

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden
Pound Lane
Marlow
Bucks
SL7 2AG

TO:

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:

Councillor J Towns – Chairman

Councillors: D Brown, N Marshall, C Hoyle, C Stapley

A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2022 DIRECTLY AFTER THE PLANS ONLY MEETING IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE, COURT GARDEN, MARLOW AND YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND.

Mrs Hilary Martin

Town Clerk

17.02.2022

A G E N D A

- | | | |
|----------|--|-------------|
| ES.23.21 | Apologies for absence | |
| ES.24.21 | Declarations of Interest | |
| ES.25.21 | MINUTES DATED 06.07.2021, 14.09.2021, 02.11.2021
The minutes of the previous meetings dated the 06.07.2021, 14.09.2021, 02.11.2021 were presented by Cllr J Towns and agreed as a true record. | INFORMATION |
| ES.26.21 | Update on Wild-Flower areas | INFORMATION |
| ES.27.21 | Report on Higginson Park backwater | INFORMATION |
| ES.28.21 | Update on recent survey and next steps | DECISION |
| ES.29.21 | Discuss notes on ACOM report and agree possible actions | DECISION |
| ES.30.21 | Waterlogged footpath at Temple Lock | DISCUSSION |
| ES.31.21 | Date and Time of next meeting:

Tuesday 7 th June 2022 directly after the Plans only meeting | INFORMATION |

Apologies for Absence

ES.23.21

Declarations of Interest

ES.24.21

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow, Bucks

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE, MARLOW ON TUESDAY 6TH JULY 2021 DIRECTLY AFTER THE PLANS ONLY MEETING

Present:	Chairman	Cllr J Towns
	Councillors	Cllr N Marshall
		Cllr C Hoyle
		Cllr C Stapley
		Cllr R Scott
Admin	Debbie Abbott	

ES.01.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**ES.02.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

ES.03.21 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT TO GO ON THE WEBSITE**DECISION**

The Environment & Sustainability Committee was created in June 2021, reflecting the Council's increasing engagement in Environmental matters. The Committee leads on topics such as climate change, air quality, waste reduction, active travel, biodiversity and maintaining the vitality of Marlow town centre. Sustainable Marlow reports into this committee.

RECOMENDED: That members agree to adopt the above paragraph for the website.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to adopt the above paragraph for the website

ES.04.21 CARBON AUDIT ACTIONS**DECISION**

Following the Carbon Audit published in March 2021 officers and the environment sustainability consultant are recommending the following actions to reduce the Council's carbon emissions. Whilst the Council's footprint is relatively small it is

equivalent to 1.4 Marlow households there are actions that can be taken to reduce it further.

1. The Council commits to continue to lobby Buckinghamshire Council to move the current Town Bus from a diesel vehicle to an electric one.
2. The Council ensures that all power tools are replaced with battery powered tools only at the end of their useful life. In addition, for future tenders for ground maintenance contracts scoring weighting to be included in favour of contractors using battery powered tools.
3. The Council works with the current Christmas Lights supplier to reduce emissions within the existing contract where possible including exploring the options for timers.
4. Officers present costings for an electric bike for use by officers to go about their work in and around the town in an eco-friendly way to the next TC meeting.
5. The Council commits to replacing the current Town Council diesel van with a more environmentally friendly option – as soon as costings are viable.
6. Officers to explore the options of eco-friendly paper for the Marlovian magazine.

RECOMMENDED: That members agree on the above actions and recommend them to Full Council for approval to proceed.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to recommend the above actions to the Full TC for approval

ES.05.21 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

DECISION

Following the Community zoom meeting on March 18th, we continue to establish a programme to gain support from residents and interested bodies and groups to set out our challenges and goals and establish deliverables for Marlow. This will be chaired by a Councillor and driven by our consultant and fall within the remit of sustainable Marlow. The TC will retain the final say on decisions. The detailed proposal is attached as appendix A.

RECOMMENDED: That members agree the above proposal for presentation to the TC for approval.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the above proposal be presented to the Full TC for approval.

ES.06.21 BEE TOWN

DECISION

Wild Marlow presented their plans for making Marlow a Bee Town to Full Council on April 27th, the presentation shared is attached as appendix B. The proposal is that we confirm our support for this to be formally adopted at the next Town Council meeting. Council is already supporting this initiative with our new Wildflower areas that have already been established in and around the town.

RECOMMENDED: That members agree to confirm their support for the Bee Town initiative and that it is adopted by Full Council.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to support the Bee Town initiative and will ask the Full TC to adopt the initiative

ES.07.21 INFORMATION REPORTS

INFORMATION

- **Sustainable Marlow** will be at Marlow Carnival in Higginson Park on Saturday 11th September. After discussions with the carnival organisers, it is intended that some of the park be designated as a 'Green Village' with 10 to 20 stalls for local environmental interest groups and businesses to be represented. The theme for this year's carnival procession is 'Think Global, Use Local'.
 - The cost of having spaces for stalls will be met by the Marlow Environmental Trust (MET) which is a local, privately funded trust operating under the governance of the Charities Aid Foundation. Stall holders will need, however, to provide their own stall/gazebo. As well as providing information, it will be possible to market membership and/or sell appropriate goods.
 - The Green Village will engage with all age groups to create and stimulate community awareness of key climate and sustainability issues by being collaborative and fun whilst encouraging sustainable personal/household choices. The Carnival is, of course, very much a family event.
 - Volunteers will be required to help on the day please.
- **Wildflower Planting** – Wild Marlow have offered to help with our Wildflower areas and a proposal will be submitted at the next TC meeting.
- **AQMA** – Bucks will be consulting on turning Marlow AQMA into a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in the autumn, detailed report will follow.
- **Active Travel** – A walking plan is currently in development.
- **Marlow's Performance Index** will be regularly updated.
- **Tree Planting** – we are working with BC to establish a local tree planting programme, we are reviewing costs and work involved and will present our budget plans at the next meeting along with our plans on working with residents. On street planting remains under the auspice of Buckinghamshire Council.
- **Parks and Green Spaces** – members continue to lobby Buckinghamshire Council Green Spaces team for running repairs and grass seed planting in areas that are looking tired.
- **Eco-schools** - Due to Covid restrictions we are unable to hold this conference in person, so the schools and the sustainable Marlow team are planning a virtual event for delivery in July.

Members are requested to note the information reports above.

ES.08.21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

INFORMATION

Tuesday 7th September 2021 directly after the Full Planning and Transportation meeting

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date:

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow, Bucks

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE,
MARLOW ON TUESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2021 DIRECTLY AFTER THE RESOURCES MEETING

Present:	Chairman	Cllr J Towns
	Councillors	Cllr C Stapley
		Cllr R Scott
		Cllr C Funnell
Town Clerk	Hilary Martin	

ES.09.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Hoyle, Cllr N Marshall

ES.10.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

ES.11.21 MARLOVIAN MAGAZINE – ECO-FRIENDLY PAPER

INFORMATION

Officers were tasked as part of the Carbon Audit actions with contacting the publishers of the Marlovian magazine to explore the options of more eco-friendly paper.

At Round & About Publications, we constantly review many aspects of the production process as we believe that everyone should play a part in looking after our planet for future generations.

The Marlovian is printed by Stephens & George Ltd, an award-winning, environmentally friendly printer based in the UK. Copies are produced using vegetable-based inks combined with the latest plate and press technology, all papers are sourced from well-managed sustainable forests and their vast supply chain hold many environmental accreditations. In addition to this, they hold a Climate Change Agreement along with ISO14001, ISO9001, FSC, PEFC, E2B silver award for energy improvements and E2B gold award for recycling; 98.5% of all waste is recycled.

To ensure that your copies arrive in pristine condition and with the environment constantly at the forefront of our minds, they are packed using recyclable cartons which have been made from 100% recycled materials. They can be disposed of and recycled at waste collection sites and/or collected by a variety of collection schemes across the country; please check locally for facilities within your area.

ES.12.21 TREE PLANTING

DECISION

Releaf Marlow has set an objective to increase the number of trees in Marlow for diverse environmental and community benefits. Urban trees are associated with better mental health, reduced stress and lower crime. They add beauty, baffle traffic noise,

absorb air pollution, increase nature habitat, reduce flood risk, protect against heat waves and absorb carbon.

Via its "Releaf Marlow" trees project, community group Transition Town Marlow (TTM) working in collaboration with Marlow Town Council (MTC) and Buckinghamshire Council (BC) would like to plant about 20 urban trees in Marlow this coming winter 21/22.

The group is requesting that BC via the South West Chilterns Community Board and MTC each provide about half of the total costs of up to £14,000 (so up to £7,000 each). TTM proposes to offer benefits in kind (site identification, resident liaison, early years aftercare) worth up to £4,000 and also proposes that this should become a multi-annual collaboration, with a target of planting 20 new trees in Marlow per year on an ongoing basis.

RECOMMENDED:

That members resolve to agree to support this proposal and recommend to full council that up to £7,000 from Environmental Reserves is contributed to this project.

ES.13.21 WILD BEES AT HANGING HILL ALLOTMENTS INFORMATION

One of our allotment tenants will be writing a detailed article about her work with Mason Bees at the Hanging Hill allotments. Masons Bees are solitary they don't produce honey but are very active pollinators and don't sting. More information is available here <https://www.masonbees.co.uk/bee-guardians>.

ES.14.21 WALKING IN MARLOW INFORMATION

Please find attached as appendix A report and recommendations from our Environment and Sustainability consultant Nick Rowcliffe. The committee will be working through these recommendations which will involve the liaison with a number of outside bodies and will report back with recommended actions in due course.

ES.15.21 CIGARETTE BUT BINS IN MARLOW TOWN CENTRE INFORMATION

Officers are working with the Buckinghamshire Council waste team to install a pilot waste bin for cigarette butts in the High Street. The location of the bin is due to be agreed next week with it being installed shortly after. If the pilot is a success, then more bins will be installed.

ES.16.21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

Tuesday 30th November 2021 directly after the Plans only meeting.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date:

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow, Bucks

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE,
MARLOW ON TUESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2021 DIRECTLY AFTER THE RESOURCES MEETING

Present:	Chairman	Cllr J Towns
	Councillors	Cllr N Marshall
		Cllr C Stapley
		Cllr C Hoyle
		Cllr R Scott
		Cllr C Funnell
Town Clerk	Hilary Martin	

ES.17.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ES.18.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

ES.19.21 Cigarette Butt Bin

INFORMATION

A special new cigarette bin has been installed in Marlow High Street to encourage smokers to bin their butts rather than litter the pavements. Smokers can stub their cigarettes out on top and safely dispose of the stubs in the bin, which takes ordinary litter as well.

Situated between the benches in the High Street, the new bin is being trialled for six weeks. If it is a success more will be installed.

ES.20.21 Electric Bike

INFORMATION

The new electric bike has been delivered and is already in use by officers in their duties around the town. Councillors are welcome to use the bike for Council business please book by contacting the office.

ES.21.21 Community Engagement

INFORMATION

This item will be heard with the press and public excluded in accordance with section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Community Engagement paper attached as appendix A

Resolved

Members agreed to the proposal in principle and appointed a working group of Cllr Towns, Cllr Stapley and Cllr Hoyle to work on the marketing for a Community Engagement programme and to roll this out to the Community.

ES.22.21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

INFORMATION

Tuesday 22ND February 2022 directly after the Plans only meeting.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date:

Update on our Wild-Flower areas

Cllr Towns will give a verbal report

ES.26.21

Report on the Higginson Park backwater

Report from Cllr Towns

Since the last installation of the coir rolls and plants in the backwater at Higginson Park they had started to look a little forlorn, mainly due to animals jumping on them, so the contractors put some fresh ones in. These look a lot better with the wire coverings being much stronger. The plants will look better the further we move to spring and summer.

Once the plants have established the wire covers can be removed, but we have to find a volunteer body to help with that since Wild Marlow did not want to do anything with water. The amount of contribution from the Angling association has now been fully used, so we are hoping we can find some volunteers to continue to manage this area. Jeff will be keeping an eye on it over the next few months, but if anyone sees any damage could they please let me know so that I can pass this on to him as he will repair it before it gets worse.

ES.27.21

Update on our recent survey and next steps

Changes are required to the Environment pages on the MTC website to include information on the recent survey and the SMC Working Group. A name for the forum needs to be discussed along with guidelines of how it will operate and a date for the first meeting. – see Appendix A

ES.28.21

Recommended

That members agree to the proposed changes to the website as per Appendix A and agree on a name and date for the first meeting.

Discuss notes on ACOM report and agree possible actions**Notes on draft-final Buckinghamshire consultancy report on NO2 air pollution in Marlow**

Nick Rowcliffe, January 2022

Buckinghamshire Council has released a draft final version of its consultancy report on Marlow AQMA, evaluating additional measures that could be taken to reduce NO2 pollution.

The report is styled as a feasibility study for turning Marlow town centre into a Low Emission Zone (or Clean Air Zone), which would mean introduction of a London-style vehicle charging zone. But it rejects this option as “too costly and not publicly acceptable”.

The study provides modelling of traffic (types and routes) plus air quality right around Marlow. It contains lots of estimates of potential interest for traffic flows, including modelled traffic counts on different roads

The study provides no new information about NO2 levels within the AQMA area, but it confirms for the first time that around the rest of Marlow it is everywhere well below the legal objective.

The study provides much clearer source apportionment estimates than the draft released last summer. For Chapel St, the worst affected place in the AQMA, it estimates that 48% of traffic-derived NO2 is from diesel cars, 27% from diesel vans, 10% from lorries, 9% from petrol cars, and 5% from buses.

Added since the first draft issued last summer is a detailed discussion of potential new measures to tackle NO2 pollution:

The study recommends further consideration of three measures:

- **Improvements to traffic signal and pedestrian crossing timings** to reduce congestion.
- **Measures to divert through-traffic around Marlow**, and,
- **Further measures to tackle diesel vehicles** including a **diesel parking surcharge** and **measures to reduce van deliveries**.

It clearly rejects several measures: **Replacing parking bays with wider pavements**, or **removing 1hr free parking**, a town-centre **20-mph speed limit**, and **retrofitting buses to reduce NOx emissions**.

Other measures that are discussed without a firm recommendation for or against include: **taxi licensing measures**, **controlled loading**, measures to encourage **active travel**, including **park & stride**, and an **electric vehicle charging strategy**.

It should be noted that not a single measure assessed in detail is thought likely to have a large positive impact on NO2 levels in the AQMA area. Most effective would be a charging zone, providing an average 2 microgram per cubic metre improvement (though up to 12 micrograms at some locations). All other assessed measures, applied individually, are judged likely to produce well under a 1 microgram improvement.

Recommended

That members continue to lobby Buckinghamshire Council for their actions from the ACOM report.

Waterlogged footpath at Temple Lock

ES.30.21

The footpath at Temple Lock is waterlogged and impassable, this has been reported to the EA by the Town Clerk. This is out of Marlow Town Council's Parish but the Town Clerk will give a verbal update.

ES.31.21

Date and Time of next meeting:

Tuesday 7th June 2022 directly after the Plans Only meeting