

Minutes of SCEnSus held via Zoom on 14 October 7.30pm

1.

Welcome to all attending via Zoom meeting.

Joy Tucker

Marion Pratt

Janet Palmer

Cllr Tony Leech

Veronica Matthews

Jill and Robin Bevis

2.

Apologies

David Botting-Page

Mike Davies

Sadie Coventry

Helen Cunningham

3.

Approval of the minutes of last meeting.

A query was raised on the Monthly challenges which were not in the last minutes.

4.

Amendments to circulated draft plan and leaflet.

i.

Joy asked if Veronica could prioritize the leaflet.

It was also said that the wording needs to be sensitive as the aims we are hoping to achieve do not appear to be contradictory to the objectives.

The village hall has concerns about the wall being used for an espalier for fruit trees as the foundations are not suitable and may be unstable. Also with espaliers do they offer the same type of habitats that upright trees would provide.

Joy suggested that a meeting with the village hall committee would be a good starting point along with Anthony Morris on the best way forward. This would also give the group time to put in a bid for funding for trees. Jill said she believes that the Woodland Trust are also giving grants for such orchards and hedgerows so it may be worth contacting them. Maybe a hedge at the bottom of the playing field could be constructed as a corridor for wildlife.

ii.

Peat-free, Jill opened this up by saying that the figure of 70% of peat destruction is for the UK alone and not as a world-wide figure. There is a survey about to be produced by DEFRA reference peat. Jill said that we should put a link into the leaflet about climate change and Bio diversity which contains many good ideas for people to take on board and do.

The plan that we are putting forward is one that is constantly being updated so this can be something that will change over time with new ideas and this is something that should be mentioned in the Chairman's letter that is about to come out. It will state the more formal objectives and aims. It was thought that Veronicas challenges should be at the beginning so that people can be directed to a month of what is the next challenge.

iii.

Community Hub. As David was unable to be at the meeting it has not yet been clarified how this will run. However the main aim to make clear what this will provide and how it will run. Robin said that we need to be clear what it is, i.e a one stop source of information and each section can be looked at separately. Once it is established it should be a communication centre for people to put ideas on as to what has worked for them or to share help services or a place to find out what is being offered like car share or trips to recycle for those unable to get there themselves.

Marion said that this could be expanded on Facebook, help sheets that go out via the web. Robin said that it needs to have simplicity of access and a one stop call to arrange for the service.

iv.

Car sharing/Bike. due to the ongoing pandemic situation which is on the rise again this will be re looked at later on. due to the fact as well that there are still not many electric cars on our roads yet the idea of a charging point is not financially viable due to the cost of setting this up. It again is something for future consideration. Marion says she has put information on the web of which are the green buses to catch and also the ones that are less crowded for those concerned about using public transport.

Janet made a comment that her car insurance company has set the cost of insurance on the amount of miles a year you expect to drive. As you have to provide evidence of your mileage for renewal if you go over what you stated then the premiums will go up. Don't know how effective it is and if other companies are doing this as it would just be a case of change insurers. I must admit it has made me really cut down on using the car as can only do 27 miles a day to stay in the limit of 10,000 a year. This actually could be one of the challenges thinking about it!

v.

Litter.

Again this issue is a constant problem. We must all make sure that the correct recycling process is followed ie no food waste in black bags and what should go into the recycle bins and what should be taken to the tip. Tony Leech said that if this is happening a lot then the locality officer can come out and help sort this out. The issue of waste being dropped by the recycling teams themselves has been raised again and Tony said that he has put through a health and safety concern about the workers running alongside the vehicles and main roads. There has been an increase in rubbish at home since the Covid crisis which has led to more pressure to clear it. It was pointed out though that this has been going on a long time not just during Covid. Tony was also concerned about the amount of rubbish in black bags that should not be as this goes to incineration and some of this waste is recyclable. There is currently no carbon capture at the incineration plant. Joy has asked Robin if he would consider taking over her position on litter along with Janet as she has a large load of commitments at present.

6. Parish litter picking.

The question was asked if a cleaner area leads to people being more considerate with their waste and more likely to dispose of it correctly or does it have the opposite effect of some people will just drop it thinking that it doesn't matter as someone else will clean up after me. The areas for the litter picking should be compacted down and not named as such as this could lead to more litter if it's thought it will be cleaned up regularly.

Also it was decided that the names and phone numbers of the group personnel should not be published on the plan as this could lead to over consultation/abuse on issues to a particular members. It should be done as a group contact. The date set for the litter pick will be Saturday 24th Oct 10-12 meet at the Village Hall car park. For those doing their own areas let Joy know so they are not doubled up. If the weather is far too bad then Nov 7th.

NB there has been a risk assessment done and the SCPC insurance covers volunteers but only if it is on the specified day of the work carried out .

7.

We are currently thinking of ways that funds can be raised for the group being conscious of the fact that other projects in the village are requiring donations. Tony Leech said that we could ask our local WDBC Councillors for a grant from their £500 share of the Locality fund and also £10,000 from DCC where we would have to list specifics to get a grant.

8. Website/ Facebook page.

Marion has designed a brilliant webpage for the group including many links to helpful organisations involved in our aims.

9.

Further actions on any initiatives.

At the last SCPC meeting Cllr Coleman had raised an issue regarding Councillor and SCEnSus members use of public transport. Cllr Wilson proposed that this be referred to the SCEnSus group for consideration, but suggested that his insistence that "each member of the Emergency Climate Change Committee declare how many times since becoming a Councillor that they have caught any bus (but particularly the 5A) and their reasons for doing so/not doing so" was an unreasonable request.

Comments from Cllr Coleman had been circulated prior to the meeting in regard to bus use by members of SCEnSus.

Veronica said that she has replied to Cllr Coleman's email and has used the word "incensed" in her reply to him where he is requiring council members and SCEnSus group members to tell him how many times they have used the bus, when this was and for what purpose. Cllr Coleman raised this in relation to an issue at Sampford Chapple of bus stops being erected without full consultation, which has been resolved to the satisfaction of residents and most councillors. Janet pointed out that due to the fact that we are rural it is not always possible to use a bus and that cars are a necessity to be able to work/live in this area.

Robin & Jill Bevis had also responded personally regarding their use of public transport and cycling where possible.

10. A O B

Tony Leech and Jan Goffey just wanted to say that they were very impressed with how the group has managed to set up such good objectives in such a short time and the planning put in place to start the balls rolling.

He also added that due to the pandemic all the councils are cutting down on milage as meetings are being conducted via zoom etc.

Smaller towns are doing better with local shops as many are still not wishing to go into the bigger cities.

And the last issue was if anyone knows of a resident who is in fuel poverty direct them to the Warm Devon website or WDBC for further guidance.

Date of next meeting 10th November 7.30 Zoom.