

DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING: 12 April 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 17. Working Groups

Report to Council

Dated: April 2021

Subject: Environment Awareness Working Group

Report prepared by: Cllr Allen Corcoran

Reason for report: Monthly update – Report 10

Members are requested to: Please see recommendations below

Tree Planting Project

Background: DPC agreed to plant 125 trees to mark the council's 125th anniversary.

Suggested ways forward: To comply with Covid restrictions, the tree-planting project is on hold. In the meantime, the proposed tree-location maps have been sent to Wild About Datchet to ask for their thoughts on species and varieties most suited to the different locations. When time permits, this will also be discussed with the Clerk who has expert knowledge on this subject, then we can investigate suppliers, costs, order/delivery timelines, and report back to council.

Permission has been granted by Grounds to store trees awaiting planting in a designated area in the parish maintenance yard between the tractor shed and the fence.

Recommendation: Cllr Corcoran and Cllr Bacon to proceed as above.

Solar Panel Project

Background: To investigate the use of renewable energy in council-owned buildings.

Suggested ways forward: We are still awaiting responses from companies providing estimated costs to install a solar-panel battery system in the Village Hall building complex

Recommendation: Cllr Bacon and Cllr Corcoran to pursue and, when information is available, to submit a report to DPC.

Environment Survey

Background: It was agreed at the February meeting to publish an Environment Survey. This has been completed and we received a good response with suggested projects and improvements covering many aspects of the village.

Recommendation: The EA Group will collate the responses and circulate to DPC with proposed actions and projects for the Strategic (wish-list) Plan.

Flood Plan

Background: The Council agreed for Cllr Corcoran to review the DPC Flood Plan and propose corrections.

Suggested ways forward: First stages of editing have been completed and sent to the Clerk.

Recommendation: Revisions to be discussed when the Clerk's work schedule allows.

Highways Working Group

Background: Now that the Lead Member for Highways, Cllr Fitzgerald, has re-engaged with the council process, it is hoped the new Highways Working Group will begin work in collaboration with the EA Group on the original projects discussed in January 2021.

Recommendation Highways Working Group to meet urgently and agree a way forward.

Cllr Allen Corcoran & Cllr Ian Bacon

DPC Environment Awareness Working Group