



**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2023 via Microsoft Teams call**

Attendees: Bruce Penson (Chair) Lara Beattie Jeremy Yates
 Cllr Peter Graves Rupert Devereux Chris Lacey
 Dave Peet

Apologies: Tracey Haskins Sarah Brown Salvatore Diliberto

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
1.	Minutes of the previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from the meeting 18th July were approved. 	
2.	Woking Council update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As reported at the last meeting, the public consultations on the new climate change strategy (Woking Net Zero) and the Planet Woking Garden guide were completed at the end of June 2023. Feedback was used to inform a final draft of each ready for adoption. Woking Net Zero is due to be considered at the next Greener Woking Working Group on 18 September. The Group will be asked to recommend its adoption by the Executive at its meeting on 5 October. Pending adoption, the summary strategy will be updated, and the accompanying Climate Emergency Action Plan will be reviewed to reflect new and updated actions and timeframes. The Planet Woking Wildlife Gardening Guide will be considered for adoption at the Greener Woking Working Group and subject to the views of the group will then be published online. The strategy consultation ran in parallel with that of the draft Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The final draft is due to be considered by committees in November, recommending its adoption by the Executive on 16 November. Back in May, the council submitted evidence as part of Climate Emergency UK's local authority scorecards exercise. The organisation assesses climate action across local authorities giving each a score – similar to a league table. Last year WBC did well with a 70% score and tenth in the national list of district councils. We hope to match or improve on this this year but will be challenging! The results are due later in September/October so hope to share good news at the next meeting. Officers in Property Services have begun a pilot of the Energi Raven energy monitoring software produced by local company SAV. The software enables live consumption monitoring for gas, water, and electricity across nominated sites as well as monthly and annual comparisons. Alarms can be set to proactively manage spikes in consumption. The six-month trial will conclude towards the end of this year and is monitoring eight WBC buildings. Climate change and biodiversity focused communications continue through the Planet Woking programme. Please do share news of your green initiatives and we'd be happy to promote these via the website and social media. 	

3.	<p>WEAct update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During June WEAct contributed to Great Big Green Week. This went okay and gives Woking visibility nationally as a participant in the Great Big Green Week. • Repair cafes are going well and are taking place in different venues each month. Trinity Methodist Church in Brewery Road is the next event this Saturday. Fix rate is 78% which equals about 130 kg of things not being landfilled (saving 1636 kg of CO2 emissions). Rupert to arrange for information to be sent to post on the Chamber website (received). • If people / businesses have potentially repairable items that they no longer require, this could be repaired and donated via the Woking furniture café. • Visits have been made to the White Rose Nature reserve visit to remove Himalayan Balsam. WEAct are also looking to help with ecology surveys of the commons as likely a non-statutory service for the council so won't get funding in the future. • 'Don't let it rot on the plot' initiative to take excess fruit and veg from home growers and allotments to food fridges and food bank. Rupert to send information to Lara for the Planet Woking website. • WEAct have submitted their charity application and waiting to hear from the charity commission to here is accepted as a charitable organisation. 	
4.	<p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will likely be an event at the hospice at Lansbury for furniture renovation. Details yet to be posted. 	
5.	<p>Resources for website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair cafes (as per WEAct update). 	
6.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce mentioned that Pro Drive have taken over a laptop refurbishment initiative from ROC Woking. As well as refurbishing laptops returned from Pro Drive's clients that would otherwise be disposed of, we will also accept donations of suitable working laptops that can have data erased and made available for someone else to use: https://www.rocwoking.org.uk/laptops4- • Bruce will not be available to chair the next meeting on 17th October 2023 @ 12.30 pm – this may have to be rescheduled unless another member of the committee is willing to stand in. 	
7.	<p>Dates for next environmental committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th October 2023 @ 12.30 pm • 28th November 2023 @ 12.30 pm 	