

NOTES of the Meeting of the **SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY, 2020** at **6.30PM**

PRESENT Councillor Ms L Crawford (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs G Parker (Vice Chairman)

Councillors J Ellis, Mrs U Mann, A Hutton (ex officio), P Ward (ex officio).

Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Ward Member)

IN ATTENDANCE Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence, all Members were present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs U Mann declared an interest in Note No 4 in relation to "Precious Plastics" and "Tavistock Scrap Store" by virtue of involvement with the organisations concerned.

3. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Notes of the Meeting of Sustainability and Environment Working Group held on Tuesday 16th October, 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

Noted That by way of clarification a Member drew attention to the provision within the Notes agreeing the attendance of Members at the (then) upcoming "Tavistock Energy Fair".

4. PROGRESS TO DATE

The Working Group reviewed progress to date in the identification and evaluation of best practice regarding the potential for town/parish councils to promote sustainable and environmental initiatives, and those examples of best practice which might appropriately be progressed to the next stage (Councillor report: Appendix 1 refers).

Consideration was then given to the report prepared in connection with local organisations which might be invited to talk about their role in environmental issues as previously agreed by Council. Arising therefrom it was agreed that the focus of the information gathering session should be upon the receipt of information from those organisations constituted to proactively support specific local initiatives. As such it would not include presentations from either activist/lobby groups, nor organisations which might be undertaking sustainable or environmental initiatives as part of their normal business or activity.

To that end it was agreed that the designated Member invite the following organisations to nominate a representative to attend at an information gathering session to be held on Monday 2nd March, 2020 at the Council Chamber. Each to make a presentation for information only of not more than 5 minutes regarding the work of their organisation in connection with local environmental and sustainability initiatives.

The groups represented to be as follows:-

- Transition Tavistock;
- Tamar Energy Community;
- Tavistock Transport Initiative;
- Tavistock Community Gardening;
- Plastic Free Tavistock;
- South West Water;
- Precious Plastics;
- Tavistock Scrap Store;
- Tidy Tavi;
- Recycling for Charity;
- Recycle Devon;
- Tamar Valley Food Hub.

There was then a wide ranging discussion regarding the potential future role of the Council as a convener/facilitator should appropriate community groups wish to combine to develop and take related issues forward, together with:-

- The work which the Town Council itself had agreed to undertake in connection with its own operating and working practices which would be further developed;
- A preliminary discussion around ways in which the Council might consider providing support to a future collective community led approach, perhaps through the provision of daytime meeting facilities without charge;
- Acknowledgement that the Council and its staff, as a public authority, would be mindful of the status of organisations with which it worked, and appropriately ensure that all such prospective partners were fully committed to operating wholly within the law;
- The importance attached to being aware of, and then integrating any prospective actions into, work being undertaken at District and County level (and the possibility of inviting the appropriate Director from the Borough Council to provide a presentation to Members in connection with same);
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan Group (which would be responsible for reporting to DM&L Committee and Council on sustainability and the environment insofar as development management, planning control and the built environment were concerned);
- Reference to the importance of governing themes which might be developed such as reduce, reuse, recycle;
- The importance attached to simple and direct action by Council, organisations and individuals from a pragmatic perspective as opposed to the engagement of "experts" at potentially significant cost;
- Areas which the Council might review going forward in its own operating practices and distinct from community led activity, such as the provision of a document management system for Councillors;
- The holding of the next meeting of the Working Group to follow the March information gathering session;
- The extent to which the Group did/did not feel further work was required to investigate other examples of good practice and the sequential nature of the process agreed by Council;
- Various resources including a report into waste treatment arising from London Borough apartments, also a report of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management;
- How work being/to be undertaken might be acknowledged.

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

CHAIRMAN