



**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 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT 7:00PM**

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

Steve Luck  
Town Clerk/RFO

28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Luck'.

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

**Committee Members:**

Cllrs: J Browne (Chair), T Butt-Philip, D Denis,  
S Eden, N Kennedy, D Orrett, S Powell,  
G Robbins

**AGENDA**

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

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023.**
- 4 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Chair.
- 5 OUTSIDE SPACES**  
To receive an update from the Outside Spaces Officer on the following:
  - i. Mower acquisition
  - ii. Wells in Bloom
  - iii. Hedge works
  - iv. Plans for next summer
- 6 CLIMATE EMERGENCY**  
Cllr Denis to present:
  - i. Climate Working Group report (attached below)
  - ii. Wells Environment Network meeting report (attached below)

**7 WELLS IN BLOOM**

- i. Cllr Denis to provide an update.
- ii. To consider setting up a new review.

**8 PORTWAY ANNEXE**

Minutes of the PA meeting (attached below) presented by Cllr D Orrett.

**9 ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

**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 6 (i)**

**Climate Working Group- Report for Open Spaces 5/10/23**

1. The market stall was postponed from 20 September to 4 October due to high winds and rain which prevented the market being set up. The survey is up and running and all councillors are invited to do it online [Wells City Council - Climate Change Survey \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)
2. Climate Working Party have offered to Finance that the reserves in the budget allocated to Climate can be used to improve the windows at the Town Hall for reduction of heat loss. Town Clerk is looking at quotes.
3. Assistant Clerk Claire Woodland has discussed preparing the Sustainability Report for 2023-2024 with Cllr Denise Denis. This will be prepared in conjunction with other Officers and Councillors for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Denise Denis 26/9/23

## **Agenda Item 6 (ii)**

### **WEN Meeting Held 25 September 2023 Notes**

**Apologies-**Cllr G Golkard (Finance, Planning and Climate Working Party), R Jones (Strawberry Line Group), Atha Murphy (Centre for Sustainable Energy), Barbra Lakin (Somerset Council Biodiversity Officer), Jacob Hall (Somerset Council Climate Change and Resilience Officer), Stewart Crocker (Sustainable Food Somerset), Mary Bide (Climate Change and Environment Lead Wells Cathedral), Eric Lewis (Wells and District Wildlife Group), Jo Stevenson (Head Gardener of Bishops' Palace Community Garden), Peter Newberry (Geography teacher, Conservation Manager, Ten Tors Team Manager).

**Present with introductions-** Cllr Deborah Orrett (Chair of Meeting- Outside Spaces, Planning and Climate Working Group, Litter Picking Volunteer Coordinator), Guy Braga (Somerset Wild Life Trust- Wilder Communities Officer), Simon Nash (Independent Consultant for Wildlife on International and National Projects), James Mochrie (Independent Consultant – Highways and Transport), Cllr Sarah Powell (Outside Spaces, Planning and Climate Working Party), Bob McCartney (Bursar, Wells Cathedral School), Deborah Aubrey (Sustainable Wells Communications, and Upcycle, Repurpose, Repair Revive), Maddy Milne (Sustainable Wells- Tor Lane Wilding Pilot), Rosa Kell (Wells Bus User Group Coordinator), Cllr Georgie Robbins (Outside Spaces, Planning and Climate Working Party), Cllr Denise Denis (Outside Spaces, Planning and Climate Working Party).

### **General Discussion** Topics covered-

Influencing general movement to improve our environment in the public arena.  
Council practices, High Street and possible retail response to a suggested Wells Green Charter Kite Mark,  
Public perceptions of our city's environment (positive/negative),  
Reusables/plastics/sustainable /recycling/Single use new plastics law impact,  
How to manage (or not) the growth of roadside plants in city centre- are they a trip hazard?  
Are they a deterrent to visitors? Are they a benefit we can celebrate? Are we getting the right messages across? What are the dangers of weed killers? What are the alternatives? Denise mentioned that Mendip had purchased a road sweeper with mechanism to pull out plants from roadsides- not sure where it is now or if it was ever used successfully? Currently, Wells Open Spaces team hand weed in very prominent areas- as does Cathedral School. Some residents have been using sprays.

### **Strategies-**

Communication-look further than local newspapers and social media. Needs to be smarter, and more frequent with bite size nuggets of information. JM  
Consider the message- simple works well in some cases e.g. involve the residents in a project (Wilder Communities in Cranmore example).  
Signage and community- involving projects in the city to give positive messages about pollinators to overcome historic views on what is better for environment. GB  
"Embrace and make something of it" as in case of Tor Lane Pilot Project- Sustainable Wells is looking to plant seeds and plugs and is looking at the options to renew the licence in December. MM  
Involving schools and young people- volunteers in public areas can be covered under H&S risks for Insurance by Chapter 8 trained supervisors. Ask Somerset Highways for input. GB  
Wheelbarrows in city locations planted by children to replicate Wells in Bloom Schools wheelbarrows at Bishops Palace? RK

Evidence with hard facts in campaigns which affect people directly e.g. air pollution at the bottom of St Thomas St, slurry discharges into waterways. How climate resilient is our city? Partner up with other festivals to showcase/highlight environment?

SN

Mission Impossible may be the aim but small steps are achievable. Lead by example e.g. bus station planter looks great for pollinators

MM

Year of living Sustainably – Sustainable Wells- Articles needed from young persons. Invite Wells Cathedral Junior School to take part in Tor Lane Pilot seed planting? The school had been asked to take part in a junior litter pick on Tor Lane this year but not much litter. Maybe next year?

DO/MM/DA

Lead by Example- e.g. Bus station planter, future plans for Recreation ground, Buildings improvements- see WCC Annual Report (attached)- make more good news on what we are doing.

MM/DD/DO/SP

### **Round the Table News**

GB- Wilder Somerset Day at Bridgewater on Saturday 14 October to share experiences and good practice. Register online before 27 September.

SN- WCC Planning to be aware of new Environment Rules- 10% Net Gain Biodiversity Uplift will be expected from future housing developments which can be offset and used to benefit the city's green spaces. Swift Project at Cathedral is making progress.

JM- New section of Strawberry Line is now open at Easton to Westbury.

DA- Repair Café at Library has been a success. Sustainable Wells will be at Food Festival on Saturday with Fresh and Good and on Sunday with pressing apples- would like volunteers to help with that. Year of Living Sustainability Blogs- contributions welcome. See the events calendar on the website.

DD- Somerset Council has a consultation open until 6 October- it is not a long one and it has a box for additions- good to add more biodiversity measures and incentives like swift boxes, bat boxes hedgehog runs etc

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/creating-places-for-people/>

### **Future Dates**

Next Meeting will be in the Parkes Room, 6pm on Wednesday 8 November 2023

A suggestion to involve the schools in setting up the next WEN event in 2024 was discussed. Venue and dates will be considered by the Cathedral school and Bob will feedback at the next meeting.

## Agenda Item 8

### Meeting of the Portway Annexe Management Committee

31<sup>st</sup> August 6pm Cursley Room, Portway Annexe.

#### Present

Cllr Deborah Orrett - Chair	DO
Cllr Shirley Eden	SE
Steve Luck	SL
Alex Westwood	AW
Cllr Denise Denis	DD
Cllr Stewart Cursley	SC
Colin Brown	CB
Gerry Clark	GC

#### Apologies

None received.

#### Minutes from last meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The 'Tree of Life' mosaic was discussed and it was decided not to display it at the PA. GC said that out of 24 houses he had approached about it, only 2 were in favour.

DO – there are other locations being considered so it was decided it was no longer an issue for this committee.

Community Fridge – GW commented that there was a good mixture of for and against for residents.

**Action** – SC to contact the Community Fridge team to discuss funding and possible locations.

#### Alec Westwood Report

See attached

Further requests from AW not mentioned in the report;

- Would like to turn the AV room into another music rehearsal room
- Change the Cursley room into a bespoke yoga/pilates studio and add a full-length mirror.
- When the number of Ukraine refugees using the NC room decreases, would like to convert to a conference room.

The above issues were discussed briefly and agreed in principle pending costs etc.

DO raised the youth club that is going to the Connect Centre and asked if it was feasible to hold it at the PA. SL said the cost of staffing would make it unrealistic. The connect centre is free and has volunteers in place.

### Financial Report – SL

The PA has been selected as the central refugee hub for all refugees. Charis will administer the grant of 124K. There is a 19-month term of funding.

SL anticipates a budget uplift in the next Full Council proposal. It would be good to be able to improve the building rather than carry out essential maintenance. Current staff are looking at opportunities to raise more funds.

3 parking spaces are still remaining but are under trees. The new Sheep and Penguin pub are interested in the spaces for customers. AW to follow up.

### AoB

GC – mentioned a disabled driver parking continuously on the junction. AW will contact and resolve.

DO – mentioned the Facebook campaign and how good it is.

Date of next meeting.

Set for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6 pm at the PA.

**Cllr Deborah Orrett**