



Sustainable Shaftesbury - informal meeting summary

Tuesday 31st October, 2pm

Town Hall meeting room

In Attendance

John Nelson	Angela King
Richard Thomas	Sue Clifford
Jen Hirsch	Brie Logan (STC)
Jenny Morisetti	Graham Palmer (STC)
Cllr John Lewer	
Cllr Andy Hollingshead	

Apologies

Joe Hashman	Sam Joshi
Lucy Young	Bernard Ede
Christina Strickland	

Objective: Review the Sustainable Shaftesbury Policy and Action Plan as per STC FC resolution F33a

- Introductions
- AH provided an overview of the Full Council meeting to the group and recapped on the key issues.
- BL read out a statement from NALC (National Association Local Councils) in relation to community leadership (gold award);

*The panel seeks evidence that the council has considered climate change and other environmental issues and has engaged with the community on these issues. The council will have considered how it can **support or facilitate the community to take actions** that could have a positive environmental impact for the local area, or more widely.*

- Recognition that STC is already working on many plans linked to biodiversity improvements. The Biodiversity checklist is deemed as fit for purpose
- The need to formalise the plan in more detail so the content is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and with timescales.
- Cllr Lewer expressed concerns within the plan where STC has no influence and felt the plan was too ambitious. He felt he needed to believe in it himself before he could support others. He felt it important to concentrate on what we can do such as starting with property that STC owns.
- Recognition that residents need to be engaged and STC has a support role. Some realistic and measurable topics were discussed such as reduction in temperature with household boilers, using shop windows to share ideas, encourage walking to school, the benefit of heat saving curtain linings + more - all underpinned by effective communication and engagement.

- Share what we are already doing. Lead by example in policies, including landscapes and open spaces, town improvements etc...
- JL and AH reflected both sides of argument.

Next steps:

1. AH/ JL/ GP will find ways to align with Dorset recognising that much of the content will be dependant on national government policy and world economics. Policy document needs to be amended to reflect to DC pledge.
2. Find the balance between aspirational versus reality and apply consideration to the choice of words so the content is not ambiguous.
3. Consider an addendum to accompany the aspirational action plan.
4. 12th December 2023, 7pm - Extraordinary Full Council meeting scheduled
 - Present the revised policy to STC for consideration (as an aspirational document for the town)
 - Present actions that are achievable and realistic
 - The more contentious issues will need further consideration item by item
5. Amendments to be tracked to make it easier for the SSWG to understand the changes. JL and AH to amend the wording in hard copy - subtle changes and Graham to update document.
6. Revision to include insertions and revisions (in blue italics/ tracked changes) - refer to feasibility (don't promise what you can't deliver)
7. GP to insert an additional column (who) - DC/ STC/ Community organisation etc
8. Remove implied actions

The plan as it is now is ambitious, aspirational and the subject matter is complicated and highly technical in areas. The industry is moving so fast so the plan will need to be flexible and adaptable to meet the changing needs locally, nationally and globally.

Further update to the SSWG on 2/11:

Following the constructive meeting last Tuesday, Cllrs John Lewer and Andy Hollingshead are scheduled to meet on Monday 6th November. Before Monday they will be reviewing the plan and, as agreed at the meeting, will come up with potential edits to discuss at the meeting. At this point Graham will update the document using a process where the changes can be tracked via MS Publisher.

Graham is also in the process of inserting LOGO icons, where appropriate, so for example DC and STC to highlight where the accountability sits with each action. He is also raising the prominence of the 'action icons' which show the three stages of development (thinking, testing and doing). This should go some way to looking at the plan in bite size chunks; therefore not as overwhelming as it was first presented which may help to minimise any ambiguity.

Once the updated document is ready for review (hopefully by mid-week) we will update the SSWG and send you a version in advance of the next WG meeting on 14th November at 6pm.