**Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, 7 March 2023**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Attendees: Cllr. M Getgood, Cllr S Cox, Cllr C Elsmore, Cllr H Lusty and Sarah Cheese**

**Public Forum: Shaun Freeman**

**Guest Speaker: Marcus Perrin**

1. **Apologies received from Fliss Herniman and Laura-Jade Schroeder**
2. **There were no declarations of interest**
3. **There were no dispensations requests**
4. **To take comments from the Public Forum**

Shaun Freeman updated on Seed Swap launch, and sought guidance from Council regarding holding of monies, and purchasing of items on Coleford Grows behalf. The Town Clerk advised, and this would be referred to CTC F&AM Committee.

1. **To approve the minutes of 7 February 23**

**The minutes of 7 February 23 were proposed, and unanimously approved**

**Cllr. Getgood signed, as a true, and accurate record**

1. **To raise matters arising from the minutes of 7 February 23**

**Item 10: To Review, Consolidate, and Prioritise Environmental Action Plan**

Due to absences, it was noted that this Review will be rescheduled

**Item 11: Tree Activity**

The Town Clerk updated, to report that a Tender exercise had been recommended to seek Professional Services to undertake a Parish Tree Audit/Stock Survey**,** although the specific Specification should be clarified before progressing

1. **Guest Speaker**

Cllr. Getgood welcomed Marcus Perrin, FoDDC, Climate Manager, and Marcus gave an overview on his areas of responsibility, focussing particularly on Climate Emergency, and route to Carbon Neutral, referring to FoDDC’s Overall Climate Change Strategy, with summaries under the following key aspects, as follows:

* Renewable Energy
* Retro Environments
* Transport
* Economy
* Waste Management
* Community

Following further discussion, including partnership-working, with Marcus Perring stating that he was keen to work closely with the 4 Forest Towns Councils, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation:**

Marcus Perrin should formally invite partnership, with clear outlines what would be required, and for Town Council to then formally consider, and respond accordingly

**Note: Post Meeting, Marcus Perrin forwarded the following summary aspects of his work, with associated links:**

**Communications**

The FoDDC Climate team can be contacted at climate.action@fdean.gov.uk

Please help promote sign up for the FoDDC Climate Action Newsletter (issued every two months, next edition April 2023) >
<https://publicagroup.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ab7a7e62881dc95c541265556&id=07f67422ad>
**Strategy & Plan**

Forest of Dean District Council Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan > <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/tcqjxequ/climate-emergency-strategy-and-action-plan-2022-2025-version-jan-2023.pdf>

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee (March 2023) – progress report from page 35  > <https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/g4360/Public%20reports%20pack%2002nd-Mar-2023%2018.00%20Strategic%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

**Renewable energy**AURORA Community Energy project details and newsletter sign up here > <https://www.aurora-h2020.eu/fod-home/>

FoDDC solar PV installation contract (including Pyart Court in Phase 1) – please help promote the opportunity using this link, closing date 11th April >  <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/399d2e14-7b91-4a5a-b165-f9b62b711264>

**Built environment**UKSPF funded Climate Resilience/Adaptation project – Town Councils to be approached formally with respect to their involvement in April.

Coleford Town Council premises review – contact <https://severnwye.org.uk/> for direction on decarbonisation/energy survey support.

Continued support for Warm and Well campaign would be much appreciated > <https://warmandwell.co.uk/>

**Transport**Please continue promotion of GCC ‘Robin’ service > <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/the-robin/>

UKSPF funded Active Travel Strategy project – please review and update your active travel plans ready for re-presenting to FoDDC within this project.
Electric car chargers – FoDDC reviewing strategy for charger role out (primarily FoDDC car parks). Council to consider charger provision linked to any new Town Council premises. See for example > <https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/new-electric-car-charging-points-fromes-town-hall-football-club/>

(Marcus to contact GCC to better understand their plans for chargers in Coleford).
**Economy**UKSPF funded ‘Low Carbon Energy Business Support’ project being initiated – to provide energy audit and solar PV support to local SME’s. More detail to follow soon.

**Waste**

Future waste contract, new vehicle strategy (types of vehicle e.g. biofuel vs electric vs hydrogen) being considered – please offer feedback on current vehicle operation, or thoughts on future vehicle opportunities.

**Food**
Sustainable Food Asset Mapping project (FVAF + FoDDC) > <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelkOhvKHfjh2Ice2BwNkpYm8mkI2n5m7wBlFUkO2eZSKHegw/viewform?usp=sf_link>

**Time: 7.45pm Marcus Perrin left the meeting**

1. **To reconsider the timing of future Environment Committee meetings, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. Getgood summarised and, after further consideration, and discussion, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation:**

**The Environment should remain scheduled, as it is, on the first Tuesday of each month**

1. **To review Cemetery matters, inc. Cemetery Open Days, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. Getgood summarised and, after further discussion, it was agreed to reconsider this Item in more detail, and defer to a subsequent meeting

1. **To review Bells Field Recreation Ground Environmental issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. Getgood updated, and summarised, incl. water butt, picnic benches, the Swales, Boardwalk, arisings quotations and, after further discussion, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation:**

**Brambles and other thorny vegetation along the perimeter boundary hedge, by the bike track, should be taken out for health & safety grounds, and either left clear or enhanced with other more appropriate hedging**

1. **To review KGV Environmental issues, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

The Town Clerk updated, and meetings with Barnwood Trust were noted.

1. **To review, consolidate, and prioritise latest Environmental Action Plan Tasks, bringing into line with office tracker system, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Due to absences this Review to be rescheduled with a small working group, and to report back to this Committee

1. **Update on Tree Activity across the Parish, and to make recommendations, as necessary**

Tree Audit/ Stock Survey noted, and for the specification to invite quotations to be more clearly defined.

1. **Update on Volunteer actions, and to make further recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. Getgood updated on recent volunteer activity, and it was agreed for another volunteer event to be scheduled as part of the Coronation Weekend encouraged activities

1. **Updates on other Parish Issues with Environment implications, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. Getgood updated re: Jugs Hole pond-local volunteers involvement noted

1. **Updates re: wider FoD Environment meetings, forums, activities, and other environmental groups; to take forward actions into Plan, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Cllr. Getgood updated on Worcester Walk tree planting activity, and the Ecological Survey being obtained, as part of the Clock Tower Reparation, and Restoration work was noted.

1. **To consider specialist speakers, and make recommendations re: invitation**

Cllr. Getgood suggested some possible Speakers, and would consider further.

1. **To receive update on Environment Committee expenditure, and make recommendations, as necessary**

Expenditure was noted, and expenditure re: Bee Squared Initiative was considered further, and it was proposed, and unanimously agreed that:

**Recommendation:**

**A Pilot Scheme should be undertaken in 2 residential areas:**

**1. Thurstan’s Rise, 2. Angel Vale,and other green spaces**

 **3. Outside The Library. 4.Cemetery on right of driveway**

**Time: 8.30pm Meeting ended**