

Full Council Meeting – 5 October 2021

Report of Councillor Dixie Darch – Climate Change

Instavolt EV charging points

Instavolt Electric vehicle charging points at Minehead, Dulverton and Blackbrook are now live. Data so far shows a steady increase in usage.

OZEV Funding and SWARCO

SW&T has received approval of £136,000 OZEV (Office for Zero Emission Vehicles) funding against capital costs which will enable us to go ahead with the planned installation of charging points in collaboration with SWARCO. These will be sites in SW&T council car parks in Taunton, Wellington, Minehead, Williton, Wiveliscombe and Porlock.

Electric pool cars

2 Renault Zoes EVs are now in use as pool cars as part of the transition of the council fleet to electric.

Climate Change Delivery Partnership with Sedgemoor District Council

The Climate Change Delivery Partnership with Sedgemoor District Council has now been signed and we look forward to working together on climate projects. There will be two member representatives from Sedgemoor and SW&T in addition to the portfolio holders from each council. The nominations for these roles at SW&T are Cllr Sarah Wakefield and Cllr Dave Mansell. We have new staff joining the Climate Change team with Sedgemoor contributing to the funding of some of these.

Water refill stations

An agreement with Wessex Water has been signed for water refill stations in Taunton (High St., by Clarks shoe shop), Wellington (High St., outside Post Office) and Minehead (Warren Rd., opposite railway station). Installation dates are as follows:

Minehead - 4th to 13th October

Taunton - 18th-22nd October

Wellington - 25th-29th October

A comms. campaign encouraging reduction in single use of plastic water bottles will follow.

Waterless urinals

SW&T have offered to pay installation costs for conversion of town council urinals to waterless

Recycling On the Go

Results of the waste bin audit in trial locations now complete. 34% of waste could have been recycled. New bins with segregation for plastic bottles and cans will be installed across the district. Dates TBC.

Feasibility study for whole building decarbonisation

A feasibility study for whole building decarbonisation has been completed for Deane House. Those for Taunton Crematorium and Wellington Depot are still in progress.

Member working group on Retrofit

The member working group on Retrofit, chaired by Cllr Mansell, has had some valuable input from a range of experts, helping to inform our housing retrofit plans.

Tree planting

We are exploring options for the most appropriate sites for the Queen's Canopy tree planting as part of the Jubilee celebrations. Town and parish councils have been invited to take up our free tree offer up to the value of £50. This offer also applies to the Unparished area. The closing date for orders is Friday 22 October and trees can be collected from 22 November.

Mapping of primary food producers

A survey has gone out to map primary food producers in the area, in collaboration with Sedgemoor District Council, with the aim of encouraging and supporting the sale of local food to local people.