

Tonbridge & Malling Climate Change Forum

Meeting - 15.12.2021

Minutes

Welcome from Gill Fox

Introductions from members present

Robin Betts - Chair

Gill Fox - TMBC

James Read - TMBC

Andrew Longman - TMBC

Wendy Palmer - Cllr

Anita Oakley - Cllr

Mark Hood - Cllr

Sarah Deakin - KCC

Guy Neville - Landowner representative (Birling Estate)

Tom Shelley - Parish Council representative (Aylesford PC)

Andrew Bagely - FOTE

Derek Whitehead - Medway Valley Countryside Partnership

Jim Mawby - West Kent College

Update on the progress of the sub-group

G Fox (TMBC) gave an update on the pledges made by schools around the COP26 conference. 4-5 schools had responded and produced leaf/tree displays with pledges by the children. The Mayor had visited with the Chair being absent due to election regulations.

J Read (TMBC) gave an update on tree planting. 4 tree packs amounting to 970 trees have been ordered from the Woodland Trust for planting at 4 sites across the Borough in March

2022. No delivery date has been confirmed yet, but members will be contacted about volunteering to assist as soon as the Council is notified.

G Fox (TMBC) gave an update on the creation of a CCF logo. Izzy Cheatham from the Youth Forum had designed it and it had subsequently been tweaked by the TMBC Media & Comms team to fit with TMBC regulations.

G Fox (TMBC) gave an update on the CCF templates that had been proposed by the sub-group after seeing drafts in October. The Media & Comms team at TMBC are against templates due to the resources needed to create and constantly update them. As such, the idea of a dedicated section of the TMBC website was put forward.

J Read (TMBC) gave an update on the progress of the webpages mentioned above. There will be dedicated sections for households, businesses, transport/travel, education etc. T Shelley asked that there be technical detail on the site as he thought the Kent design guide lacked this. G Neville stressed the need to promote this cleverly around major events.

Clarification from Andrew Longman (TMBC, Planning dept.) on 12 points to be observed in new build developments

Point 1. Update on charging point, members wanted clarification on space, congestion and e-bike charging concerns.

Points 2, 3, 4. Update on green spaces, members had concerns over planting (Miyawake method), the need for SPDs in the new Local Plan and a consideration of newly piloted schemes such as the Tree Pits in Dover overseen by KCC. KCC urged TMBC to up its 10% net gain for new builds to 20% to align with KCC.

Points 5. Update on landscaping and open spaces. Members raised concerns over jurisdiction and how local Parish's and Authorities could manage complex systems.

Point 6. Update on cycling + pedestrian access. Members raised concerns about cycle routes and pedestrian access on new and existing housing estates.

Points 7, 8, 9. Update on heat waste and storage. Members commented on concerns over the ambitiousness of the upcoming Future Homes Standards. Members urged TMBC to set higher standards. This need for higher standards was also stressed in relation to building materials on new builds and the need for whole-life costing.

Point 10. Update on plans to increase broadband coverage. Members agreed with the necessity of improvements.

Point 11. Update on young people's access to green and play places.

Point 12. Update on accessibility of local rail stations.

Partner Updates

Cllr R. Betts let members know he was meeting Eleanor Hoyle (Head of Planning, TMBC) and Cllr D. Lettington (Planning portfolio holder) to discuss carbon reduction improvements. Members were invited to forward comments and concerns to raise.

G Neville asked that we look at the issue of existing emissions at the next meeting - this was agreed by the Chair and will be put on the next agenda.

End of Meeting