



Environmental Forum

RWB&C Area Board - working group.

Meeting notes – 26th April 2022

Attendees: Cllr Steve Bucknell (chair), Anna Birkett (Cricklade Climate Action), John Loran (Rotary), Tony Currivan (Clyffe Pypard Environment Group), Paul Prictor (Clyffe Pypard Environment Group), Richard Pagett (Purton resident), Ann Howells (Sustainability Task Group ECORWB), Cate Watson (RWB Environmental Group), Dave Gardner (RWB Nature reserve Trust), Pat Farrow (RWB Town Council), Jason Cook (ECORWB), Dave Knight (RWB Environmental Group). Alexa Davies (Wiltshire Council CEM), Jane Vaughan (Wiltshire Council CEM).

Apologies: Eve Silvester (RWB Town Council), Anne West (Cricklade Climate Action).

- **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed the group as it met for the first time. He explained the idea behind developing an Environmental Forum was to provide an opportunity to network and share enthusiasm and expertise that is apparent across the Community Area and to feed recommendations into the area board for inclusion in the action plan and for the consideration of funding relevant projects.
- **Where are we now?** Wiltshire Council Climate team officers had prepared a narrated presentation to outline current activity engaged in by the Council and an indication of other actions taking place in other communities across the County. (for summary see appendix 1)

The Forum acknowledged that there was a lot of activity being undertaken and considered trying to identify some short- and medium-term actions that could be worked on more collaboratively across the area. There was a wide-ranging discussion which included:

Rewilding and Tree Planting:

- CW reported that rewilding and protection of green spaces was a priority for the RWB Environment group - including conducting a resident's consultation. Cate reported perceived issues in relation to communications with officers in Streetscene.

ACTION –

CW would send a summary of the experience to JV/AD

ACTION –

JV/AD would follow this up with Streetscene to provide an understanding of obstacles that colleagues might be experiencing.

- SB and PF suggested the identification of spaces that could be appropriate for planting community orchards. There was also a suggestion that every child would be given a tree to

plant at home or in designated spaces at schools – this could be a part of the ‘Plant a Tree for the Jubilee’ initiative.

- DG of the RWB Community Nature Reserve Trust talked about the need to map and capture the number of trees being planted, so that it would be possible to track progress and also to ensure the ongoing care and maintenance of new trees. There was a discussion about how this could be undertaken.
- TC of the Clyffe Pypard Environment Group reported that they were conducting a habitat survey, looking at the diversification of agriculture. It was noted that there are a number of Tenant Farmers on Wiltshire Council owned farms in the area and that they may be willing to get involved.

Active Travel:

- DK explained an RWB Environment group aspiration to develop a network of joined up cycle routes/dual use routes across the Community Area, that would enable local people to move around the area without a car. Both for leisure and for business/home requirements.
- There was a discussion about the complexities and expense involved in making significant progress on a desired route from RWB to junction 16 of the M4 and on into Swindon.
- The forum displayed an aspiration to identify smaller schemes that could be undertaken, which might eventually link together to provide a safer route linking the main settlements in the Area.
- The RWB ENV group were happy to share plans and work completed to date.
- It was noted that, in other areas area boards have worked with highways officers to develop smaller locally identified routes through the former CATG groups and also specifically focussed task groups.
- There was a suggestion that, as a first step, the group might want to consider trying to link with local walking groups, horse riders etc to identify local footpath ‘Wardens’ who might help identify key routes (1x north – south, 1x east to west), these could then be promoted with maps and signage. It might be possible to develop this work with the new Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG).
- It was also noted that, in other areas, parishes identify a single point of contact who liaises directly with the Countryside officer.

ACTION –
AD would provide further details.

Making buildings more energy efficient:

- CW reported that the RWB Env group was promoting a Solar PV discount Scheme, which offers a 10% reduction to people living in and around Royal Wootton Bassett.

ACTION –

CW was asked to share information about this scheme on the Area Board 'Our Community Matters' page – to ensure accurate information is shared on the newsletter.

- It was noted that other areas in the County had invested in locally held Infra-red cameras to conduct Thermal imaging surveys of houses which to help people improve the efficiency of their homes.

ACTION –

SB would find out more information about projects run in Chippenham and Sherston.

Reusing, Repairing, Recycling:

- There was interest in developing existing ideas of a Repair Academy/Swap Box.

ACTION –

PF would progress a suggestion that RWB Town Council might be able to identify space for a repair café at the Manor House.

The group agreed that it would be useful for the Forum to meet on a regular basis and, in the first instance this would be in approx. 8 weeks' time. A term of reference would be drawn up for the Forum and this would be brought to the next meeting for approval.

It was also decided that a separate task group should meet as needed between Forum gatherings to develop and progress actions. The following individuals volunteered to sit on this group and SB would contact them to arrange a future online meeting.

Pat Farrow – patfarrow@royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk

Jason Cook – jason.cook@btinternet.com

John Loran – jsloran@aol.com

ACTION –

SB would contact volunteers and arrange online task group meeting.

- **Recommendations to the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board.**
 1. To note that the First meeting of the RWB&C Area Environmental Forum has taken place.
 2. To note that a smaller action group will be formed to progress actions between meetings.
 3. To note the discussions and actions identified within these meeting notes.

Next meeting: Tuesday 28th June (6:30 pm via Teams)