

Minutes of the S group held via Zoom on 14th July 7.30 pm

1) Participants were

Joy Tucker, Scpc  
Marion Pratt, Clerk Scpc  
Janet Palmer, Scpc  
Tony Leech Cllr, Oke/WDBC  
Mike Davies, Cllr, Oke North/WDBC  
Ruth Testa, Cllr N Tawton  
Jan Goffey  
David Botting-Paige  
Charlotte Reynolds  
Sadie Coventry.

2) Apologies,

Michele Wilson,  
Robin and Jill Bevis

3) Minutes agreed from first meeting 16th June.

4) contributions from guests.

Cllr Mike Davies as chair of the Change and biodiversity group called a Climate emergency on 27th May 2018. This was from information worked out from Exeter University that the councils carbon footprint was 5199.4 metric tonnes of Co2.

A plan was brought to council in December 2019 but due to the Covid 19 pandemic this work has been halted. However 2 posters have been produced for public viewing which set out their aims for the future and a wealth of good information can be obtained from reading them. They basically highlight what,

- 1) Your responsibility is.
- 2) The community's responsibility.
- 3) The wider community as in the world.

Mike said that the councils efforts had started back on 2013 when they were left in a position of having to make huge savings for the council. This included having to reduce workforce and travel. This resulted in 1 million miles a year saved. They aim to press on with helping smaller councils with to reduce carbon footprints. Charlotte raised the comment that WDBC should try to influence local councils by their example. It was noted that most local councils are totally on board with this but it is another thing to get all of the public engaged and still there are areas which are not supported for example recycling waste correctly.

Cllr Tony Leech stated that the black bin bag 3 weekly collection has started in over 1000 households but as yet there has not been data back to form any real figures to see if recycling has increased. This is a 12 month scheme so will be closely followed.

As part of an initiative he has visited 23 out of 28 primary schools with the Reduced Reuse Recycle message and the children seem very enthusiastic about this, the hope being they will get the adults involved to help to make changes. Tony said that all waste from bin bags goes to incinerator not landfill.

These incinerators create energy however they do not capture carbon emissions which I think is something to be looked into. He said that still 25% of black bin waste is food unfortunately. The food waste goes to provide compost and energy. The suggestion of the use of clear refuse sacks would enable the collectors to identify incorrect content and report this first and leave reminders with the household and then if repeated offending is occurring then fines should be incurred. This is used in other countries and appears to reduce the problem.

There is an appointed Climate change officer at WDBC and government are planning to provide money to local councils to invest in renewables and to make use of local resources.

The question was asked why when everyone knows it is not recyclable, is black plastic still allowed to be produced and should more councils not lobby government to have it banned.

Ruth Testa cllr North Tawton said that as a Town council have many initiatives going and not are all via council but through local groups. They have currently put out a questionnaire for residents to gauge their views and what as a community is important to them. North Tawton has responsibility for several land areas from the park to the church and with this have set up a tree planting scheme of every large tree that has to be removed 3 are planted, and 2 for medium trees etc. They are trialling wildflowers areas and trying to get locals involved and groups such as the Nanny Knights Revellers. They are trying to encourage local produce for sale and a car boot sale day where you sell from your property advertised via social media etc.

5) Confirmation of choice if name.

It has been agreed that we are to call our group SCEnSuS Sampford Courtney Environmental Sustainability living group.

6) Sadie said that the hope for the community garden will be to produce a relaxing space for everyone to enjoy.

The plan is to incorporate an area for vegetables, flowers both wild and cultivated, fruit trees and insect hotels which the children can get involved with and also a possible sensory area or create a small woodland.

All this is to encourage wildlife into the area for pollination and also to provide people with new skills and a social aspect.

A compost area is planned so that it can be used for the garden and locals.

The garden needs to be manageable and as low maintenance as possible. A water butt would be useful and it was suggested that instead of buying one the first port of call should be to see if anyone had one they want to recycle and this could be done via website etc

The use of chemicals and slug pellets were not really considered as eco friendly so other methods are being looked into.

A bench, maybe commemorative was suggested made by someone local and some form of shade as there is not much there at present.

Look into local funding or donations from garden centres (with possible advertising to get them onboard) Mike Davies told Charlotte that DDC had a £500 budget and to contact Lois Samuel's about this. Also that the Okehampton Rotary club maybe able to fund water but.

7) Peat free initiative.

This item was adjourned for Robin and Jill presence as this is something they are keen to start and have knowledge in

8) Community Hub.

David and Mike are to discuss this and how to get it working and to get initial feedback on how keen people are and input from the local flower show group would be useful.

9) Local survey/questionnaire.

We discussed if it would be worth it as there were several points re travel home insulation etc raised in the village survey done the previous year. It was felt that this survey did not cover all the issue we are trying to tackle and that it would be of benefit to our group to gauge the mood and opinions of local residents.

10) AOB. Joy asked Tony if in the future he would be willing to come to a coffee morning and show what can be made with recycled goods and he is happy to do so.

As a footnote to our meeting we were told that a general study had been done into the Carbon footprint of Somerset as a county and the cost it would take just to make them carbon free and the total was £700 billion. That is just 1 county and the government are saying they want the whole country carbon neutral by 2050. This is highlights the immense task ahead for us all.

The date for the next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th August 7.30pm .

Meeting place to be confirmed as either village hall with Zoom support or still via Zoom.