



# Lichfield City Council

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**Town Clerk: Anthony Briggs** BA (Hons), CILCA

10 January 2024

**To: Members of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee**

Councillors R Harvey-Coggins (Chair), and Councillors J Blackman, A Hughes, A Lax, A Rushton and E Strain.

Dear Councillor

**Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee to be held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall at **5.00pm on Wednesday 17 January 2024** for the transaction of the following business. Any Councillor unable to attend should forward their apologies to the Town Clerk.

Yours sincerely

Tony Briggs  
Town Clerk

## AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of this committee held on 1 November 2023 (copy attached) [*minutes adopted by council on 14 December 2023*] and any matters arising from those minutes.

**4. UPDATES TO COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

Following discussion at previous meetings of this committee a number of priorities have been agreed. Updates on these priorities are provided below:

**1. School 'Engine Idling' Poster/Bug Hotel Competition**

Following adoption by Council on 4 October of this Committee's recommendation that up to £1,000 of LCC Grant Reserves be allocated to the funding of School 'Clean Air Zone' posters, two were delivered following the first letter. At the request of the Committee, a second letter was sent to schools after the half term break, but no further posters were requested.

**2. Herb Garden Areas in LCC Open Spaces**

The Committee agreed this was a matter for further discussion at the 'Green Conversation' event, with sites to be considered in readiness for the next meeting. Initial suggested sites are listed overleaf, though no consultation with residents has taken place in advance of this meeting. It may be advisable to choose one site initially.

1. Site 13a – Furnivall Crescent, Stowe



2. Site 52 - Sheriff's Close, Boley Park



3. Site 2a – Garrick Close, Chadsmead



### **3. Green Networking Event – 29 November 2023**

A co-hosted event by this Committee, Lichfield Re:Cycle and Support Staffordshire, held in the Guildhall on 29 November 2023.

Support Staffordshire issued a summary report on 13 December which was circulated to all members of the council on 14 December. The summary report is also provided as **ENCLOSURE 1** to this agenda.

### **4. Water Fountains/Refill Points**

Discussion at the previous meeting included the possibility of a 'blended' approach; pursuing installation and discussions with SSW, while also promoting the possibility of window stickers for shops/businesses to advise that free water refills were available. The Chair stated that the 'Refill' bottles were of interest and that further discussion on these could take place at this meeting.

### **5. Bicycle Repair Stations**

It was agreed that Cllr Strain would hold further discussions with Lichfield Re:Cycle regarding current provision and that the matter be discussed further at this meeting.

### **6. Signage with advice regarding appropriate food for ducks**

The draft design approved by this Committee was discussed with a local supplier. The Town Clerk subsequently ordered an initial supply of 4 signs which are due to be installed imminently.

### **7. Pollinator Planters – City Centre**

Following discussion as to the positives and negatives of the proposal, a clear desire emerged to involve local businesses and community groups. The Chair suggested she provide further information, including examples of where councils had acted similarly elsewhere, for the January meeting. Cllr A Hughes suggested Oxford Council may have a similar initiative. The Town Clerk confirms recent discussions with the Soroptimists Guild and their continued desire to manage the planters on the corner of Birmingham Rd adjacent to City Station.

### **8. LCC Carbon Emissions calculations**

The Town Clerk provided information to Cllr Blackman which has been used to produce an initial baseline assessment. Initial calculations are below:

Scope 1 & 2 will have to be reported by large corporations as part of the Environmental, Social and Governance requirements (ESG). Scope 3 is optional to report as it's seen as part of the supply chain (e.g. staff commutes).

<b>Scope 1 &amp; 2</b>	72.23
<b>Scope 3</b>	7.72
<b>Total tC02e</b>	79.95

Cllr Blackman advises that the rule of thumb is 50 trees will absorb 1tC02e but this is sequestering carbon for the future.

Carbon reduction to remove the impact can cost anywhere from \$2 per tC02e (which is UN based) or Gold Standard at \$50 per tC02e. Any such contract/payment would require specialist advice and discussions with internal and external auditors, and approval of Council by resolution. Such payments would also necessarily divert resources from

other, more local, projects. Cllr Blackman enquired as to the status of LCC's energy contract, the Town Clerk confirmed that the documentation states it is from 42% renewable energy.

**5. OTHER MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE**

To consider any representations from Committee members regarding any relevant new or emerging items for discussion that are not otherwise included on this agenda.

**6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be decided by the Committee.

**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR**

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## Lichfield City Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall on Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 6.00pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Harvey-Coggins (Chair), and Councillors J Blackman, A Hughes, A Lax, A Rushton and E Strain.

**APOLOGIES:** None

#### 6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

#### 7. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

**RESOLVED:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record [minutes adopted by council on 4 October 2023].*

#### 8. UPDATES TO COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Members considered the Town Clerk's agenda report detailing progress on identified priorities since the inaugural meeting:

##### 1. Encourage a reduction in 'engine idling' notably at schools

The Chair confirmed that 2 schools had taken up the offer of a school 'Clean air Zone' poster, and that these were in the process of being ordered. Members noted that the letter circulated to schools included the suggestion of a competition or similar in regard to creating 'bug hotels', and requested comment on this and/or submission of any similar ideas that Schools may wish to take part in. Only Chadsmead responded to this, stating they would be interested in taking part.

It was agreed that the letter would be recirculated after half term, and that Committee members would also pursue the matter with their own contacts at various schools in the City. It was also agreed that 'bug hotels' be discussed further at the next meeting.

##### 2. Herb Gardens in LCC Open Spaces

The Committee agreed this was a matter for further discussion at the upcoming 'Green Conversation' event, with sites to be considered in readiness for the next meeting. The possibility of utilising an area within allotment sites was explored, with further consideration to be given in due course and discussions with Lichfield District Allotment Society as appropriate. It was also agreed that any such provision should be in raised beds, preferably within smaller areas of open space in close proximity to housing.

##### 3. Green Networking Event – 29 November 2023

Cllr E Strain confirmed the Eventbrite site is live, with 30+ positive replies to date. South Staffs Water (SSW) and LDC are among the confirmed attendees. The Town Clerk confirmed that a draft room set up plan had been agreed and that discussions continued between the event organiser and the Guildhall Bookings Officer.

#### **4. Membership of Support Staffordshire**

Members noted this had been actioned and confirmed.

#### **5. Water fountains/refill points**

Following previous discussion, the Chair circulated further information by email on 4 October 2023. Cllr A Lax expressed reservations as to such fountains being in public areas, stating she would have concerns with using such a facility due to possible tampering. Cllr Lax also stated that pubs by law must provide water if asked. Cllr J Blackman stated that SSW could be contacted to establish whether such a provision could be provided free of charge, and to seek advice as to location, restrictions etc. Cllr Strain offered to provide further information for the next meeting of the Committee, which would follow the discussions with SSW. It was then suggested by Cllr Lax that a 'blended' approach could be undertaken; pursuing installation and discussions with SSW, while also promoting the possibility of window stickers for shops/businesses to advise that free water refills were available. The Chair stated that the 'Refill' bottles were of interest and that further discussion on these could take place at the next meeting.

#### **6. Bicycle repair Stations**

Cllr E Strain stated that the example provided in the agenda papers was a good reflection of the facility required. Cllr A Lax stated that the similar provision at the Boley Park Co-op appeared to have needed repair and was currently taped. Cllr Strain suggested he discuss further with Lichfield Re:Cycle representatives regarding appropriate future provision/location, current provision/location etc. The Town Clerk confirmed that discussions regarding City Centre cycle parking had been initiated with LDC some time ago, with the City Centre Masterplan tasked with informing locations with developments awaited.

The Committee agreed that Market Square would be a preferred location; the Town Clerk urged caution as the Square is required for a multitude of differing functions and the facility must be carefully sited to both not impede such functions but also to be available if needed when such functions are present. The possibility of siting such provision along Pool Walk or around the bus station/Birmingham Road site area were also discussed.

It was agreed that discussions be held with Lichfield Re:Cycle regarding current provision and that the matter be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### **7. Signage with advice regarding appropriate food for ducks**

As there had been no response from the designer of the preferred poster identified at the inaugural meeting, the Town Clerk had circulated an in-house design for comment. It was agreed that a number of these posters be professionally printed and sited along Pool Walk in the first instance. Other locations for display could include Trunkfield Brook and, subject to discussions with LDC/developers, Darwin Park.

The Town Clerk to progress the installation along Pool Walk in the first instance and discuss with Lichfield District Council regarding other sites; LDC having previously confirmed a policy decision to withdraw similar posters due to concerns about increasing duck population and spread of disease.

***RESOLVED: That the update be noted and matters progressed as individually discussed.***

**9. POLLINATOR PLANTERS**

Members considered the report by the Chair regarding the adoption of existing planters for provision of pollinator plants. It was agreed that this initiative would be of value to the City and that it would be beneficial to involve local businesses in sponsorship and local groups such as Lichfield Litter Legends, U3A etc in maintaining the planters. It was generally agreed that a City Centre location made the likelihood of vandalism higher, but it was hoped that with businesses and community groups supporting the project, the incidences of vandalism could be reduced. It was noted that the condition of the current wooden planter provision as originally supplied by SCC in the City Centre was deteriorating.

The Chair suggested she provide further information, including examples of where councils had acted similarly elsewhere, for the January meeting. Cllr A Hughes suggested Oxford Council may have a similar initiative.

***RESOLVED: Further information to be supplied for discussion at the next meeting.***

**10. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE**

Cllr A Hughes suggested the Committee should look at the Council itself in regard to carbon reduction etc. Cllr J Blackman outlined the ways in which scoping reports could demonstrate the Council's carbon footprint and allow measures to be put in to place to reduce it. Cllr A Lax stated that LDC had completed a similar exercise and it may be possible for the City Council to learn from it.

***RESOLVED: Cllr Blackman to provide further information on the process.***

**11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed via email, but being either **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024** in the Moulton Room, Guildhall. Cllr A Rushton confirmed he would be unable to attend if the meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.10pm**