



Environment Committee Minutes

**6th June 2023
Microsoft Teams Call**

Attendees

Bruce Penson (Chair), Tracey Haskins, Chris Lacey, Dave Peet, Salvatore Diliberto, James Gordon (WEAct), Oliver Noble (Woking Council Guest), Cllr Peter Graves

Apologies and absent

Lara Beattie, Pru Shackley, Martin Horswood, Jeremy Yates, Sarah Brown

Item	Topic	Action
1	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes from the meeting 25th April 2023 were approved</p>	
2	<p>Council update</p> <p>The draft new Climate Change Strategy for Woking Borough and Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) guidance for developers on Climate Change are in public consultation and can be found here: Net Zero Woking Community Forum</p> <p>WBC have also created Wildlife Gardening Guide which will help residents and business advice helping encourage wildlife in outdoor spaces. This is also in public consultation: Wildlife Gardening Guide Woking Community Forum</p> <p>Please can all committee members review and provide feedback on the above via the links on the websites.</p>	<p>ALL: review and provide feedback</p>
3	<p>WEAct update</p> <p>Update from James Gordon</p> <p>12-18th June – Woking Great Big Green Week</p>	

	<p>Various events are being organised: Woking Great Big Green Week starts 10 June! – Welcome to Woking Environment Action!</p> <p>It was noted that Big Green Week is not being taken up as a national event in the way that the organisers would like.</p> <p>WEAct have noted that it is difficult to get a shift towards net zero lifestyle and they are currently working out which employers to reach out too. It may be useful if the Chamber is referenced once they do reach out – WEAct to speak to the Chamber once they have decided on their approach.</p> <p>Surrey Chambers of Commerce looking at a Surrey Climate and Nature Funding pot. £60K committed fund for 10-20 businesses who might be able to lead the way on net zero policies. Sarah Butcher is the contact for interested parties: sarah.butcher@surrey-chambers.co.uk</p>	
4	<p>Events</p> <p>Brookwood Cemetery Volunteering afternoon Friday 16 June 2023, 13:00 – 16:00.</p> <p>Will involve cleaning monuments and gravestones</p> <p>Register on the Chambers website: Volunteering Afternoon - Woking Chamber of Commerce</p>	
6	<p>Resources for website</p> <p>Suggestions relating to environment and sustainability for the resources page of the Chambers website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Peter Graves suggested adding the Surrey Environment Partnership site which provides advice on recycling and reducing waste: Surrey Environment Partnership - Your councils working together (surreyep.org.uk) • There is also the Surrey Chambers Climate Change Hub which provides links to resources around funding, other support and events for business along with some case studies of previous projects: Climate Change Hub - Surrey Chambers (surrey-chambers.co.uk) 	

7	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salv spoke to colleagues at his business about their environmental initiatives and trends they are seeing in the market, to feedback to the committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was noted that there were far more questions around environmental policies in pre-qualification questionnaires when bidding for work such as environmental standards they adhere to and recycling. ○ General trends: electric vehicles, solar panels, heat pumps. Encouraging more sustainable raw materials on constructions projects ○ The business is committing to not use single use plastics, creating cycle to work schemes, encouraging reusable plastic and reducing travel with Teams meetings. • Discussions around solar panels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There have been articles in the press about the growing problems with end of life solar panels and how to dispose of them. Particularly with the first generation of panels now reaching end of their life. ○ Tracey to speak to ThamesWey colleagues about this problem and whether they have any guidance the Chamber can make available. ○ Chris mentioned a site in Brookwood farm they worked on where solar panels were installed with telemetry and noticed some defects which the telemetry picked up. He wondered how other people/firms monitor the performance and lifecycle of their panels. • Discussions around electric vehicles (EVs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chris mentioned environmental benefits of keeping older vehicles rather than purchasing new vehicles as the cost of making new vehicles is a big part of the environmental footprint. ○ James also mentioned we need to consider the second hand market for electric vehicles as its not clear yet how this will work. ○ Cllr Peter Graves not sure about the lifetime of electric vehicles due to service life of batteries. 	
	<p>Dates for next environmental committee meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th July 2023 • 29th August 2023 	