

Climate Change & Environmental Issues

Working Group Meeting – Thursday 14 October 2021 at 3:00pm (Ashington Town Hall)

Present: Cllr. Jim Lang (Chair) Cllr. Louis Brown
 Cllr. Pauline Thompson Cllr. Michelle Brannigan

Stephen Humphrey (Assets & Facilities Manager) Sharon Parmley (Senior Administration Officer/PA)

Apologies: Cllr. Liam Lavery

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Liam Lavery.	
Minutes of Last Meeting	The minutes of the last working group meeting held on the 9 September 2021 were agreed as a true record.	
Development of Tree Planting Schemes in Ashington	<p>SH presented detailed maps of the proposed tree planting schemes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A197 Corridor, four locations identified, including A197 / A1068 Junction, ASDA Roundabout, Woodhorn Villas, Woodhorn Roundabout - A196 & B1334 Corridor, four locations identified including, A196 Wansbeck Bridge, A196 Opposite Blackclose Bank car park, B1334 Roundabout to North Seaton Industrial Estate, B1334 from new Ashington entrance feature, <p>NCC Tree Officers (Mr L Savage and Mr B Wilson) have been consulted regarding the tree planting and in principle support the schemes. They will seek the necessary permissions from appropriate NCC staff to allow ATC develop the schemes if applicable. NCC have expressed an interest in quoting for some of the tree planting works and will provide guidance and advise as and when we the tree planting takes place.</p> <p>A discussion took place, and it was agreed to commence contacting local companies to prepare quotations for the tree planting schemes. These are to be presented to the to the next Finance & General Service Committee for approval and financial support.</p>	<p>SH to liaise with NCC staff in seeking necessary permissions.</p> <p>SH to commence seeking quotations in preparation of preparing a report for an upcoming F&GS Committee meeting.</p>

	<p>Cllr. Lang reported that up to 110 semi mature tree could be planted as part of the proposed works with a possible budget up to £30,000. As well as the costs of buying and planting the trees consideration would have to be given to protecting the trees in their early development, watering and road traffic management on some of the proposed sites..</p> <p>Members discussed various options for developing a Community Orchard in Ashington and possibly linking into the town’s schools and community groups.</p> <p>SH informed members that currently there was a significant piece of unused land at Seaton Hirst Allotment Site that could be suitable for the project. The land could be developed to include a wildlife area and incorporate a small pond and wildflower planting.</p>	<p>SH to discuss potential project with the Seaton Hirst Allotment Association.</p>
<p>Development of Climate Change Information</p>	<p>SP informed the group that work was on-going on the Town Council’s new website which would be in place in coming weeks. As part of this work a dedicated Climate Change page will provide information and links to all relevant organisations.</p> <p>The page will have the following sub heading;</p> <p>Climate Change & Environmental Issues – which will highlight ATC’s Climate Change Policy Statement and all other policies adopted by the Council, as well as a link to NCC’s Climate Change Action Plan.</p> <p>A Clean Green Ashington – this page is dedicated to litter picking and recycling as well as giving information on how to dispose of your waste responsibly.</p> <p>ATC Projects – all the news and updates can be found on this page regarding projects carried out in the town.</p> <p>Information and Initiative – Information and links to National and International Climate Change organisations</p>	<p>SH / SP to have training on new website in preparation of the new website going live.</p>
<p>Draft Climate Change Action Plan</p>	<p>The working group discussed the development of the proposed Climate Change Action Plan with an early focus on ‘Awareness Events’.</p>	<p>SH/SP</p>

	<p>It was agreed that ATC provide information stalls at events in 2022 on Climate Change with information on associated projects in the town as well as offering practical information and advice linking into the Plan. It was agreed to provide an information stall at Fayre Day and the Christmas Lights Switch-On event in 2022.</p>	
<p>Date and time of next meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting of the Climate Change and Environmental Issues Working Group was provisionally scheduled for November TBC, at the Town Hall.</p>	<p>SP</p>