

## **WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

62 The Strand, Walmer, DEAL, Kent, CT14 7DP

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### **DRAFT Minutes of the Climate Emergency Working Group Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 Via Zoom**

#### **Present councillors:**

Cllr J Lonsdale (Chair, taking notes)

Cllr M Eddy,

Cllr Mrs S Fisher

#### **Apologies for absence**

Cllr P St Ange, Cllr D Thompson, Cllr Mrs S Le Chevalier

#### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Agreed as accurate

#### **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**

There were no matters arising

#### **Priorities and Actions**

##### **Transport**

###### **-EV Charging Points**

JL to chase DDC around provision of on-street charge points.

###### **-Electric Buses/106 Funds.**

JL to reply to DDC's Ashley Taylor email received. Need for CIL not S106 to allow for wider climate measures to be taken.

###### **-Cycle storage at Walmer Railway Station**

ME to confirm with the Clerk whether WTC contribution to the successful application be paid this financial year or next. Southeastern contact says the scheme is intended to be complete by the end of 2022.

##### **Biodiversity**

###### **-Biodiversity on DDC Land.**

Discussed response from Darren Solley at DDC about the cutting of the land adjacent to Borrow Pit Car Park – down as a 'Meadow cut', so 'managed and maintained for the benefit of wildlife and cut only once a year'. CEWG/ SLC to chase. What is a 'Meadow cut' specifically, what are DDC trying to achieve with this, what is actually growing there, could it be sown with wildflowers?

Free Trees for Residents - Cllr Thompson not present so not able to report. Item deferred.

JL to reply to DDC Ashley Taylor's email received (as above), providing details of potential land we would like contributions towards in order to have the land planted for biodiversity – eg Dorset Gardens, York and Albany, Marke Wood at the Liverpool Rd side.

### **-Urban Nature Reserves**

Further to the CEWG/ DDC meeting before Christmas, DDC Officer Martin Leggatt offered land to the rear of Dorset Gardens to WTC solely for use in enhancing biodiversity. JL has inspected the site, which is similar in scale and nature to the land at York and Albany which the CEWG has been asked to make a nature proposal for by Full Council.

Councillors discussed a similar approach to both sites and set out to compile information on options. The belief is that two Urban Nature Reserves are feasible, and that local nature experts and organisations will be consulted to ascertain the best approach.

ME to contact Kent Wildlife Trust, SF to contact University of Kent, JL to contact other local experts to canvas opinion.

One specific option discussed was a 'Tiny Forest'

<https://earthwatch.org.uk/get-involved/tiny-forest>

Tiny Forests can attract up to 500 animal and plant species, and are great for local community engagement, especially local schools.

Councillors are going to look at this and other Urban Nature Reserve options and discuss them further at A&E before returning to Full Council

### **-Bee Bombs for residents.**

Total requests for Beebombs 82 of which 72 were from Walmer residents. We purchased 100 Beebombs at the wholesale price of £2.89+ VAT per Beebomb. An E-mail has now gone out asking residents who made a request for a Beebomb to come to the office to collect them. Cllr Lonsdale attended Brambles Nursery to hand over 10 Beebombs and have a photo taken doing this. This will be used to create a press release on the subject. Some Beebombs also potentially to be sown in an area of York and Albany.

### **62, The Strand - Sustainability retrofit.**

Acknowledged Clague Architects was authorised to complete a design, technical survey and planning application for the sustainability retrofit at 62 The Strand by WTC Full Council the night before. Rear extension has priority, with further sustainability measures to follow when appropriate.

### **Outside Projects.**

#### **Outdoor Gym – TRIM TRAIL**

Awaiting a response from the military charity WTC applied to for additional funds to the £11k pledged by the council for the project. Update required from Clerk/ Deputy Clerk before further funds can be sought.

#### **-Thermal Heat-loss Camera.**

A total of 48 requests have been made from the Walmer, Deal and Kingsdown area for use of the camera. Walmer residents represent 26 of these requests. We have visited 12 of these requests and had very positive feedback from the residents, the plan is to complete surveys for all Walmer residents who we are able to by the end of second week of March.

### **New Projects/Any Other Business**

#### **-Bee bricks**

Excellent report received from SLC about use of bee bricks in new building projects to provide habitat for under threat solitary bees. SLC/ CEWG to write to DDC Planning to ask for their inclusion in all new houses/ developments. JL to raise at WTC Planning. Noted this initiative would fit into KCC's Plan Bee Policy.

**Next meeting Tuesday April 5th 7.30pm Zoom - TBC.**