

## For Council: 22 January 2024 APPENDIX 1

### Lichfield City Council

#### Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall on Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 5.00pm

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

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr A Rushton.

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

None.

#### 13. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

**RESOLVED:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2023 be confirmed as a correct record [minutes adopted by council on 14 December 2023].*

#### 14. UPDATES TO COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

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

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

The Town Clerk confirmed a second letter had been sent to schools as requested, but no further requests for posters had been received. It was agreed that members who knew local teachers would contact them to make them aware of the offer. The Town Clerk confirmed that any school representative interested in acquiring a poster or seeking further information could email [tony.briggs@lichfield.gov.uk](mailto:tony.briggs@lichfield.gov.uk)

Cllr A Hughes suggested the Town Clerk contact the Active School Travel Team at Staffordshire County Council to offer the City Council's support to any initiatives they could undertake to encourage Lichfield schools to adopt walking buses and other forms of sustainable travel.

It was agreed that the 'bug hotel' competition be revisited later in 2024.

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

Three potential sites were identified within the agenda papers. Sites at Sheriff's Close and Garrick Close were considered the most appropriate, but it was agreed that committee members would visit each site in readiness for the next meeting, together with consideration of additional potential sites. It was agreed that one site would be progressed initially, and that once a preferred site had been selected, a meeting with LDC Operational Services to establish best location for raised bed/s would be held. Consultation with local residents would then be initiated based upon those discussions and draft plans. The Town Clerk was asked to circulate an email to all LCC Councillors asking them to advise of any sites they felt may be appropriate to put forward for consideration.

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

It was agreed by all that this was a well-attended and enjoyable event. Cllr E Strain advised that this series of events was now complete, with the organisers working on a database of contacts, information, suggestions etc that would be completed in the coming months. Cllr Strain confirmed he would contact the organisers in regard to timescale for completion of this work. The proposed LDC climate summit event was discussed, with the likelihood that Cllr Strain would attend on behalf of the group. It was agreed by all that there was a strong desire to avoid both repetition and silo working.

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

Discussion focused on the provision of stickers to local businesses to denote the availability of free water/top up facilities and how these could be procured and distributed. Cllr Blackman suggested he contact the Chamber of Trade to assist with publicising and distribution, and this was agreed by the Committee. The Chair also suggested contact with Transition Lichfield representatives as they had previously been involved in a similar initiative; the Chair stated she would make contact. The Town Clerk confirmed that letters referring to the availability of, or containing, the stickers (according to the preference of the Committee) could be hand delivered to City Centre businesses in due course. The Chair to distribute sticker examples for consideration of the Committee.

### **5. Bicycle repair Stations**

Cllr Strain had provided example installations and these, together with potential locations, were discussed by the Committee. Cllr Lax enquired as to demand for such a repair station, Cllr Strain replying that demand in a city centre location and adjacent to cycle route 54 would likely be significant. The cost was thought to be around £2400 based on quotations and information received to date. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would contact representatives of St Mary's to establish whether they would consent to a repair station on the Breadmarket St elevation of the building, and also contact Network Rail regarding the possibility of locating a repair station adjacent to city station/s. The possibility of siting along Dam St was also discussed. Cllr Lax confirmed this to be SCC owned, with a request needing to be made to SCC if the installation was to be progressed in that location. The possibility of CIL funding once a location had been established was welcomed.

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

The Town Clerk confirmed that these had been installed along Pool Walk. The Chair stated she would write an accompanying press release.

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

It was agreed that this item be combined for future meetings with the provision of herb gardens as set out above.

### **8. LCC Carbon Emissions Calculations**

Cllr Blackman provided some additional detail to accompany the broad figures in the report; the calculations therein being based on the Green House Gas Protocol Framework for ESG Reporting (<https://ghgprotocol.org/>)

Options for carbon reduction and sequestering were discussed, with an agreement that the Town Clerk contact LDC's Ecological Officer in regard to possible assistance they could

provide. It was agreed that much of the 'low hanging fruit' had already been completed, with conversion of pathway lights to LED, upgrades to properties etc. The possibility of solar panels on the Guildhall was raised, the Town Clerk confirmed previous discussions along similar lines were rejected by the then Conservation Officer due to the building's listed status. It was agreed this would be reinvestigated, with the necessary roof surveys to be completed if the addition of panels was now considered acceptable.

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

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

The Chair highlighted 'No Mow May'. The Town Clerk confirmed that arrangements in place for 2023 were due to be replicated for 2024, with Festival Gardens and Nether Stowe once again being left, in part, unmown over the spring and summer, together with the necessary maintenance of the various LCC managed wildflower beds in the City. It was agreed that members would consider any other sites they felt appropriate to be added to 'no mow May' and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

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

To be confirmed by email; the Town Clerk to circulate suggested dates approximately two months from the date of this meeting.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.55pm**