

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL –EXTERNAL COMMITTEE

CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE

NOTES OF A MEETING ON THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Ms. J. Colvin, Ms. G. Gandolfo, K. Mulholland, R. Quinton, Mrs. K. Walder and D. Ward. Mr. P. Burgess (Town Clerk) and Mrs. S. Smith (Admin Assistant)

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllrs. Crawford and Dr. Lovelidge.

14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020 were agreed.

15 MATTERS ARISING.

None.

16 REFINING MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Jayne Colvin agreed with Cllr. Mrs Catherine Walder's advice to sit through the meeting before deciding whether to join the committee.

The Town Clerk, Phil Burgess, commented that we welcomed everybody on the committee and if a member would like to have voting rights they would need to sign a code of conduct.

17 CARBON TRUST FOOTPRINTING SERVICES ENQUIRY.

Phil updated the committee on the quote received from Carbon Trust - £5000 - £7000.

It was agreed that a benchmarking exercise is worth doing.

Giovanna Gandolfo suggested putting a request out on social media as a local resident may have such expertise.

Kate will speak to Spencer Goddard at The Social Hub as he may have some contacts and Phil will search for alternative companies.

18 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE.

As not enough voting members were present it was decided to return to this item.

19 KCC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING-POINT SCHEME.

Kate commented that the Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP's) in the museum car park in Station Road were not currently working. Phil advised that this has been reported and that they will be attended to.

Phil updated the committee on our grant application to KCC for EVCP's. Our application has been rejected as the locations requested were on

ABC's land. Our only course of action is to encourage ABC to adopt more car parks. K&ESR are interested in installing a couple and KCC are happy to consider a late application from them.

Kate will speak to Sheila at ABC to let her know that we are keen to have more EVCP's in Tenterden car parks and which car parks are less busy.

David Ward suggested the White Lion car park may be interested in having some charging points. Sharon Smith will contact the Manager.

20 REFILL STATION ENQUIRY.

The refill station enquiry was discussed. It was agreed that, although it is a good idea, there may be certain health and safety implications with storage of particular food stuffs such as flour and cereals. Jo commented that certain Waitrose stores, although not Tenterden, were experimenting with the idea that customers bring their own refillable containers for refills of certain items.

It was decided that the best route, rather than a stand-alone offering from the committee, would be to contact the local supermarkets with the idea.

It was acknowledged that there was a refill stall on the High Street Market before Covid-19 and that Webb's Ironmongers store also offers a refill service for certain detergents.

21 PV PANELS ON TTC BUILDINGS.

The quote and email were noted.

The committee felt that it was very important to move forward with the installation of PV Panels. Cllr. Roger Quinton felt that if we include all the Town Council owned buildings we should be able to reduce the price per kW. He stated that the new Tractor Shed would hold about 35 panels alone and if the other buildings are included this should increase the number to over 100.

Roger explained that the energy produced can be used, stored or put back into the grid to receive an income. This would enable the Town Council's carbon footprint to be lowered greatly.

The committee decided to contact companies to enquire about securing a reduced price for residents should they purchase PV Panels alongside our order, to 'buy in bulk'.

Roger commented that there may be funding and grants available for solar panels.

Roger will make the necessary enquiries.

22 SPEAKER - JAYNE COLVIN.

Jayne outlined the TerraCycle recycling scheme that she has used before from a different residence. She suggested a monthly, central, easily accessible collection point, with residents being informed of items that

can be recycled, such as Tassimo coffee pods, water filter cartridges, baby food pouches and beauty products. Residents are asked to collect items that are pre-sorted, emptied, wiped etc. and bring them to the collection point. Volunteers then take the bulk items onwards to an area drop off point, or they can be boxed and sent direct to TerraCycle.

This would increase the overall amount of recycling in the town and would help to contribute to Tenterden's sustainability targets. If enough recycling is collected TerraCycle points can be collected and awarded to nominated local charities.

The scheme could spread to schools to tie in with their environmental studies and to promote responsible consumerism.

Jayne said that the scheme started small in Poole and grew over the years. Half a dozen volunteers were involved in managing the collection. We could apply for Tenterden to be a collection point or items could be bulk delivered to the nearest collection point.

Jo commented that it may be necessary to be selective on the items.

Jayne commented that several collections may need to take place before enough similar items have been received to take on to the drop off point.

Cllr. Ken Mulholland commented that there are small local schemes already in place, such a scheme to recycle crisp packets at the Fat Ox pub. He suggested that the recycling collection point could take place in St. Michael's Rec.

The committee are very keen to implement the scheme and will carry out some more research. Both ABC and the councillor involved with the set up in Poole will be contacted.

Kate commented that a scheme that has succeeded elsewhere is perfect, as it is has already been proven that it can be achieved.

23 SPEAKER - DAVID WARD.

David presented a slide show on Sustainable Transport. He explained that he is a Tenterden resident and president of the Towards Zero Foundation, a UK registered charity whose aim is to reduce deaths on transport. The foundation supports independent consumer testing of vehicle safety and emissions worldwide.

David explained that The Global Fuel Economy Initiative aims to improve new light duty vehicle efficiency by 50% by 2030 and The International Energy Agency supports the target to reach a 30% sales share for electric vehicles by 2030.

David suggested that the Key Issues to be tackled are:

- EV Charging points
- Congestion/Parking issues
- Speeding
- Alternative transport modes – walking, cycling, and public transport.

Kate asked David where he would start, and David replied that promoting Electric Vehicle Charging Points is essential, with creative thinking needed where off street parking is not available.

He also stated that speed is key, and that the level of speeding shows a strong case for 20mph zones outside schools. Intelligence Speed Assistance (ISA) in vehicles could be very beneficial for traffic calming by vehicles. It may take time to infiltrate, but once a third of all vehicles have this technology it will slow other vehicles down.

Kate commented that it took 7 years to get a reduction in the speed limit in Smallhythe. A lot of effort for small changes in road furniture.

Ken commented that at key times the Lollipop Man outside Homewood School provides traffic calming and the parent parking congestion outside St. Michael's slows the traffic. Ken also commented that in the past, Speedwatch has been in operation as a result of residents complaining about speed and traffic, but the response to offering training to more residents was quiet. People moan but are too busy to help. He also commented that the number of speeding cases wasn't as many as thought. There were some, but not the volume perceived.

Jo commented that the fact that lower speed results in less traumatic injury is irrefutable. Speed must be reduced.

Ken commented that London Beach Golf Club are aiming to buy an electric shuttle bus service which will go into Tenterden. Kate commented that it would be a mistake to bank all Tenterden strategy on private developers.

David commented that there is evidence to show that reducing car parking in High Streets and widening pavements increases footfall. Signal speeds need to be given to be more user friendly. Pushing back the sheer space that vehicles have changes the dynamic, look, and feel, as happened in Trafalgar Square. It is a cultural change that will come anyway with technology. 30mph is on the cusp of very serious injury, 20mph reduces injuries. If the speed limit was reduced during the day the traffic would be calmed.

Ken suggested a Park and Ride facility.

Phil commented that KCC will not pay for new speed signs unless there is a proven need for them. Crash map statistics are required, showing accidents to be on a specific stretch. Kate commented that new speed signs cost £1500 for two, and Jo asked if the council would be prepared to pay for them, Phil thought it was a possibility.

It was decided to come back to the issue and perhaps arrange a Transport Conference.

24 PLASTIC BAG FREE TOWN.

This item was deferred due to lack of time.

25 DISABLED FRIENDLY VEGETABLE PATCH.

This item was deferred due to lack of time.

26 ELECTION OF ROLLING CHAIR FOR NEXT MEETING.

Roger will Chair the next meeting.

27 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

None.