

For Council: 4 October 2023 APPENDIX 1

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall on Wednesday 27 September 2023 at 6.00pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Blackman and A Hughes.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr E Strain declared an interest in agenda item 5 (minute 4 (5)) as a Trustee of Lichfield Re:Cycle, who are working with Support Staffordshire on the proposed 'Green Conversation' meeting in the Guildhall as referred to in these minutes.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered the terms of reference for the Committee as adopted by Council on 24 July 2023.

RESOLVED: *That the Terms of Reference be noted.*

3. ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

Members considered the Town Clerk's report at Agenda Appendix 1, which provided information on action taken to date that directly or indirectly impacts upon climate change and biodiversity within the council's buildings and open spaces.

RESOLVED: *That the report be noted.*

4. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS

Several items for discussion had been submitted prior to the meeting, each were introduced by the Chair in turn with actions agreed following discussion:

Suggestions from Cllr A Lax:

1. Funding School 'Clean Air Zone' posters for local schools

Cllr A Lax advised that posters designed to reduce engine idling at school pick up/drop off times are available via the RAC. The Committee supported this initiative and believed that it should be made available to schools within the City boundary. The Committee agreed to make a recommendation to Council that this be funded from LCC's grants reserve. If the recommendation to Council is adopted, the Town Clerk to write to local schools offering funding for one poster per school initially, with a deadline for an expression of interest and an order to the suppliers to follow. The Chair expressed hope that this initiative would lead to further initiatives relating to school traffic, such as walking buses.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: *That up to £1,000 of LCC Grant Reserve be allocated to the funding of School 'Clean Air Zone' posters, with one poster per School to be offered initially.*

2. Signage providing advice on appropriate food for ducks

It was agreed that Pool Walk would be the obvious LCC owned location for such signage, but that other parks in the City may also benefit.

RESOLVED:

1. The Town Clerk to contact SCC for permission to use the signage design as circulated by Cllr Lax.

2. The Town Clerk to contact LDC representatives to ascertain whether such signage is desired in other city parks with a view to a combined order of such signage.

3. Herb Garden areas within LCC Open Spaces to be available to the community

It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting, with officers and members to select possible sites for consideration.

4. Bug Hotels – competition or incentive for schools to design and build bug hotels

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would add this possibility to the aforementioned letter to Schools re 'Clean Air Zone' posters to establish interest in such a scheme.

Suggestions from Cllr E Strain:

5. Green networking Event – November 2023

To tie in with existing 'Green Conversation' work by Support Staffordshire, the event to take place in the Guildhall during November, with Support Staffordshire organising attendees and the Committee using the opportunity to network and brainstorm ideas. It was agreed that no free use or preferential treatment would be requested.

Some concern was expressed as to timescales and number of attendees based on suggested dates, but there were assurances that the event could be organised within the timeframe.

A link to information on the previous meeting was circulated: <https://www.thetrentvalley.org.uk/take-part/community-action>

It was provisionally agreed that Wednesday 29 November be allocated for the event in the Guildhall [*Town Clerk's note – the Guildhall is free all day on that day, but the Guild Room is in use during the evening*].

Members were keen for LDC to be consulted as they may wish to be a part of such of an event. Cllr A Lax also highlighted previous similar events organised by Transition Lichfield and urged contact with them from the organisers when considering this event.

RESOLVED:

1. The Town Clerk to contact LDC's Ecology and Climate Change Manager to ascertain whether LDC wish to be involved in this event and to what extent.

2. The Committee supports the principle of this event, further information and discussions to follow regarding timings, attendees and organisation through informal means pending the next formal Committee meeting.

6. Membership of Support Staffordshire

Associate membership at a cost of £25/year to provide access to support and resources for future Committee projects. The Committee agreed that this may be beneficial and that it should be trialled and reviewed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: *That the City Council becomes an associate member of Support Staffordshire at a cost of £25 per year. The appropriateness of continuing the membership following the first 12 months to be considered in due course by the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee.*

Other Suggestions

Water Fountain Provision

Cllr E Strain advised of companies who supply and maintain public drinking fountains at relatively low cost. Cllr R Harvey-Coggins advised of local supermarkets that offer refills of tap water at no charge, and the possibility of window stickers for shops willing to allow the same from their premises. Cllr A Lax stated she was concerned about the cost of fountain provision and maintenance if a similar provision was readily available elsewhere.

RESOLVED: *Further discussion to be held at a subsequent meeting following circulation of further information to Committee members and further information on the existing provision.*

Bicycle Repair Stations

Cllr E Strain advised of 'Bicycle Repair Stations' that can be installed and are vandal resistant. Such stations provide basic repair tools such as a tyre pump and levers, screwdrivers etc.

RESOLVED: *Further discussion to be held at a subsequent meeting following circulation of further information to Committee members.*

5. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed by all present that the matters raised were enough for the Committee to consider at this stage, and that a further meeting would be advisable in relatively short order due to the number of matters now ongoing. The next meeting therefore scheduled for **Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 6.00pm** in the Moulton Room, Guildhall.

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