

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden
Pound Lane
Marlow
Bucks
SL7 2AG

TO:

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE:

Councillor J Towns – Chairman

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

A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 9th AUGUST 2022 DIRECTLY AFTER THE FULL PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION MEETING (APPROX. 8PM) IN THE HIGGINSON ROOM, COURT GARDEN HOUSE, MARLOW AND YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND.

Mrs Hilary Martin

Town Clerk

04.08.2022

A G E N D A

ESW.01.22	Apologies for absence	
ESW.02.22	Declarations of Interest	
ESW.03.22	To agree as a true record the Minutes of the previous meeting dated 22.02.2022	INFORMATION
ESW.04.22	Allotment Bonfires	DECISION
ESW.05.22	Proposal for a Marlow Town Council Street Tree Planting programme	DECISION
ESW.06.22	Sustainable Challenge Working Group	DECISION
ESW.07.22	Date and Time of next meeting:	INFORMATION
	Tuesday 13 TH December 2022 directly after the Plans only meeting	

Apologies for Absence

ESW.01.22

Declarations of Interest

ESW.02.22

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow, Bucks

ESW.03.22

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE,
MARLOW ON TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2022 DIRECTLY AFTER THE PLANS ONLY 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
Admin	Debbie Abbott	

ES.23.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Brown

ES.24.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

ES.25.21 MINUTES DATED 06.07.2021, 14.09.2021, 02.11.2021

INFORMATION

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.

ES.26.21 UPDATE ON WILD-FLOWER AREAS

INFORMATION

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the wild-flower areas.

ES.27.21 REPORT ON HIGGINSON PARK BACKWATER

INFORMATION

Cllr Towns gave a verbal update on Higginson Park Backwater

ES.28.21 UPDATE ON RECENT SURVEY AND NEXT STEPS

DECISION

Changes were 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 needed to be discussed along with guidelines of how it will operate and a date for the first meeting. – see Appendix A

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.

Resolved

Members agreed to the proposed changes to the website as per Appendix A. The working group will report back to the committee with further information.

ES.29.21 DISCUSS NOTES ON ACOM REPORT AND AGREE POSSIBLE ACTIONS

DECISION

The notes on draft-final Buckinghamshire consultancy report on Marlow AQMA was presented to members.

Recommended

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

Resolved

Members agreed to lobby Buckinghamshire Council on point one of their initial report which is – Improvements to traffic signals and pedestrian crossing timings to reduce congestion.

ES.30.21 WATERLOGGED FOOTPATH AT TEMPLE LOCK

DISCUSSION

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the footpath.

ES.31.21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

INFORMATION

Tuesday 7th June 2022 directly after the Plans only meeting.

Signed:(Chairman) Date:

Allotment Bonfires

During Covid lockdowns bonfires were not permitted at the allotment sites. In 2022 a two-week window was permitted for the burning of green waste. The allotments association are requesting that bonfires be permitted in incinerators only, for the months of November and December. A report on the emissions from bonfires has been requested from the Councils sustainability consultant and will be circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

Appendix A - Background paper for TC Environment Committee discussion on allotment bonfires**Proposal for a Marlow Town Council Street Tree Planting programme**

General:

- Urban trees are an important part of municipal sustainability: trees are attractive, support nature, provide summer cooling and reduce flooding. Marlow has relatively low 20% canopy cover. The most ambitious councils are targeting 40%.
- There are a range of issues with Buckinghamshire and Transport for Bucks tree planting, lack of funding, cost and time for engagement with the community on where trees are needed
- Chesham TC's "Communi-Tree" programme has shown that all these obstacles can be overcome by acting at local level to deliver higher planting activity, lower unit cost, and stronger community responsiveness (planting trees where residents want them) plus community engagement (in planting and aftercare).
- It is proposed that the TC engages in street tree planting using the Chesham model, working in cooperation with community trees group Releaf Marlow. Chesham Cllr Jane Macbean has offered to provide advice to help get a programme going.
- The essentials of the Chesham model are that the TC plans, plants and owns new trees, including taking on legal liabilities for them. Bucks' involvement is limited to the LAT verifying road safety and providing streetworks licences.
- Key competences required for success include arboricultural knowledge for tree selection and planting approaches, scanning for underground services, and health and safety qualifications for roadside working.
- A combination of TC staff and Releaf Marlow volunteers can cover most of these competences, though some additional professional support might be required.
- Allowing for all costs for purchasing materials and CAT scanning and assuming Releaf Marlow and volunteer residents provide aftercare the Council should target full costs per street tree of maximum £350, that is half Buckinghamshire Councils standard guide price of £700.
- For Marlow, a manageable annual planting target might be 20 trees per year. At this scale full costs to the Council would be £7,000 per year.
- At whatever level is deemed affordable and manageable, the programme should be sustained over multiple years.
- A first target for Council organised street trees could be Southview Road
- Memorial Arboretum:
- Residents frequently contact Releaf Marlow, and the office gets enquiries about being able to plant a tree to mark the passing of a loved relative or pet. But for safety reasons it is not possible to "badge" street trees.

- Therefore, alongside street tree planting, the Council could create a memorial arboretum in currently unused grass areas at Riverwoods, again, working in collaboration with Releaf Marlow.
- Buckinghamshire Council owns this land so permission will be required, the management of the land is already devolved to Council.
- Space at the site is quite limited, so an annual quota of perhaps 5-10 trees might be appropriate.
- Memorial tree-planting might pay for itself if residents are charged a fee, and therefore could be additional to the street tree programme.

RECOMMENDED

That members approve both schemes in principle and request that officers prepare more detailed reports on costs and liabilities.

ESW.06.22

Sustainable Challenge Working Group

To confirm the informally agreed change in membership of Cllr D Brown replacing Cllr C Stapley on the Sustainable Challenge Working Group.

RECOMMENDED

That members agree that Cllr Brown replaces Cllr Stapley on the Sustainable Challenge Working Group

ESW.07.22

Date and Time of next meeting:

Tuesday 13th December 2022 directly after the Plans Only meeting

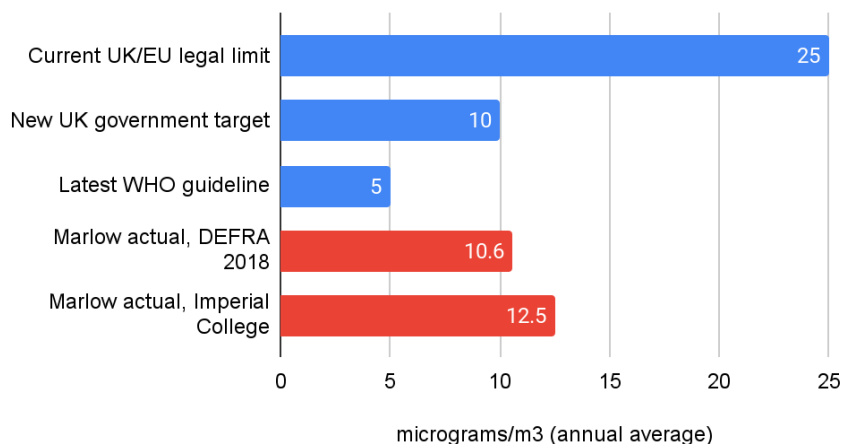
Appendix A

Background paper for TC Environment Committee discussion on allotment bonfires

Nick Rowcliffe, August 2022

- Garden (including allotment) bonfires are identified as a potential problem by [central](#) and [local](#) government, due to fire risk, visible smoke causing nuisance, and invisible air pollution that can harm health.
- Air pollution from bonfires is becoming a more important issue to consider - and particularly fine particles, known as PM2.5 (particulate matter with diameter less than 2.5 microns).
- Domestic combustion (including bonfires) [accounts](#) for 25% of PM2.5 emissions in the UK - a higher share than road traffic.
- Open air burning of plant residues tends to produce relatively [high](#) levels of particulate pollution per kg of matter burned - using incinerators can reduce but does not eliminate this.
- Fine particles are seen by governments as the most important air pollution problem globally: Scientists calculate that exposure to PM2.5 is causing significant public [health risk](#). UK and global targets for maximum PM2.5 levels have been reduced (see chart)

PM2.5 - health standards and levels in Marlow



- The environmental movement is also now [campaigning](#) on the gap between the WHO health guideline and actual levels of PM2.5 pollution in Britain.
- E.g. the annual Air Quality Life Index [concludes](#) that 95.5% of Europeans live in areas with unsafe levels of air pollution (particularly PM2.5). This includes Marlow.

Recommendation: the important contribution of domestic burning to PM2.5 pollution plus higher level of concern about health impacts make it reasonable to discourage allotment (as well as private garden) bonfires on the grounds of PM2.5 emissions alone.

After-note regarding domestic wood burning:

- If the TC acts on bonfires due to PM2.5 then it should also focus on home heating with wood.
- Use of wood as a fuel [accounts](#) for 70% of domestic emissions of PM2.5 in the UK, and PM2.5 from domestic wood burning *increased 35% between 2010 and 2020*.
- The new context of extremely high energy prices could well lead to very big future increases in domestic wood burning, potentially leading to a significant increase in winter PM2.5 levels in Marlow.