



Minutes

Name of Meeting	Environment and Sustainability Forum	
Date and Time	29 th July 2021, 17:00	
Venue	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees	Name	Role/Organisation
	Holly Jones	Climate Change Project Officer
	Jonathan Bacon	Cabinet Member
	Ashman, Christopher	Director of Regeneration
	Vince Wedlock-Ward	Future Isle of Wight
	David Thornton	Future Isle of Wight
	Nic Cory	Absolar
	Phil Wu	Absolar
	Brooker, Robert	Waste & Recycling Contract Manager
	Steve Cowley	Shalfleet Parish Council
	Hobart, John	Parish Cllr, Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council
	Michael Murwill	
	Dina Jung	
	Rob Sauven	
	Nora Clinton	
	David Adams	Councillor, Nettlestone & Seaview
	Alan Short	
	Alex Lawson	Cycle Wight
	Brian Taylor	AgeUK (IW) Older Person Steering Group (OPSG) / Whippingham Parish Council
	Cindy Batley	
	Claire Hector	
	Colin Palmer	Wight Community Energy
	David George	
	Dorothy Moir	
	Jennine Gardiner	Rights of Way Assistant
	Helena Hewston	Shalfleet Parish Council
	Steve Hastings	Corporate Scrutiny Chair
	Ian Boyd	
	Chris Jarman	Councillor, Totland & Colwell
	Lester Slade	
Maggie Nelmes		
Lee Matthews	Strategic Mgr Recreation & Public Spaces	
Paul Fuller	Councillor, Cowes West and Gurnard	
Venetia Verey		
Marianne Sullivan	Councillor, Bembridge	
Alan Short		
Karl Love	Cabinet Member	
Sharon Lake	Councillor, East Cowes Town Council	
Fred Woodworth		
Sarah Marshall	Planet Aware	

17:00	HJ	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natasha Dix, Strategic Manager Waste & Environment Andrew Garratt, Audit Chair Julie Jones-Evans, Cabinet Member <p>MS Teams and housekeeping</p> <p><u>Meeting to be recorded for taking minutes only – not to be published externally</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth Overshoot Day fell on the same day as the July Forum this year. As mentioned, a link to further information can be found here: Earth Overshoot Day 2021 Home - #MoveTheDate
17:05	JB	<p>Introduction to new alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glad people are taking an interest in the E&S forums and the topic in general Recent years have been hottest in history – we know action is required New administration are making a very strong commitment to deal with the changing environmental situation Two areas of focus: Biosphere and climate change Covid has delayed Biosphere action but it will be fundamental to how the council and island operate. It will be a key part of every decisions the council makes Climate strategy: formally comes before Cabinet in September for adoption, with action plan. A lot will be about influence and not action as council is responsible for less than 1% of island emissions but we will consider climate change centrally to all decisions, like the Biosphere Island Plan will be central to both: consultation launching 29th July
17:10	CA	Presentation – Covid recovery (slides attached)
17:25	All	Q&A
	PF	You mentioned improving wage levels on the Island – what are the plans to do this?
		Goes back to growing existing businesses to become more profitable and up wages but also to attract new businesses. Island’s economic base is good but wages are brought down by some of the island’s most important sectors such as social care and hospitality. Need to attract higher wage sectors, e.g. with improved digital infrastructure, better business premises, working to sell the island as a place to locate, and promoting a good local workforce.
	SC	Can we have copies of the slides?
		HJ to send with minutes
	NC	It would be helpful to know how the island plan, climate plan and biosphere plan will work together and align
	JB	Biosphere plan is all those things combined
	CA	Island plan – draft going to cabinet. What can the council do to contribute to climate agenda? The island plan has a wider agenda – how can the island as a whole be sustainable. The council can only do so much directly in terms of climate across the island but can have a wider influence via the island plan which will in turn have a positive climate impact. Regen strategy developed in 2019 has influenced land use strategy to be published in 2021. All about sustainable growth within the context of what the island can do to sustain a secure future – climate change is at the heart of that.
SC	The island’s electrical capacity is limited owing to issues with the fourth interconnector – can this date be brought forwards?	

	HJ	The council is looking at alternatives as well as the fourth connector
	CA	We continue to work with utility providers to pressure this investment but also need to look at more deliverable/affordable options
	JB	I'm having some discussions around storage and what we can do given restrictions on the connector. How much generated energy can be put straight to use? We may be able to use EVs as travelling batteries – feed power back into homes in evenings when needed.
	CP	On behalf of Wight Community Energy we have been negotiating with SSEN for 4-5 years – we would welcome working alongside the council to speed up the process if this is now seen as an important part of taking the island forward. Batteries – we have approached SSEN previously and it has been rejected largely owing to costs. Technical and political pressure is needed – can our MP get involved? If there is a will to do this SSEN will be willing. ED2: electricity companies submitting future plans to OFGEM. At the minute plans say they don't anticipate any additional solar generation before 2028. Constraints currently make this impossible but there are several developers interested, however we can't prove this to SSEN right now.
17:40	VWW	<p>Future Isle of Wight Future Isle of Wight - Live Green Live Better (futureiow.co.uk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded FLOW in 2017 – community interest company. Have been working with WCE for several years. FLOW is well aware of constraints as discussed just now. • Aim: help businesses and residents on IOW reduce carbon footprints while saving money. We have several directors from various backgrounds who want to help. We cover transport, waste, water, built environment. • Website recently redeveloped: set up to be like a magazine with various sections relevant to different queries. • Absolar will speak in a minute – we are working with them at the minute on an island project. • European bidirectional charging points project taking place at the minute – 4 European countries working with businesses to install bidirectional chargers and project will take data from that. This will help support smart grid development on the island. • This will in turn eventually help biodiversity by reducing emissions/pollution. • Another current project: training for surveying for insulation using council/government grants. This will assist with retrofit projects across the island • VWW is about to become a PAS2035 retrofit coordinator. This funding will help another individual train as a PAS2035 assessor. • 2019: Smart Island Live event. Will pick this back up next year (Covid dependent). Helps showcase island activity. • David Thornton will outline next project before Absolar
	DT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're involved and active in helping businesses with seeking and applying for green funding. Green Tech South administer the European regional development fund which is about to release new funding. Helps businesses with story behind transition and how this can make savings and get them grant funding.
17:50	NC	<p>Absolar Absolar Smart energy revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar potential portal going live 30th July 2021 for the Isle of Wight • Helps to view solar potential of residences immediately and simply to assess whether Solar PV would be a good investment • IOW Solar Sim

18:05	All	Q&A
	SL	I live in East Cowes where there are a lot of issues with ferry traffic and there are serious concerns about emissions. Can we monitor these emissions based on traffic levels? Portsmouth/Southampton have a clean air policy – how can we incorporate this on the island?
	VWW	Some councils use sensors to track. One of our areas is transport – we would like to encourage EVs as this will eliminate CO2 and help balance the grid.
	HJ	10/12 sites already monitored for air quality across the island Link to information: Environmental Health - Air Quality - Service Details (iow.gov.uk)
	SL	Need to improve public transport so visitors stop bringing their cars. Can we work towards sustainable travel and transport?
	VWW	We welcome this approach and are looking for new members at FLOW – please get in touch if interested.
	CP	The tool looks really good. The example had 5.9kw proposed – is this possible on the island owing to capacity issues stemming from SSEN? I thought 3.9kw was the max.
	NC	This can be overcome by installing a limited export meter. There is a new feature coming showing what you can fit vs what you should fit.
	CP	We have linked solar to hot water tank – the hot water tank then use excess solar power. This might be very useful for many households
	NC	Good point – hot water tank can make an excellent battery. We have partnered with FLOW so Absolar can outline what's possible to people then they can pick up on the ground.
	PF	Nationally 11% of homes are in fuel poverty. IOW is closer to 25%. How to address this as solar etc. is often out of reach of the people that it would benefit most?
	VWW	FLOW is only one of the parties promoting insulation on the IOW. Insulation should always come first. There are grants etc out there. PV etc can have a huge impact on lower income households but is often too expensive. Need to start with insulation and move from there
	HJ	Warm Up Wight scheme – free insulation to eligible households Economic Development are working on Green Homes Grant – vouchers to retrofit low carbon technology
	VWW	FLOW is working with the council on the Green Homes Grant
	SL	Why has the island never been pushed forward as a showcase area for R&D in renewable technology?
	VWW	Sustainable Chale was first estate to have sustainable installs. We are starting the European funded project for building to vehicle charging. There is some ground-breaking stuff happening across the island
	HJ	Worth mentioning PTEC to be based in the south west of the island for a trial tidal energy project
	CP	PTEC and EMEC (based in Scotland) have teamed up and EMEC have a reputation for delivery. I'm feeling much more positive about this project as EMEC will drive this forward. Vestas on the island – factory near Newport is their global HQ and makes the largest wind turbine blades in the world. This is the beginnings of an important centre.
	JB	PTEC is looking like it could really lift off now. There have been some past issues, but people are much more accepting of the project today and there is a stronger case for it to succeed this time around.
18:15	HJ	Grants

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several new grants have been made available in the past month covering a lot of different areas. HJ will continue to update the monthly guide and send this out with meeting minutes. This will also be published on the E&S Forum web page. • Local authorities are ineligible for many types of grant funding– please can Forum members spread the word? A lot of funding is made available to community groups, charities, schools, Town & Parish Councils, businesses • If anyone is interested in applying for some funding but unsure where to start, get in touch via sustainability@iow.gov.uk – we can't complete applications on your behalf but can provide tips and guidance
18:20	HJ	Pre-submitted questions
		<p>Could I ask about the current state of the Climate and Environment Strategy draft and when that will go before the new council?</p> <p>It is going to CMT in August so finalising the current draft at the minute, and we hope it will be formally adopted in September</p>
		<p>I have also mentioned a couple of times to you that your iow.moderngov.co.uk portal still points to an old Dec 2020 version so question two is could this be updated with the latest version?</p> <p>The old draft will remain here as it should be kept as a record of what was discussed during the meeting. The new version will be added when it goes to CMT in August. My apologies for not responding sooner as I thought I had emailed you about this a couple of months ago.</p>
		<p>At what stage of delivery is the internal communications campaign designed to embed behavioural change and thinking sustainably as part of the corporate DNA of the IWC?</p> <p>Consultation around the strategy itself has been ongoing with various service areas across the council since 2019.</p> <p>Currently we are working towards rolling out council-wide learning and development modules, which were discussed with the internal officers' group earlier this week. This will be step 1 and its aim is to ensure that everyone throughout the council has the same level of understanding and knowledge of climate change, its impacts, and the council's role.</p> <p>Ongoing internal work will take place following this to ensure that the information remains fresh in people's minds and will be updated as new research/policy is available.</p> <p>Following this in 2022 we will begin working towards amending decision-making processes throughout the council to ensure climate and environment are always a consideration.</p>
		<p>Will the first review of the Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan be published before Q3 in 2023?</p> <p>The review will be with full council 2 years after the adoption date of the strategy and published accordingly. Assuming the strategy is adopted in September the review will be carried out during Q3 2023. The date stated in all drafts to date has assumed that the strategy will be adopted by the end of Q3 this year but will change if that is not the case.</p>
		<p>Please explain the IWC's action plan to build public engagement?</p> <p>Step one will be adoption of the strategy. This has been looked over by a number of stakeholders external to the council as well as internal service areas/colleagues and any feedback received has been incorporated where relevant. Many of the action points have mentioned comms as part of the outcome and we envision one overarching comms campaign relating to the climate strategy. Outside of that, I have discussed some options with another of our officers recently who has made several suggestions about projects we</p>

	<p>may be able to work on together although these are in the early discussion stages (for example, comms via the arts/local events).</p> <p>There will need to be a number of approaches for different audiences – for example, schools, local businesses, residents, NGOs, charities, internally for the council, through the council’s supply chain, etc. Different audiences will have different priorities, but we need to ensure that the overall goal of net zero is communicated effectively to everyone to make sure there is a general understanding of what this means and acceptance of how it’s reached.</p>
	<p>What timescale is proposed to achieve this [public engagement]?</p> <p>We expect a lot of the first two years of the strategy to consist of engagement in terms of what happens outside of the council’s operations. However, engagement will need to be an ongoing project throughout the lifetime of the climate strategy. We can’t get the whole area to net zero without residents’ participation so it will be an ongoing, evolving activity as work progresses.</p>
	<p>Who or which department will have responsibility to drive this part of the Strategy?</p> <p>TBC – we have begun discussing what will be needed with the council’s communications team but expect the overarching campaign to be a joint effort between climate change officer/waste and recycling/comms, with information provided from different teams/service areas as different projects get underway.</p>
	<p>How will their work be monitored and what criteria will be used to measure success?</p> <p>In terms of things like social media and online campaigns engagement will be relatively easy to measure, e.g. likes and comments per post. There will be other metrics we can use such as uptake of insulation via the Warm Up Wight campaign, number of EV chargers available and use of those chargers across the Island, number of homes with solar panels, etc. following comms campaigns. Success criteria will depend on what the campaign is covering at the time.</p>
	<p>Will they be supported by appropriate funding, and if so, how much?</p> <p>Strategy is not yet adopted – can’t confirm at this stage</p>
	<p>Will the public be allowed to observe in the manner of public assemblies?</p> <p>This is part of the purpose of the E&S forum. I’m unsure what is meant by observe outside of this in terms of engagement activity.</p>
	<p>My worry is what has actually been done since the council declared a climate emergency, lots of talk and a few good ideas from the forum maybe, but there does not seem to be any of the progress needed to help mitigate (on the Isle of Wight's behalf) the worst of this crisis we are all facing.</p> <p>Actions taken to date are outlined in full in the draft Climate Strategy. There has been a considerable amount done; however, a lot of what has happened has been spread across the council’s different teams and hasn’t taken place specifically as part of an overarching climate strategy, and perhaps hasn’t been as visible as it should have. Some examples of work to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Development team has recently secured funding for 10 new on-street EV chargers (locations TBC) and the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD Phase 1) which is currently being delivered to retrofit eligible housing using government funding. A second phase is being managed by the South West Energy Hub (funding secured) and we'll be bidding for the Sustainable Warmth Fund (Phase 3) this summer. • The Draft Island Planning Strategy will cover a lot of ground in terms of what will be required in new development. Chris Ashman discussed a lot

		<p>of this during his presentation. This strategy is under consultation (The Island Plan - Service Details (iow.gov.uk))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Warm Up Wight scheme provides free insulation to eligible households – HJ has requested figures on the current uptake of this and will update the forum when received • Around 65 local businesses have signed up to the Green Impact Programme over the last two years and have taken over 450 actions under this programme to reduce their environmental impacts • The council has invested in the Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre and is investigating other methods in which it can support renewable heat and energy across the island • DfT funding received for Ryde Transport Hub and an Active Travel project – both underway • The Access Fund programme has reduced CO2 emissions from travel by almost 4,500 tonnes since 2019 (Sustainable Travel on the Isle of Wight - Service Details (iow.gov.uk)) • Funding has been secured for a new e-bike loan and hire scheme starting this year and the e-scooter trial is already underway • A Planet Aware tree planting project was completed in April with support from the Council (over 400 trees) • A Woodland and Planting Plan is being developed so we can begin applying for grant funding to carry out further new planting schemes when we have identified suitable land • Internally, the council is currently working on heat and energy decarbonisation projects at 12 sites under the public sector decarbonisation scheme
18:25	All	AOB / additional Q&A
	CJ	Which is better - more battery charging points or battery swap out stations?
	VWW	Depends on storage capacity on the island.
	CP	There is very little storage capacity on the island at the minute. Main problem is the interconnector – we need this to be able to connect all these projects that are being suggested. There is currently too much local generation and nowhere else to go. We need to lobby SSEN to invest in the network to overcome these issues including storage. If 10% of the island’s vehicles were EVs and they allowed 20% of their battery capacity to be used as storage this would help overcome the issue but would not be a final solution
	DA	Could it be mandatory for all new builds to have solar panels?
	CA	Will send a briefing document on to the members of the group but it doesn’t currently reference solar.
	CJ	What is the current carbon footprint of the IOW?
	HJ	506,900* tCO2e annually based on 2017 figures. This is relatively low compared to similarly sized authorities. *N.B. in the most recent draft this has been updated to more accurately reflect emissions produced by ferries – the baseline we are working from has recently been updated to 558,200 tCO2e annually
	CJ	Do we have any contactless vehicle charging on the IOW?
	HJ	There are about 35 charging sites according to ZapMap but unsure about contactless
DT	Will share some further information – HJ to send alongside minutes	

DJ	What steps have been taken to ensure that new build houses conform to Passivhaus standards?
HJ	Nothing in national policy requiring this at this stage
CA	Future Homes Standard is the basis of future plans from April 2022
SM	Ultimately behaviour change is hard to create without rewards/taxes/policy which ensures people have to make changes alongside understanding why these are needed. The latest research is stating that the climate changes we have seen now are those we would have expect in 70 years i.e. things are much worse so maybe our actions need to be bigger and more urgent. For me the tree planting is a lot to do with positive engagement and ways of encouraging learning rather than a solution on the IOW. I don't think relying on EVs is the be-all.
HJ	Have just redrafted resilience section of climate strategy in line with the Climate Change Committee's adaptation report published in June 2021 . Lots of smaller projects will feed into meeting net zero – it won't be 100% large scale energy projects
DA	Will new homes have EV charging or greywater recycling?
HJ	EV chargers (or infrastructure to support EV chargers) will be a requirement for new build homes under the Environment Bill . I'm not sure about greywater recycling.
CJ	We could build into the Island Plan that newbuilds, reroofing and renovations require 100% solar capture - e.g. solar tiles
HJ	The Plan is out for consultation as of 30 th July to 1 st October – link is The Island Plan - Service Details (iow.gov.uk)
LS	You mentioned about 35 chargers on ZapMap – in reality very few are accessible to the public. Many have restrictions and some are only 3kw. These are incredibly slow to charge. Rapid chargers work much faster but there are only 3 in total – we need more of these.
HJ	Economic Development have received funding for 10 onstreet charge points via a government scheme. I will update everyone on locations as soon as we know where they are going. These are due to be installed by end of year.
DT	Need rapid/ultra-rapid charging for residents and to help with tourism push.
HJ	Several supermarkets are also installing charge points – Tesco/Morrison's are installing new EV chargers as part of national schemes
FW	Along with electric scooters and bicycles (for day trippers). Perhaps car rental firms could be supported/encouraged to provide EVs?
HJ	These companies should be looking forward to 2030 petrol/diesel vehicle phase out. I'll investigate and see if there are any ways the council can support this
CP	I've just looked at Branstone Farm housing site but there are no solar panels visible on artists impression.
HJ	Will check up on housing – I'm only familiar with the AONB office at the same site.
CP	Is this due to restrictions? This should be an ideal opportunity to showcase
FW	I was advised by a reputable builder that they have been removing cavity wall insulation as it has failed in many properties. Is this actually an issue?
VWW	I have a background in construction. Insulation is breathable and therefore suitable for cavity wall insulation if surveyed and completed correctly. If installed at the wrong pressure it will not work because of condensation. Be

		careful of cowboy builders. Isle of Wight Council is monitoring this to ensure work is carried out correctly.
	SL	Grants etc. made by government – everyone jumps on the bandwagon to gain funding and then you end up with bad work being done. Needs to be properly regulated.
	VWW	The Footprint Trust may be able to assist with any related issues
	HJ	The recent Green Homes Grant provided funding so that training was being rolled out to help with retrofit etc. Change can be slow, but these issues are being addressed.
	DJ	Why can't the Isle of Wight build to Passive House Standard - why build to a lower standard? Norwich have done this very successfully and won RIBA award.
	CA	This is quite an in-depth answer to give now – might be best kept for another meeting.
18:40	HJ	Proposed amendment to next month's topic – as we have missed a couple of months of topics for 2021, we could wrap up all things planting, rewilding, and biodiversity into one session instead of having the three separate sessions initially proposed
Date of next Environment & Sustainability Forum:		
Topic: planting, rewilding, and biodiversity		