

Planning and Environment Committee 2022

The committee has met monthly throughout the year and has had a quorum at each meeting. It welcomed Cllr Isa Von Mesenkampff and Cllr T Butt Philip to join the committee during the year as the original number of councillors was less than 8.

The decisions taken are recorded in the minutes and have always been sent to Mendip DC. There have been 3 delegated Authority Meetings where the timing of a planning application has needed a decision outside of the Committee's schedule. There has been one application that Wells CC sought guidance from Mendip on legal issues. Otherwise, we have noted that many of the decisions taken by Wells CC accord with Mendip, and where there has been an outcome that is not in line with our recommendations there has been no information relayed to Wells CC unless it is referred to Mendip Planning Board. As lead officer I have made several requests for improved communications between Mendip and Wells.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been presented to the Planning Committee throughout the year in its' various stages of changes and consultations, and councillors from the Planning Committee have been supportive throughout. The Neighbourhood Plan has been approved by Full Council 12th December 2022. It is currently being prepared to be sent to Mendip District Council with the Basic Conditions statement and will then be sent out for a consultation by Mendip prior to being submitted to an independent examiner.

Cllr Denise Denis

28/2/23

Climate Change Working Group Report 2023

Actions achieved since Last Annual Parish Meeting.

November 2022-Wells City Council accepted the Proposal to set up a Climate Change Working Party, to report to the Outside Spaces & Estates Committee as a fixed agenda item.

The Working Party has 4 councillors- D Denis, S Powell, S Eden, and I Von Mesenkampff, and 2 community members- M Milnes (Sustainable Wells) and J Mochrie(independent) The Aims for 2023-“ Winning Hearts and Minds”, with the objectives to run a survey to understand what the people of Wells feel is realistic and achievable in their own lives and arrange 3 public events to showcase ways to reduce carbon footprint and engage in debate.

Actions to date:

1. The Working Party has met 3 times
2. Wells CC Website has been updated- **Climate and Environment** is listed on the **About** page.
3. Survey draft trialled with 7 U3A Environment Group members and amendments have been made.
4. An online survey is now live on the Council’s website - <https://wells.gov.uk/climate>
5. **Planning for Events in 2023.**
 - Paper- based Street survey to start 2 weeks commencing on March 13.
 - Campaign to inform Wells residents and businesses of the steps WCC is taking over next 12 months

Cllr Denise Denis

28/2/23

Wells In Bloom 2022

There were 3 competitions in 2022 judged by a group of committed, knowledgeable and motivated volunteers. It was the first time the competitions had been run since the pandemic and most of the team were new to their roles and the competition, and have brought in fresh ideas. There were new categories for judging introduced- for sustainability and wildlife, and on the whole, this appears to have been well received.

The Schools Competition was a joint project with the Bishops Palace, which provided a judge for 2 days, and the venue for a very joyful and different award ceremony in the Undercroft after school on 30 June. Over 100 children and their parents or teachers attended.

The Private Gardens had 19 entrants, and 5 Commercial entries- the judging took place during the very hot weeks of July as did the allotments- which was extremely hot work for the judges and a little testing for the entrants to keep their plants in tip top condition- but they all did really well and we were able to see the outcomes on a very professional power point presentation at the Award Ceremony held at the Town Hall on 14 October. 80 people attended to receive their certificates and trophies and enjoy a ploughman's supper.

Based on the successes of 2022 the competitions are going to be offered again this year and the teams of volunteers are looking forward to taking part again.

Cllr Denise Denis

28/2/23