

# MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow, Bucks

## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE HIGGINSON ROOM, COURT GADEN HOUSE, MARLOW ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2022 DIRECTLY AFTER THE FULL PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION MEETING

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr J Towns
	<b>Councillors</b>	Cllr N Marshall Cllr C Hoyle
	<b>Town Clerk Admin</b>	Hilary Martin Debbie Abbott
	<b>Also present</b>	2 members of the public

### ESW.01.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr C Stapley

### ESW.02.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

### ESW.03.22 MINUTES DATED 22.02.2022

**INFORMATION**

The minutes of the previous meeting dated the 22.02.2022 were presented by Cllr J Towns and agreed as a true record.

### ESW.04.22 ALLOTMENT BONFIRES

**DECISION**

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 requested that bonfires be permitted in incinerators only, for the months of November and December. A report by the Councils sustainability consultant on the emissions from bonfires was circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

#### **Recommended**

That members agree to allow bonfires at the allotment sites for the months of November and December during daylight hours and by use of an incinerator only.

#### **Resolved**

Members agreed to allow bonfires at the allotment sites for the months of November and December during daylight hours and by use of an incinerator only.

## 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.

**RESOLVED**

Members agreed to approve both schemes in principle. A meeting will be scheduled with Cllr Jane Macbean from Chesham Town Council and officers will prepare more detailed reports on costs and liabilities

**ESW.06.22 SUSTAINABLE CHALLENGE WORKING GROUP**

**DECISION**

Members were asked 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

**RESOLVED**

Cllr David Brown to replace Cllr Stapley on the Environment working group.

**ESW.07.22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**INFORMATION**

Tuesday 13<sup>TH</sup> December 2022 directly after the Plans only meeting.

Signed: .....(Chairman) Date: .....