

AGENDA ITEM 9e

WDBC update for Tavistock Town Council Cllr James Spettigue

Climate change and Biodiversity emergency

WDBC officers, along with the climate change and bio-diversity working group, have put in significant work to create the strategy and action plan which we will use as the template for how the council achieves its climate and biodiversity goals. This report is due to go to full council in December where it is my hope that it will be adopted. The focus has been very much on creating a plan, which can be broadly applied across the council's sphere of operations and influence and sustained in the long term. The Strategy has two main components, an operational carbon reduction plan that focusses on the carbon footprint of the Council itself, and an outward looking plan, which focusses on reducing emissions across the Borough. Despite lockdown, and restructuring of officers roles to cope with the pandemic, this work has continued, in addition WDBC has also been engaged in the process of applying for grant funding to support some of these plans.

At this point in time a Green homes Grant of £224,500 has been awarded to WDBC, this will be used initially to fund the installation of insulation and air source heat pumps for residents in the most dire circumstances of fuel poverty. Further applications will be made, whenever funding is available, which would be used to fund other projects included in the plan.

Officers have been engaged in discussion with Plymouth city council and other JLP stakeholders to identify sites that may have the potential to deliver renewable energy in the future. JLP stakeholders including WD are also in discussion to consider how to shape the priorities for planning applications moving forward so that they reflect the shift to prioritise climate change and biodiversity in design and construction.

Some of the biggest areas in which regional climate change improvements can be made are in the areas of Infrastructure and industry and, as pointed out to me by Drew Powell (Director of Governance and Assurance), these are areas in which WDBC has a very limited influence. Drew has assured me that in these areas, the BC is acting to lobby for change where it can.

Drew * has also informed me that once the report is published He and Adam Williams ** (WDBC climate change and biodiversity officer) would be happy to come to TTC directly and provide an update as to our progress.

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**Adam Williams: Adam.Williams@swdevon.gov.uk

Spring Hill

Work continues on the plans to renew this site within the covenant placed on it. All Heritage matters are being considered and the correct processes applied, the outcome of these considerations is that officers believe the appropriate way forwards is to demolish and rebuild on the site. When I spoke to Dan Field *, the officer concerned, he told me he would welcome a discussion with TTC, once the layout had been fixed and material choices considered.

*Dan Field: Dan.Field@swdevon.gov.uk

Plymouth Road housing development

A number of local WDBC councillors along with Cllr Graham Parker have working intensely over the summer trying to ensure that Tavistock gets as much value from the s106 for this development as it can. Our focus has been on three main areas:

- Ensuring that primary school provision is made appropriately in respect of the upcoming and ongoing Developments.
- Ensuring that provision is made for the funding the No.89 bus.
- Ensuring that, In line with the recommendations of the JLP, employment opportunities are created with respect to providing 18,600 SqM of light industrial workspace.

With a report on the matter being published this week and our respective authorities being briefed by a WDBC legal officer. I am sure there will be much to talk about and I would welcome any councillors wanting to add their voice, to make sure Tavistock gets the infrastructure it needs and deserves.

Meadowlands Leisure Centre

As I am sure you will be aware Meadowlands Leisure centre is in the process of reopening. The dry side opened last week and the pool is expected to open later this this week. The delay re opening the pool itself is due to the air handling equipment needing attention. I can only hope our Covid 19 infection numbers remain low enough that we can keep the facility open through the winter, given how important it is to so any people.

All activities will need to be pre-booked, made on line or by using the Fusion app. The Exercise Referral Programme is currently being worked on and a start date will be confirmed soon. Fusion have undertaken all the necessary checks, tests, cleaning and staff are being re-trained with all the required safety signage and Government guidance in place.

Something WBDC has become aware of, as an area for improvement, has been communication from fusion to the public. Accordingly, WDBC are carrying out a joint marketing campaign with Fusion to promote all our leisure centres across the local area. I hope you will join me in helping to make people aware that the Centre is now open and is safe to use, it is a vital facility for Tavistock in respect of health and wellbeing and we want people to use it!

Three-week bin collections

Regarding the three weekly collection of general refuse from the homes in the trial area (1000 homes in WD, approx. 250 of which are in Tavistock). The officer concerned reports that, 'Due to the effects of C-19 on the waste stream, the results from the data at this stage are inconclusive and so the report recommends that the trial continues until at least March 2021 when a final report will be submitted'.

The good news is that there were relatively few complaints, far less than were expected, and residents on the trial appear to be coping well with the service. WDBC hub committee has approved a report, which recommends the trial continue until March 2021. On a personal level I think the more data we have, the better informed our decisions will be, so I welcome this extension.