



Banwell Parish Council

Banwell Youth & Community Centre

West Street, Banwell. BS29 6DB

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MEETING: Sustainability Working Group.

DATE & TIME: 7:30pm 2nd February 2023.

LOCATION: Virtual.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors, Paul Harding (Chairman) and Mike Bailey.

Also present: Daisy Finnear (Communications Officer) and a member of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Wright, Cllr Thompson.

2. To review the status of tasks assigned at the previous working group meeting.

Wash & Squash

Daisy and Cynthia updated the group on the “Wash & Squash” campaign. The campaign will launch in the March edition of the parish magazine and E-Newsletter. Social media graphics and information will support the articles.

Cllr P Harding recommended including the use of can crushers in the campaign materials and include links to where parishioners can purchase these to fully crush tins.

ACTION: to include can crushers in the Wash & Squash campaign on social media.

Eco Banking

Cllr Harding reported back on eco bank options and will continue to investigate options as interest rates rise.

ACTION: Cllr Harding to continue to research eco banking options and recommend banks to council.

EV Charging Points

Cllr M Bailey reported findings on EV charging points. Six companies were investigated, two of which were found to have potential: Equilibrium energy and EV Box. Equilibrium energy provide PR sensor chargers with logins and app access. EV box has a rapid charge system. Further investigations would be required, including the need for planning permission, electricity source, maintenance, funding, and site survey. It was added the bypass team are planning to install two EV points in West Street Car Park, therefore installing additional via the parish council was not considered a priority.

ACTION: to wait for the bypass team to share detailed proposals for EV charging points in West Street and to pass details on to Cllr Bailey for comment.

Bypass Biodiversity Net Gain

The Comms Officer reported that the bypass team agreed to include a section on biodiversity net gain when they update the bypass website. The site will include information on how the team plan to quantify the 40% net gain and include measurables.

3. To assign new actions to group members from the Sustainability Action Plan.

ACTION: Cynthia to continue to investigate identifying and promoting walking routes around the village.

ACTION: Cllr M Bailey to investigate which local shops and supermarkets provide soft plastic recycling. To report back to Comms Officer, who will share the locations on social media.

ACTION: Cllr P Harding to review the Rural Funding Digest monthly and report any potential environmental funding grants to Clerk and Comms Officer.

4. Date of next meeting

18th May 19:30.



BANWELL PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Environment Working Group ('the Working Group') is a working group of Banwell Parish Council ('the Council') and is established to co-ordinate the Parish's overall approach to biodiversity and sustainability.

Membership

The Membership of the Working Group shall be a minimum of three Members of the Council ('Council members'), and up to five other members of the community ('Community members'). N.B. These numbers are flexible – the Council recognises it is important to have the right skills and interest on the working Group and, whilst membership will be generally reviewed annually at the Annual Council Meeting, it is possible that community membership may increase above eight.

The Chair of the Working Group will be a Member of the Council and shall be chosen by the Working Group Members at the first meeting of the Working Group.

A Parish Council Officer (Environment and Biodiversity Officer or Clerk) will administer the meetings on behalf of the Council and Community. The Chair will convene meetings and liaise with the Officer regarding a schedule of meetings and agenda items.

Decisions

The Working Group shall recommend actions / decisions to the Council who will vote on those requirements / motions at the next relevant meeting and feedback accordingly so as not to delay actions unduly. The Working Group has no budgetary or spending powers – if expenditure of any kind is expected because of the working Group recommendations it must be referred to the Council, through the Officer, for approval.

Meetings

The Working Group shall meet at least twice a year. Copies of the draft notes of the meeting shall be circulated to all Members and the Council within 10 workdays. Working Group meetings are not required to be held in public. The Officer will follow normal statutory regulations in terms of notice of Council meetings.

Quorum

The quorum shall be three members of the Working Group with a minimum of two Councillors. If the number of members present falls below the required quorum of three the meeting may be adjourned unless it is felt necessary, due to urgent requirements, to continue discussions. The notes of that meeting will then be forwarded to Full Council for consideration as per usual (see Decisions above).

Responsibilities

The key objective is to enhance Parish Council (PC) owned green spaces, enhancing them for the benefit of both nature and the community. Informed by data and recommendations from the forthcoming ecological survey, the group will collaborate on proposals to present to the PC, focusing on initiatives that promote long-term impact, sustainability, and community engagement.

Life of the Environment Working Group

The Working Group shall continue to meet until the planned projects to rejuvenate parish council-owned green spaces are complete. The Working Group shall then discuss either dissolving or initialling a new project or projects to benefit both nature and the local community

Review

The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed by the Council in May of each year.

Amy Symonds

Environment and Biodiversity Officer
Banwell Parish Council





Promote sustainable development



Encourage a circular economy



PLANT SWAP





**Support the council in
acting sustainably**



**Protect and enhance our
local environment**





**Share knowledge and
engage people**



**Raise sustainability
awareness**



13. To note the Environment and Biodiversity survey outcomes and suggested actions

Key values	What we are already doing	Suggested/ Possible Action
Green Spaces & Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with an ecologist to survey our green spaces and create a management plan to enhance them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once survey complete, collaborate with PC Working Group on recommendations. Explore opportunities for tree planting & creation of bee, butterfly, and insect habitats. Approach and work with local landowners to advise on biodiversity.
Wildlife & Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook posts on biodiversity topics such as “No Mow May” are already in place. Baseline survey’s as above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand with more varied wildlife gardening methods and practices on Facebook. Approach local groups to explore potential collaborations. Research the potential for a citizen science project focused on the River Banwell. Organise community workshops to create bird, bat, and hedgehog boxes.
Walks & Outdoor Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buddy walks programme Advertise Winscombe’s better health walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NSC to establish a Better Health Walk in Banwell. Explore partnerships with local walking groups. Investigate transport needs; consider using the minibus to assist with accessibility. Apply for funding to support guided nature walks. Contact Mendip Hills Natural Landscapes to organise a guided walk. Investigate funding.
Banwell river and hills		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen science project as above Contact Mendip Hills Natural Landscapes to organise a guided walk

Concerns	What we are already doing	Suggested/ Possible Action
Impact of the Bypass & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly updates on the Parish Council website. Work with developers for best outcomes for nature Commenting on NSC planning to prioritise nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to ensure BNG targets are met and maintained as per requirements
Loss of Green Spaces & Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace every tree removed with two new ones. Preserve the strategic green gap. Comment on planning applications to ensure proposed green corridors are suitable for nature. Ecology survey and enhancement suggestions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement ecologist's recommendations with the Sustainability Action Group. Engage with local landowners as previously outlined.
Concerns for pollution, sustainability and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Facebook posts. Banwell community clean-up events. Improvements to YCC’s carbon footprint—approaching carbon neutrality. Advocate eco-friendly building standards in planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue sharing sustainable living tips via social media and local events. Explore further improvements to YCC energy efficiency. Citizen science projects as noted above.
Traffic and Road Impact on Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for green infrastructure. Comment on planning applications to support suitable green corridors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable transport options May community transport Facebook communication June newsletter and E-newsletter

Most Requested Topics

Wildlife Gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook posts ‘No mow may’ - top seen post 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand with more varied wildlife gardening content. Collaborate with local groups to share expertise and resources.
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Plastic Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook posts on plastic reduction among top-performing. Biscuit and snack recycling available at YCC. Recycling 'shoot-out' planned with youth club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor North Somerset's new recycling marketing and identify any support gaps we can fill.
Connecting with Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buddy walks programme Willow weaving crafting sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above 'Better health walks' in Banwell. Explore partnerships with local walking groups with comms. Community-led bird, bat, and hedgehog box creation.
Food Waste Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook posts on food waste reduction high engagement. Composting scheme researched, seeing location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate residents on food preservation techniques Work with developers to include community composting

Highest Rated Sustainability Topics

Topic	What we are already doing	Suggested/ Possible Action
Enhancing Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with an ecologist to survey our green spaces and create a management plan to enhance them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above, implement ecologist's recommendations. Seek funding for further enhancements. Engage with landowners to improve biodiversity on their land
Energy Saving at Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Facebook posts on insulation and energy-saving tips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share home energy-saving tips through social media Promote Available Grants for residents Promote CSE Thermal Imaging camera with Cllr Tristam.
Improving Banwell's Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with an ecologist to survey our green spaces and create a management plan to enhance them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post more variety of wildlife gardening methods & practice on Facebook. Approach local groups to see if any collaboration would be beneficial See above Citizen science project. Community wildlife box projects.
Recycling / Upcycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biscuit and snack recycling available at YCC. Recycling 'shoot-out' planned with youth club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate clothing swap event Investigate repair workshop in conjunction with Banwell FC
Shopping Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote community market Christmas market & Buy in Banwell social media 	

Encouragement for Participation:

People want more information about upcoming activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequently posting on social media Putting posters in the YCC Publishing events in the Banwell parish magazine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working in collaboration with other local group may be able to reach a wider audience
Opportunities to learn new skills would motivate engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willow weaving crafting sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for repair workshops Running a woodwork session to make bat, bird and/or hedgehog boxes Share online content for making DIY projects