climate change and the major contributing nations; and
- To be less price driven and focused on actual consumption.

The Chairman thanked both Mrs Compton and Ms Benham for their informative presentation which had encouraged a lively debate among Members and would be useful in the Town Council's aspirations to address the Climate Emergency within the town. The Chairman invited both Mrs Compton and Ms Benham to leave the meeting.

CE15. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Chairman invited Councillor Mike Joyce (Dep Mayor) to update Members on the Town Council's response to the declaration of Climate Emergency.

Councillor Mike Joyce introduced his fellow councillors supporting him on the work on Climate Emergency; those being Councillors Mrs Karen Crout, Brian Hayes and Chris Jenks. Councillor Joyce explained the debate on Climate Emergency from central government through the tiers of local government to town and parish councils. He advised that the group would be meeting Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook on 23rd January, following which he would draft a summary report to circulate to Members.

In addition, Councillor Joyce referred to the Council's key asset, Newton's Place. He reported that despite being a Listed Building that the Clerk, Architect and Project team had done everything to reduce the carbon footprint. The Council vehicle was

currently under a lease agreement but when this was renewed it would be possible for the Council to consider the options available to lease a vehicle with reduced carbon emissions. The Council's other assets, such as the toilets at Newfoundland Way, Golden Lion Square, Victoria Gardens and the Town Quay offer fewer possibilities at this time.

Councillor Joyce summarised his report in offering Members his assurance that the group would continue to ensure that the Council would work towards its aims for Climate Emergency.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mike Joyce for his verbal update and accordingly it was;

AGREED that Councillor Mike Joyce would circulate a summary report following the Climate Emergency group's meeting with representatives of the District Authority.

CE16. NEWTON IN BLOOM DETAILS FOR 2020

A. LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

Members considered a variety of possible themes for the School Children's Competition for 2020. Whilst a number of alternative suggestions were made, following discussion it was;

AGREED that Climate Emergency would be the theme for 2020 School Children's Competition to include aspects such as the environmental impacts seen globally and the positive work towards reducing the effects of climate change. It was anticipated that it would appeal to the wide range of ages and abilities and allow for some variation among the entrants.

B. FLORAL DISPLAYS

The Chairman invited Miss Burrige to advise Members on the update from Idverde. Miss Burrige reported that the Idverde Contracts Manager, Mr Hickman was currently away on leave, but she was in the process of obtaining information on the planned planting scheme for the summer and would be pleased to forward the Idverde report to Members upon receipt.

C. SPONSORSHIP

The Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to update Members on the receipt of sponsorship for the forthcoming year. Miss Burrige reported that 80% of town centre planters had been sponsored for 2020 which was very positive. Miss Burrige invited any additional suggestions for potential sponsors since there were four possible sites remaining. These being one besides Lloyds Bank, two behind the St Leonard's Clock Tower and one by the gates at Wolborough Street. Mrs Sally Henley offered to assist in approaching local businesses who may be interested. Following discussion among Members it was;

AGREED that the Events Co-ordinator and Town Development Manager would follow up enquires with suggested businesses to seek sponsorship for the four additional planters.

CE17. ACCOUNTS/INCOME & EXPENDITURE

A. MUSEUM

The Community and Engagement Group received and noted the Income and Expenditure statements from 1st April 2018- 31st December 2019, previously circulated. It was noted that the remaining budget had been ear-marked for the Newton's Place Project and the Committee Administrator reported that £35,000 of the remaining budget was the sum bequeathed to the project as a legacy by Christiana Ditchburn. Mrs Robinson further reminded Members that the Curator, Felicity Cole had identified items for purchase for the new Museum Exhibition Space in advance of the Museum opening.

Following consideration, it was;

RECOMMENDED that
The Income and Expenditure Statement for the Museum be hereby noted and accepted.

B. NEWTON IN BLOOM

The Community and Engagement Group received and noted the Income and Expenditure statements from 1st April 2018- 31st December 2019 previously circulated. The Committee Administrator advised Members that the contract for Newton in Bloom had been extended by three years and had been considered in detail at the Strategic Planning Forum in November 2019 and further approved at the Meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee on 15th January 2020.

Following consideration, it was;

RECOMMENDED that
The Income and Expenditure Statements for Newton In Bloom be hereby, noted and accepted.

CE18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Engagement Group would be 18th March 2020 at 7.00 pm in the Town Hall.

CHAIRMAN