

## CLIMATE AND NATURE CHANGE GROUP MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

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PRESENT: Councillor C. L. Rackham (Chair)  
Councillor D. Harrison, Councillor S. A. Shepherd,  
The Town Clerk (T&ETC), Deputy Town Clerk & Head of Resources, Head of Projects and  
Community Services and P.A.

### 1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

### 2. MINUTES APPROVAL, UPDATE AND ACTIONS

- a) Minutes of the meeting dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were approved as a true record.
- b) Actions from the meeting dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were covered by the items below.

### 3. REWILDING PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND TREE/FLOWER PLANTING

- a) It was stated that a total of 21 trees provided by HCC had been planted as per HCC's precise locations and directions. The locations included Briarwood, a glade between Briarwood and Myrtle Avenue and Eling quayside. Some disease resistant elms had been planted where previous elms had been lost. It was stated that the trees were 2.75m tall and supplied with support and wrap around protection, and that they would be watered and monitored regularly.
- b) It was suggested that replacement trees may be planted at Eling Recreation Ground as part of VE and VE commemorations. In order to prevent these trees being targeted by vandals again, it was suggested that metal surrounds be investigated, or thorny bushes planted around them.
- c) Red, white and blue flowers which would be available immediately were being sought by alternative suppliers, with a view to planting in March, so that they are well established by May. Planting for the period from June to October had been successfully sourced. It was confirmed that self watering planters would be investigated. It was hoped by all that the flowers in the Town would have more of an impact than in previous years.

### 4. CLIMATE AND NATURE ACTION PLANS

- a) It was stated that thermal imaging surveys for all Council buildings had been arranged. It was confirmed that these would be carried out during Q1 2025 and would be free of charge.

- b) Following decimation by the box tree moth, replacement planting of green spire plants in the Town Centre and on the Calmore industrial park roundabout would be planted Q1 2025.
- c) The Head of Projects and Community Services confirmed that tenders for the LED light installation for the War Memorial Car Park and rockery would go out imminently with a view to installation by end of Q1 2025.
- d) It was confirmed that environmental and green issues were always taken into account when considering Planning Applications.
- e) The Town Clerk confirmed that the annual carbon footprint report completed in January 2025 reflected an overall reduction of 19.28% on the report completed in December 2022, and that the carbon footprint was under the national average for the UK and below that of the NFDC in most aspects. Going forward the Council would continue to address any recommendations and continue to make improvements where possible. The Town Clerk confirmed that these reports had been provided by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and would be done on an annual basis.
- f) It was advised that bat boxes and insect houses had been donated to schools and that three local schools were receptive as potential schools for the NFDC ecology team to advise. It was hoped that the ecology team would recommend insects which won't eat the plants and it was thought that HCC had issued more information about a planting and pollination plan.
- g) The Head of Projects and Community Services confirmed that the rockery pond was complete apart from the planting and lighting which would be done at the same time in March 2025. In addition it was reported that the contracts for rotavating and reseeding had been issued.
- h) Rewilding – it was stated that a survey would be done and that a collation of information about rewilding would be done in order to co-ordinate plans.
- i) The Chair reported that it would be useful to identify particular species in order to build a strategy for embedding corridors into the Town plan. Bat boxes and a bat survey were suggested, or perhaps the monitoring of bat species in a likely area such as around the salmon leap. Once particular species were identified, more of the same and other species could be encouraged. It was suggested that mini cameras could be placed inside bat boxes, if feasible, and it was agreed that local sponsorship be looked into, eg Garmin, and also whether solar powered cameras were available.
- j) A draft document regarding the Neighbourhood Plan was being formulated and that the document was to go out for public consultation shortly. It was agreed that this should be put on the website with a request for comments. The Head of Projects and Community Services stated that they could provide a link to a map which identified the area in question between the T&ETC boundary and Goatee beach.

## 5. ENERGY SAVING

- a) As above, it was stated that a thermal imaging survey was being undertaken.