

Full Council Meeting – 7 December 2021

Report of Councillor Dixie Darch – Climate Change

Overview

Jonathan Stevens, previously the Open Spaces manager has taken over the role of Assistant Director with a responsibility for Climate Change following Chris Hall's move to Director of Development and Place.

In the light of the unitary decision to go for One Somerset, we are reviewing the CNCR plan to identify priority actions we can deliver in the time left. Many of the existing CNCR actions are long term and involve the support of County or central government. We will retain these within the plan, but they will be carried over to the Unitary council.

EV charge points

The Instavolt charge points at Deane House went live on 11 November. These 50kw charge points are available 24/7 and are in addition to the previously installed chargers at Blackbrook Leisure Centre in Taunton, Alexandra Road in Minehead and Exmoor House car park in Dulverton. Between July and October these chargers have been used a total 1504 times.

Our successful OZEV bid means we have received £136,000 to offset the installation of our SWARCO charge points, in car parks across the district. SWARCO are currently finalising installation dates with Western Power. Groundwork and installation for the charge points at Belvedere Road car park is underway.

Escooter trial

The Escooter trial continues to be successful in both Taunton and Minehead.

Taunton Weekly Insights

14/11/2021 – 21/11/2021

	This Week	Last week	Cumulative
Total Number of rides	1,397	1,285	63,344
Total distance travelled	2,189 miles	1,853 miles	137,437 miles
Average trip length	1.57 miles	1.44 miles	2.45 miles
Average trip duration	0:12:55	0:13:15	0:16:56
Average Speed	7.27 mph	6.53 mph	8.68 mph
Total time spent on scooters	300 hours	283 hours	17876 hours
New users	84	150	10,120

Minehead Weekly Insights

15/11/2021 - 21/11/2021

This week:

	This Week	Last week	Cumulative
Total Number of rides	160	214	13,418
Total distance travelled	219 miles	278 miles	22,591 miles
Average trip length	1.37 miles	1.3 miles	1.84 miles
Average trip duration	0:10:35	0:07:55	0:16:55
Average Speed	7.74 mph	9.83 mph	6.52 mph
Total time spent on scooters	28 hours	28 hours	3783 hours
New users	43	72	5,060

Free trees for parishes and unparished area

This year 22 parish councils took advantage of our free tree give away, where communities were offered up to £50 worth of trees for community planting. As a result, we have successfully funded 156 trees which will be planted for National Tree Week, 27th November to 5th December 2021.

Queen's Green Canopy Project

A review has been carried out by our Planning, Open Spaces and Climate Team on potential sites for the Queen's Green Canopy Project with sites selected in Taunton, Wellington and Minehead. In Taunton the most suitable site identified was Upper Holway open space. The proposal is to plant 85 trees in 5 separate clusters to include an area with conifers and a fruit orchard. There is scope to extend planting in the future and maintenance and information boards have been included in the budget. In Minehead a site has been selected at Culvercliffe, a large section of land that is the start of the coastal walk at the end of the harbour. There are currently a few trees there and these will be extended to create an avenue of 105 trees.

In Wellington we are collaborating with Wellington Transition Town and contributing to their plans for planting at Foxes Field. They will plant and maintain the trees as a community initiative.

This winter there will also be 450 trees planted in in our open spaces, some of which are replacing the 50 trees felled, as part of the 3 for 1 strategy.

Water Refill stations

Free water refill stations have been installed in Minehead (Warren Road) and Taunton (outside Clarke's shoe shop in High Street) as a collaborative initiative with Wessex Water and Somerset County Council. This is part of the *Refill not Landfill, Say No to Plastic* campaign. Wellington (outside the post office in High Street) will be installed in the New Year. All three stations must undergo rigorous drinking water compliance tests before being made available for the public. The station at Minehead is now live for public use.

Climate Change Partnership with Sedgemoor District Council.

The first member-led Consultation Panel meeting of this partnership was held on 25 October. The group will serve as non-decision-making panel and sounding board which can make recommendations to the Portfolio Holders of both councils. Cllr

Sarah Wakefield and Cllr Dave Mansell are serving as SWT's representatives. This partnership has enabled us to extend the team working on climate change actions, including a Project Manager for our Ecological Strategy/Action Plan, part funded by Sedgemoor and other Project Manager posts fully funded by Sedgemoor. Both councils will retain their sovereignty.

Implementation Board

The first meeting of the Climate Strategy Implementation Board (CSIB) is on 23 November. This is the county-wide strategy involving all five Somerset councils.

Waterless Urinals

Following the successful roll out of waterless urinals in our SWT owned public toilets, we offered all parish and town councils which have previously taken over the maintenance of public toilets in their areas, the opportunity of funding towards the installation of waterless urinals, as requested at Scrutiny earlier in the year. Following site visits to identify suitable locations where retrofit might be possible, we have been unable to convert any further facilities at this time.

Recycling on the Go

Working with our colleagues in Commercial Services and the Somerset Waste Partnership, we are rolling out segregated bins to encourage the recycling of more waste. As part of this project, we commissioned a waste audit on a selection of bins in Taunton, Minehead and Dulverton, the results of which showed that 34% of waste in those bins could have been recycled. The new bins will have segregation for general waste, plastic bottles, and cans. To support the rollout of these bins we have invited all SWT secondary schools to take part in a poster competition, to design a promotional poster promoting the new bins and encourage their proper use.

Link to the Support Services for Education webpage - [Recycling on the go – poster competition! | Support Services for Education](#)