



CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 4/23

9 JANUARY 2023

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with feedback from the recent round of public engagement meetings arranged by the Town Council's Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group.

NO. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council's Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group arranged four meetings to engage members of the public in discussion of the range of issues around climate change and biodiversity loss.
- b) A Report on those meetings by the Group's members is attached to this Report.

2) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to note and discuss the Group's Report.

Ventnor town council climate and biodiversity public engagement meetings report.

In late 2022 VTC hosted four meetings to which the public were invited to discuss matters pertaining to climate change and biodiversity loss.

The four meetings were held at different times of the day in four different locations, thereby giving the public the maximum number of opportunities to attend. Signs were placed on notice boards around town and posted on social media, in upper Ventnor Mark Jefferies and Steve Cooper additionally posted leaflets through residents letterboxes.

The format of the meeting was: opening with a 15-minute presentation outlining the main causes of climate change and biodiversity loss. This was then followed by facilitated round table discussions, each table then presented the top three matters of concern which they believed the council should prioritise.

There were six objectives of the project, four of which pertained to identifying existing and fledgling projects and individuals that could lead on projects with a view to the town council supporting. No such projects were identified during the course of this process.

In the region of 30 people attended the meetings, around one third of those coming from other parts of the island to participate/observe the meetings, with a view to replicating the process in other towns. Email addresses were collected to be added to the VTC mailing list.

Focus now will draw on increasing attendance for future, more subject specific engagements. Participants attending expressed much gratitude to the council for putting on the events and enjoyed taking part. Meeting other like minded residents both locally and from other areas of the Island provided much information.

Next steps:

Detailed notes were taken throughout the meetings and participants were invited to use a sticker chart to pick their 'top three' priorities from a selection of topics. These notes will now be collated, and the working group will develop a list of possible follow-up actions and projects ranked with impact and deliverability. Also collated were a list of resources, books, podcasts to share on the VTC website.