



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE TOWN PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EVESHAM TOWN HALL AT 6:30PM

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs J. Tucker (Chair), S. Brotherton, M. Goodge, Mrs J. Haines and R. Hale
Mrs G. Pawson; Mr R. Walker

ALSO PRESENT: Cllrs J. Campbell-Muir and J. Clatworthy; 1 member of the public

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs J. Adams, Town Clerk

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A. Booth, Mrs S. Schaathun and W. Kimberley, and Ms C. Tredwell, Place Project Officer.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the 20th November 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2023 be adopted as a true record.

4. Town Plan Review

The review had been completed and revisions had been circulated. It was resolved to accept the review, with the proviso that further work would be carried out on accessibility in the town. The review would be put forward for ratification by the Full Council.

5. Biodiversity

a) Update on Natural Networks

Cllr Tucker had been contacted by Natural Networks. There was more funding available and the match funding had been reduced to 30%. The aim of the grant was to improve biodiversity. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust had visited and were putting together a report.

b) Promotion of bug hotels and bee bricks

The Town Plan committee had some budget available for the current year. It had been suggested that some of this be put towards funding an offer to groups and

schools to place bee bricks and bug hotels at their premises to encourage pollinators. It was agreed to support the initiative with a budget of £1,500. Items would also be placed at the council's allotment sites and Almonry Garden where possible.

c) Campaign to promote local and seasonal food produce

The Town Plan committee had some budget available for the current year. It was suggested that some of this funding be put towards a campaign to promote local and seasonal food produce. This would comprise social media posts, posters and perhaps a half-term activity at the Almonry to promote the benefits of locally grown and seasonal produce. It was resolved to support the initiative.

d) Update on Biodiversity Policy

The Biodiversity Policy was on hold as the council was still awaiting Wychavon's Biodiversity Action Plan.

6. Water Quality

Testing was now being carried out on the Avon from Bidford to Eckington. Another river quality group, SaveAvon was also testing water quality. Additional volunteers were sought. Plans were underway to raise the profile of the group by attending summer open gardens events.

7. Evesham Place Project Officer Report

Effect of crime: the Place Board is looking at crime and people feeling safe, and the relationship this had to footfall.

Ambassador Programme: Hoping to hold a launch event for the Evesham Ambassadors Programme in April.

Shopfront programme: Worked with an Evesham based architect to produce visual impressions for priority properties to show how they could be improved. Wychavon continued to promote the scheme for shop frontage improvements.

Shop front improvement scheme:

Solar Lighting in Abbey Park: The solar path lighting would be installed in the park in February (section by war memorial to be done in April).

Noticeboards: Have been mainly refurbished. Now deciding how to make the most use of them.

Communications specialist: Funding had been agreed for a communication / social media specialist to manage the Visit Evesham website and social media for 18 months. The post had been advertised and consideration would be given to redevelop the website in the not-too-distant future.

8. Transport matters:

a) Active Travel Update

Mr Walker presented his presentation on how Active Travel could play a role in tackling traffic congestion in Evesham.

b) Public Transport

The repair of the bus shelter nearest the station had been scheduled. The Vale Public Transport Group had been renamed Vale Bus and Rail. Meetings took place regularly and included representatives from Wychavon District Council.

9. Young People

Cllr Tucker had attended a meeting with the School Council at Prince Henry's High School. It had been a worthwhile session and the students had been asked what they considered to be local issues. These included:

- Environment – more green spaces and community gardens
- The condition of footpaths in the town
- That the town centre was not very welcoming
- Students sometimes felt unsafe in unlit areas
- People drinking alcohol in Abbey Park

Public Questions

None.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 25th March '24

Cllr Julie Tucker
Chairman