



Sustainable Shaftesbury - informal meeting summary

Tuesday 14th March 2023, 6pm

Meeting room, Council Chamber

In Attendance

Jen Hirsch
Angela King
Christina Strickland
Chris Harwood
Bernard Ede
Brie Logan (STC)

Richard Thomas
Sue Clifford
John Nelson
Erin (Youth Council)

Billy Maddock (STC)

Apologies

Cllr A Chase (STC)
Lucy Barfoot
Jenny Morisetti

Nicola Hall – Open Fridge
Lucy Young
Sam Joshi

RT - sought clarification of when Plan will be adopted by STC as April seems too soon. The People's Plan for Nature, a joint enterprise by WWF, RSPB and The National Trust, is due for publication in March. DC are due to adopt their revised Climate and Emergency Strategy in March.

RT asked for agreement that as the town council does not yet have a climate and nature crisis policy the working group aims to produce a ground-breaking policy that is ambitious and meets global targets at a local level but is also achievable on a practical level and has community support while still expressing the urgency of the situation. In his view the policy should underwrite all council's plans from its five-year strategic plan to its neighbourhood plan in keeping with what is happening at Dorset Council level.

BL – a snapshot/ overview of the Plan development will be presented to STC in April. Agreed that this is a constantly changing environment and it is not about sitting back once the plan is done. Need to constantly adapt the Plan and continually embrace what is being presented by central government/ DC.

RT – the pre-amble is wrong and he would like to see a meatier pre-amble. He is happy to give it his input and produce a new pre-amble and introduction.

Action: RT to write pre-amble and introduction, circulate with the group.

CH – Suggested to change Health & Wellbeing heading to Sustainable Development Goals.

A discussion was held what the Plan should be about. BL explained that this is a starting point and the Plan will evolve.

BL spoke about DC publications (i.e.; reduce food waste, save water). DC are happy for the group to tap into these resources and make use of them. These are educational pieces helping the community to help themselves.

RT – The group has to inspire people and the plan needs to be more succinct.
BL – STC Biodiversity Policy has been updated and enhanced with suggestion from Angela and Sue.

Action: STC Biodiversity Policy to be sent to the group for review.

1. Progress review since February meeting – review of draft action plan to date

Transforming our Nature

AK and SC presented their Let's Go Wild poster, one side relating to Shaftesbury, the other side picturing a house and garden. Information will be added to this poster.

Questions arose:

Cost of printing? How to get it out to people?

JH suggested sponsorship and going digital.

Include in Action Plan – Start a 'Let's Go' series of posters

Wild (incl bees/ pollinators / hedgehogs / No mow May)

Water

Trees/Vegetation

BE – talked about a book published by the University of Sheffield – sustainable developments - dwelling/neighbourhood/district space/regional scale – blue/green infrastructure.

Action: AK & SC to look at the Plan and give feedback to BL and BM.

Changing the way we move around

JN – talked about tackling of pedestrianisation and cycling safely - Encourage people to use their bike.

Spoke with Kevin Humphreys from DC – link cycle track outside Lidl with Barton Hill

Outside fire station needs to be safe for pedestrians/cyclists.

Require improvements to Coppice Street.

What can we do about bringing safety to Shaftesbury via the Town Council?

BL reported that KH took on feedback when the group met with him – these meetings need to happen more often.

A brief discussion was held on the subject of one-way system (like Blandford Forum)/ pedestrianisation / widening pavements. SC confirmed that this topic has been explored numerous times, one way traffic will speed the traffic up.

JN – 2021-2023 Dorset Council Action Plan includes implementation for provision of electric vehicles. Produced examples for solutions – including charging hubs, these require space. We do require more EVCPs – major issue for Shaftesbury.

BE – The Neighbourhood Plan should include a call for sites for EVCP hubs.

The Ambulance station should move in with the fire service – Bimport would give space to EVCPs.

Engaging and enabling our community

JH - Everyone will need to be contributing to this section.

Suggested to make use of [Common Place](#) – used by other councils – two-way engagement with community – very good tool to understand different priorities of the community.

Better use of the STC website – look at other council’s best practice – create benchmarks and visuals.

JM working on a database as to what is happening in the area relating to climate change/energy reduction etc.

JH - Volunteer database required – BL confirmed that Dorset Volunteer Centre provide this for Shaftesbury.

Action: JH to look at the Plan and give feedback to BL and BM.
To include Common Ground [What We Do - Common Ground](#)
JH to take away resources from DC to create resource library

Action: ALL – to view and amend their plan, so Version 5 can be reviewed at the next meeting.
Note – relevant sections will be shared with those not in attendance.

RT - NEC National Climate Ecology – DC take it on board – global warming and climate change is now a reality – there will be an element of adaptations – this is what we would like to do / this is what we can do – this should be include in Plan

UN target - The world must protect 30% of land and oceans by 2030.

2. Neighbourhood Plan review and update – key topics and database of information

BL – set up database to capture all feedback/comments – categorised into different sections.

BE – read out further comments to be included for consideration in the NP.

3. Any other business

JN – mentioned Exmouth heating their swimming pool with excess heat from data centre.

Meeting closed 7.38pm

Next meeting Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 6pm at the Town Hall