

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

CLIMATE AND BIO-DIVERSITY COMMITTEE 5 April 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Councillor Diana Toynbee (Chair) and Councillors Rob Owens, Dan Powell, Cat Hornsey, Aubrey Oliver, Jeremy Milln

Attending: Steve Kerry, Town Clerk

At the start of the meeting the Chair proposed, and the meeting agreed, to vary the agenda to take the presentation immediately after declarations of interest.

CBD2021/22.40 PRESENTATION BY ANNA DARWOOD

The Chair welcomed Anna Darwood from the Youth Council, who is also on the Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership and their sub-committee on transport issues.

Anna explained that there are nine major categories which were the subject of the presentation received at the Youth Council regarding activities in Bristol. Seven of these are relevant to the work of the Youth Council. Each part of the presentation is geared to what Bristol City Council have done and what the Youth Council could do to support similar issues locally.

Improving the public transport network – the Youth Council are keen on better lit and refurbished bus stops and a flexible ticketing system. Park and ride schemes both increase bus use and reduce city centre congestion and should be encouraged. Longer term a ferry down the river Wye is an idea worth pursuing, especially if it is an electric boat. Community volunteer or community payback could be a source of labour for cleaning and refurbishing bus shelters to make the buses more welcoming.

Walking and Cycling Strategy – lighting around paths of safety and improved perception of safety and accessibility is really important, many routes e.g. across KGV Park are very dark and feel unsafe. Bike shelters need to be revamped and the transport hub idea, which has not been progressed, needs to be developed at least as far as good cycling facilities from the station with well-marked and safe routes.

Low emission vehicle – clearly the City Council electric bus initiative within Stronger Towns is important here, some consideration could be given to the “poo bus” which runs on recycled human waste. Some 200 charging points are needed if electric cars are to be fully developed, along with a gradual transfer to electric buses on other routes. Encouragement to make clean and green choices is as important as providing facilities, but of course without the facilities to start with, the choices cannot be made.

Creating a Living Heart – hosting events on Castle Green, Bishop’s Meadow, etc., painting the new planters in vibrant colours, more diversity in town markets and more local produce and artisan products, encouraging open air live music and film shows in High Town or other central locations would all add to a more vibrant and creative ambience and have been developed to good effect in Bristol, and many other centres.

Improving residential streets – Bristol has an excellent IT graphic tool to log issues site by site – far better than the one provided here by BBLP. There needs to be a policy of encouraging

and facilitating good transport choices e.g. walking and cycling, as opposed to short car journeys.

Children's Travel and Safety – revamping areas around schools for access and visual appeal, bike and scooter sharing schemes and the French idea of multi-passenger large cycles should all be explored.

Easy and Enjoyable Transport – hosting games and mini-competitions in local venues, developing the Wyeside area (noting the large Stronger Towns Fund bid to do just that) livening up the Hereford Zipper with artwork and developing slip and slide in Hereford are all possible areas of development.

Strengthening Local Communities (not really a Youth Council priority but worth noting as part of what Bristol are doing) – innovative street design, clear, ambitious and deliverable plans for step changes in infrastructure for public transport and walking/cycling options all intended to make sustainable choices the easier and more frequent ones until people naturally default to them.

The Chair thanked Anna for a very interesting and well presented talk and in response the following points were noted.

If we were planning an environmentally sustainable community we wouldn't start from here. Two new applications for out of town shopping facilities show the extent to which Herefordshire is still firmly wedded to the car. In this context, it was noted that the paucity of public transport across most of the county leave little option and some gyms offer free parking as an incentive, why not discounts for customers who arrive by bike for example.

Anna added that the Youth Council had a stall in the market to drum up interest which yielded one new member, but that a presentation at Powerhouse had been more successful. She reports to the YC about the transport sub-group she sits on. The YC are developing a radio presence which is going well and is keen to develop a list of eco-friendly eating and entertainment venues.

The Chair thanked Anna again for all her work on these issues.

CBD2021/22.41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Councillor Boulter.

CBD2021/22.42 SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CBD2021/22.43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CBD2021/22.44 AWARDS

Members recalled the earlier decision to have an award for each category of primary school, secondary school and special school and one general award for a group or individual who had made a positive impact on the environment. It was agreed that contact with schools needs to be pro-active, not simply asking for nominations and the Clerk will ask all members to get

involved with this after the Easter holidays. There will be a brief and simple process to register a scheme for consideration.

CBD2021/22.45 USE OF CHARCOAL AT FERROUS

The Clerk presented an email from the organisers of Ferrous explaining the difficulty of finding a charcoal burning system that would generate enough heat to enable metal working.

CBD2021/22.46 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting would begin with the election of the Chair and Vice Chair for the new municipal year.

After that it would be good to have an item on the development and direction of the Committee and how best to liaise with the Tree Forum and the Youth Council, perhaps to take pressure off other committees.

Development of Environmental Impact Assessments

Possible intervention in the planning of the Stronger Towns Fund initiative for development along the riverbank which has many good features but seems to assume the removal of an important hedgerow for no obvious necessity. Hedge screening and part hedge, part fence, solutions had been applied in other parts of the scheme.

CBD2021/22.47 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 6.00 pm

Signed

Date