



Minutes

Name of Meeting	Environment and Sustainability Forum – updates	
Date and Time	24 th February 2022, 17:00-18:30	
Venue	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees	Name	Role/Organisation
	Holly Jones	IWC - Climate Change Project Officer
	Jonathan Bacon	IWC - Cabinet Member
	Rob Sauven	Interim Chair, Mission Zero Hub
	Matt Whittaker	People Powered
	Ally De Trey	Bembridge Parish Council
	Dina Jung	
	Robert Brooker	IWC - Waste & Recycling Contract Manager
	Michael Murwill	
	Lester Slade	
	Claire Critchison	IWC – Councillor, Vice Chairman
	Helena Hewston	
	Venetia Verey	
	Sarah Talbot	
	Jamie Marsh	
	Chris Jarman	IWC - Cabinet Member
	William Ainslie	People Powered
	Paul Fuller	
	Maggie Nelmes	
	Luke Spandley	
	David Newton	IWC - Strategic Manager Transport and Regen
	Nora Clinton	
	Brian Taylor	AgeUK (IW) Older Person Steering Group (OPSG) / Whippingham Parish Council
Steve Hastings	IWC - Corporate Scrutiny Chair	
Colin Palmer	Wight Community Energy	
Tony Gillingham	IWC - Tree Officer	
Robyn Munt		
Sarah Marshall	Planet Aware	
George Wilks		
17:00	HJ	Welcome and housekeeping Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzie Ellis • Paul Southall • Chris Quirk • Phil Jordan • Ian Stephens • Lee Matthews • Jenny Hicks • Dave Adams • Lora Peacey-Wilcox

		MS Teams and housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No amendments to last forum's minutes
17:05	JB	Isle of Wight Biosphere Reserve status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides attached
		Questions
	DJ	Urban areas have been found to be better for biodiversity than rural areas. What is the council doing to stop people concreting over garden for parking, etc.?
	JB	When development happens it must be done in a way that benefits both humans and the environment – will hand over to Paul
	PF	The Island Planning Strategy is covering a lot of ground including more sustainable housing. Fuel poverty is another priority issue. Biodiversity net gain of at least 10% will be a requirement which will feed back into Dina's question. Future developments will be expected to strengthen green spaces.
	ADT	Is a larger scale map of the Biosphere zones available?
	JB	Slides will be made available – please note the map is a work in progress so borders will change slightly as time and work goes on
	HJ	Will send link and instructions for DEFRA Magic Map – this may cover the information needed
	MN	Island Roads have begun using glyphosate on weeds on pavements again. They had previously stopped using this. This should not be taking place in the biosphere. Is the council acting on this?
	JB	We are aware of this and actively seeking a solution. Island Roads had switched to manual removal, but this was actually a breach of their contract. We are looking for an alternative.
17:20	RS	Mission Zero Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides attached
		Questions
	DJ	Is the Island Bus Users group involved in the Transport hub?
	RS	Not at this stage – the group described was the infrastructure board which covers providers
	HJ	Will put Dina and Rob in touch – DJ to email sustainability@iow.gov.uk
	PF	I'm chair of the IOW Local Access Forum representing transport users across the Island – can we have a representative in the Transport hub?
	RS	Yes – we are aiming to encourage collaboration in all areas between all groups.
	HJ	Please can anyone with an interest in joining the hubs email sustainability@iow.gov.uk naming the Hub/s you are interested in, and include a couple of lines about why you are interested and how your skills could support the Hub?
	DN	A note on TIB: it currently focuses on transport providers for logistical reasons. Transport colleagues are looking to incorporate users more widely and regularly to ensure all are represented. Bringing in new colleagues to work on this.
	CJ	As we need to achieve mission zero, is there a recommended software that planning applicants can use to calculate new build, extension, and renovation lifecycle totals so that they can accompany their application with their proposal to minimise design and offset the remainder? The 'Environment Agency Carbon Calculator for Construction' and Institute for Civil Engineers models each seem to be increasingly used by local authorities.
HJ	In theory the calculators should all give the same figures as they should follow the Greenhouse Gas Protocol but this is not necessarily the case, especially with developers potentially trying to creatively account. Procurement ask council-	

		procured developers with projects over a certain size to provide footprint information so this is in mind already. Certain aspects such as circular economy principles will decrease footprints drastically. HJ to pick up with Procurement and Planning to review.
	CJ	Can the council work with the community/developers to lessen impacts?
	RS	Yes – Built Environment Hub will aim to do this
	SM	Will offset really work for projects like this? What works in terms of offsetting?
	HJ	Can be a bit of a minefield and the council has strongly emphasised emissions reductions should always be the priority. For offsetting we will need to ensure reputable schemes are used. The calculators mentioned by Chris will be able to help with calculating figures for this and biodiversity net gain mentioned by Paul earlier.
	SM	Where do waste/circular economy and marine environment come into the Hubs?
	HJ	Waste will come under resilience and adaptation as how we use waste will make up part of adapting to a new way of living. It will also be covered by various hubs as it will have a lot of crossover. The rural land use hub will cover land and marine.
	RS	We are still seeking a marine expert to join the land use hub
	BT	IWC recognises difficulty in engaging with the public. Will there be a hub or group set up specifically dedicated to this?
	RS	If you are able to volunteer for this, please can we get in touch to discuss? BT to email sustainability@iow.gov.uk
	NC	Mission Zero Hub event – 22nd March, 7pm
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/263319404427
17:35	HJ	Isle of Wight Council updates
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides attached
		Questions
	ADT	PSDS for Bembridge council buildings – can we discuss options?
	HJ	Please email sustainability@iow.gov.uk
	DJ	The Green Homes Grant Local Authority delivery has not been promoted anywhere and ends on 31st March.
	HJ	Will follow up with the team who have administered this – I know they have discussed with Comms so will check where it was promoted.
17:45	MW	E-cargo bikes intro
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides attached
17:50	HJ	Forum topics for 2022
		Suggestions welcome via this page
18:30	HJ	Pre-submitted questions
		<p>With regards to energy, how self-sufficient is the IOW? How much further do we need to go to be self-sufficient? I have struggled to get a simple view on where we are today and how we are going to get there in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there is about 92MW of solar energy capacity on the Island and about 3MW of other renewable sources • These generated 113,822.8 MWh in 2020 (enough to power about 30,000 average UK homes for one year) • 30MW anticipated from PTEC tidal development • To be self-sufficient, as much as 300MW capacity would be needed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This depends on how far electrification goes and population growth in the coming years • In terms of energy used, Island electricity consumption fell from 625 GWh in 2005 to 539 GWh in 2018 • However is likely to increase over time as we switch to electrification, e.g. move away from gas boilers
		<p>A target of being self-sufficient in electricity from renewable sources by 2020 was/is noted on the iow.gov website? Was this achieved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was not achieved largely due to grid capacity issues. • Owing to the need for a fourth interconnector with the mainland, developers have been put off because of the additional cost required to connect to the grid and export excess energy back to the mainland. • The council and partners are currently working with SSEN on potential options to overcome this and the self-sufficiency target has been restated within last year's Climate Strategy. • We will provide updates as the work progresses
		<p>How much energy is generated on the Island? Green vs Oil/Gas generated?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity includes about 95mw of renewables – largely solar (just over 0.5MW on council buildings as part of Salix projects) • Cowes Power Station has maximum capacity of 140MW. It runs on light fuel oil (a type of diesel?) and uses 762 litres a minute when it is running at full capacity – however, it doesn't get used all that regularly. • Cowes Power Station annually runs at about 1% of time and this energy is almost 100% sent to the mainland to strengthen the south eastern grid. • The rest of the Island's energy currently comes from the mainland • Unfortunately I haven't been able to find any specific figures around exactly how much Cowes is used year-on-year other than the 1% figure, but I will keep looking around and provide an update when I hear more.
		<p>How much longer will these meetings be online/remote? This format does exclude those who wish to come but do not have the technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings will remain online for the time being but with restrictions ending we will discuss options and look to a hybrid approach to be introduced later this year.
		<p>Many of the issues that people at this forum care passionately about, e.g. tree cover, biodiversity, pollution, etc. are undermined by the lack of enforcement. Unscrupulous developers know this and take advantage. Will this be addressed so that the message gets around that people cannot destroy the natural world for the sake of personal financial gain? Larger fines could offset the cost perhaps?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please could you send me any further information (via the Sustainability inbox) about any issues you have seen arise, or if you see any new issues arise? • I will need some further time to answer this in full in terms of what could be done about stricter enforcement as this goes beyond my role. However, I have passed the question on to some colleagues to discuss potential methods of enforcement.
18:35	HJ	AOB
	VV	Regarding the £500,000 tree planting please could we consider an update on the TPOs which were established in the 1944s and 1950s re Elm and Ash disease. Renew archive of ancient trees
	HJ	We will include this in discussions. We will provide updates as soon as we have any further information available but this is unlikely to be before April.

Date of next Environment & Sustainability Forum: 24th March 2022

Topic: TBC