



**WELLS CITY COUNCIL  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES  
COMMITTEE, WHICH MEMBERS ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND,  
WILL BE HELD AT WELLS TOWN HALL  
ON THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7:00PM**

*Please note this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.*

Steve Luck  
Town Clerk/RFO

31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Town Hall  
Market Place  
Wells BA5 2RB  
01749 673091  
e-mail: townclerk@wells.gov.uk

Committee Members:

Cllrs: T Butt-Philip, D Denis, S Eden,  
N Kennedy, D Orrett, S Powell, G Robbins,  
P Welch

**AGENDA**

Wells City Council has declared a climate emergency. Each agenda item must consider the impact on any policy and decision.

- 1 FOLLOWING AGREEMENT AT FULL COUNCIL TO HAVE ONE MEETING FOR THIS COMMITTEE AND NO LONGER SPLIT INTO TWO, AGREE TO APPOINT:**
  - i. CHAIR**
  - ii. VICE-CHAIR**
- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- 4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 (Bishop's Barn & Recreation Ground) and 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2024 (Outside Spaces, Wells in Bloom, Portway Annexe)**
- 5 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Chair.
- 6 OUTSIDE SPACES**
  - Playground areas
- 7 PORTWAY ANNEXE**

To receive an update.

**8 WELLS IN BLOOM**

To receive an update.

**9 RECREATION GROUND**

To receive an update from the Outside Spaces Officer.

**10 BISHOP'S BARN**

To receive any updates.

**11 CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

- i. Climate Change Working Group Report on Ecoweek from Cllr Denis (attached).

**12 PROPOSALS FROM CLLR DENIS**

1. Act to Adapt Draft Plan is in consultation with organisations and the public of Wells. I propose that Wells City Council endorses the process of public consultation and will consider the outcomes as part of this Council's actions to mitigate and adapt to Climate Emergency.
2. Wells in Bloom Competitions. I propose that this committee looks at the value of running the competitions and makes a plan to resume the competitions in the future when there is a nominated officer support and policy and procedures documents to support volunteers.

**13 ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Note:** If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence it will be proposed by the Chairman that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended, excluding the press and public, in order that confidential items can be discussed.

## **Agenda Item 11**

### **Climate Emergency Working Group Report to Wells City Council- 25/10/24**

Ecoweek+ was a successful 10 day of events for engaging with the public to showcase good aspects of working well for Climate Change and Environment.

The organisation of the main events and publicity was driven by Councillors Deborah Orrett, Denise Denis, Sarah Powell, Gordon Folkard. Stewart Crocker (Sustainable Food Somerset), Jamie Mochrie, publicity/social media by Maddy Milne and Deborah Aubrey (Sustainable Wells) and Chris Lee.

Sponsorship came from the Cathedral School in the gift of Cedars Hall for the Floods, Farms and Food event and THE Town Hall from Wells City Council for the Greener Tomorrow events on the Saturday. Charlie Bigham donated £500. Two out of county speakers were reimbursed expenses. The current Wen account holds £573.50 after expenses.

#### Positives:

Floods, Farms and Food. Fantastic start with excellent speakers, superbly hosted by Stewart Crocker, and managed by Wells Lions stewards, Deborah Orrett, Sarah Powell and Denise Denis. Retiring collection raised £154.75 for the Wells Foodbank.

#### Talks given on Saturday:

Flood Mary and Somerset Rivers Authority focussed on increasing threats of water/flooding in and around Wells and how to act to adapt.

Richard Jones' talk on Strawberry Line. A fantastic local story of dedication, determination and tenacity over many years. It has garnered volunteers, funding and public support to enable it to extend and provide active travel routes for people and an increasingly important habitat for wildlife.

Building ecofriendly houses and retrofitting house by 2 local people who have been there/done that- Chris Charles and Dick Hodgson drew in good interest for this important topic.

Brigit Strawbridge's talk on solitary bees and bumble bees inspiring and gave us knowledge of their life cycles, habitats and importance in supporting pollination.

#### Meanwhile on the stands:

Somerset Beekeepers stand told people all they need to know about the Asian Hornet.

Wells Community Shed stall presented a lovely activity for children in designing bug hotels and Wells Scouts gave their support and showed how they involved younger people in environment projects making and giving away bird boxes.

#### Other events during the week:

Locally renown photographer, Victoria Hillman's led a photo walk-8 people learnt to take time to stop and stare, use their cameras in better ways and observe the small and beautiful aspects of nature on our walks.

Charlie Bigham's Sustainability Officer, Emily Temple introduced herself to Wen for future interactions, and arranged a visit for 2 of us to see how an environmentally conscious organisation can put the environment and climate at the foremost in design and production! From that Charlie Bigham offered a donation to Ecoweek.

A day at Wednesday Market with the wonderful and very knowledgeable Deb Geraghty/Maddy Millnes, from CSE and ACE, with chats and information given to 30+ people on energy saving measures for households.

3 new recruits to Deborah's litter picking team went out and about collecting more litter.

The Wookey Hole Cinema attracted their largest audience ever (44) to the most inspiring film *Wilding*.

Final event on a very wet stormy day where FIXY Bus and Sustainable Wells Repair Cafe,

which was a success against all odds and in spite of the weather.

### **Outcomes**

900 people involved directly at events - including children, plus wider engagement online.

A lively debate and starting conversations on Floods Farms and Food, and lots of information was given through Saturday on our local wildlife/sustainability community groups which were able to sign up new volunteers

10 people learnt how to maintain their bicycles well and bus timetable queries and complaints heard and collected for SBP.

250kg of tech saved from landfill and iPads and phones collected for recycling to people unable to afford one.

Sustainable Wells collected local information of wildlife in Wells to develop a map.

30 plus people received energy saving advice.

More Litter-pick volunteers recruited.

40+ people got to know more about sustainable gardening due to a lovely session with James Cross at the Bishops Palace and wildflower plantings ideas from Gael Witor at the Town Hall and tree planting advice from Westbury Community Tree Nursery.

Ongoing interest being expressed by new groups to take part in future environment activities such as the WI and YMCA. More traffic on social media since the events of Ecoweek.

### **Cllr Denise Denis**