

Minutes of Movement & Net Zero Working Group meeting held at the Council Chambers on 3rd June 2024, 6:00pm.

In attendance:

Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present	Cllr Lionel O'Hara – Vice Chair	Present
Cllr Tony Clayton	Present	Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Cllr Dr Peter Dixon	Present	Cllr David Skinner OBE – Chair	Present

23. Movement & Net Zero Working Group Terms of Reference

a) The Working Group received and noted its Terms of Reference, as approved by Council on 13th May 2024. It was noted that it would report to and provide recommendations to the Planning & Environment Committee.

b) It was noted that Cllr Skinner had been elected as Chair of the Movement & net Zero Working Group, and Cllr O'Hara had been elected as Vice Chair.

24. Apologies for absence

None.

25. Objectives for the Working Group

a) The Working Group considered draft objectives as proposed by Cllr Skinner as Chair:

- Reacting to initiatives from other organisations
- Moving forward STC's own initiatives, primarily those in the Green Community Investment Plan

b) Cllr Wightman suggested that Chairs of the Town Council's Committees should be encouraged to respect the recommendations of the Working Group, due to such Groups having been formed with the intention of being able to minimise debate during Committee meetings.

c) Cllr Clayton proposed a third objective, stating the Working Group's remit of recommending actions to the Town Council's principal Committees.

d) It was **agreed** that the three objectives as above be adopted by the Working Group.

26. Green Community Investment Plan – Working Group Member responsibilities

a) The Working Group received and considered the draft Green Community Investment Plan 2024.

b) The Town Clerk noted that the carbon footprint for Sevenoaks Town had decreased significantly since its last calculation in 2021. Councillors noted that this could be due to the most recent calculations having been made during the years most impacted by Covid-19, and it was agreed that further investigation as to how the figures are calculated and from what time period was required in order to better understand their implications.

c) It was **agreed** that STC should continue to track the Town's carbon footprint, and would look into how and from what dataset its figures are calculated, as well as investigating any other equivalent tools to ensure that the most accurate data is being referred to.

d) It was also **agreed** that STC extend an invite to Rachel Coxen, who had originally presented the Community Carbon Calculator to STC, to speak to the Working Group about how the calculations are achieved, as well as other ways to use and interpret information from the tool.

e) Councillors discussed and **agreed** lead Councillors for each of the Green Community Investment Plan's themes, with the following allocations agreed. It was noted that, under legislation, Councillors could not act independently to pursue these:

Buildings and Planning	Cllr Dr Dixon
Transport and Movement	Cllr Shea
Making Sevenoaks Greener	Cllr Dr Canet
Consumption	Cllr Clayton
Information and Communications / Campaigning	Cllr O'Hara
Implementation	Cllr Skinner

f) Councillors were encouraged to refer to the Green Community Investment Plan for the respective subject areas, and to be prepare any relevant discussion points for the next meeting on 29th July 2024.

27. 20mph Update

a) The Chair summarised progress on the Town Council's proposal for 20mph speed limits within Sevenoaks Town as follows:

- STC Cllrs and Offices had met with KCC Officers and Cllr Streatfeild for a site visit and to discuss potential interventions on the roads recommended for removal from the scheme by the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board.
- Despite this positive meeting, KCC were pursuing the reduced scheme due to time limits not allowing for the additional consultation which these interventions would require.
- KCC was still awaiting final costs from their contractors, and were aiming to get as much of the information as possible to STC by 7th June 2024, so that it could make a decision at its Finance & Delivery Committee on 10th June 2024.
- Final agreement on scheme and cost was expected by KCC on 14th June 2024, in order to allow delivery by 1st September. This being the deadline for the scheme's implementation under the existing Traffic Regulation Order.
- STC had decided it may pursue the minimal scheme excluding boundary treatments due to cost implications and potential for the scheme to be extended in future.
- KCC's streetlighting team had proposed that all street lights within the 20mph zone should be de-illuminated, at the Town Council's cost. It was noted that this is not a formal KCC or national policy, not national or engineering requirement. STC had therefore requested to evidence of an existing policy or grounds of traffic safety before it could agree the additional cost as necessary and justified.

b) It was **agreed** that STC notify KCC Cllr Richard Streatfeild of the recent developments concerning the streetlighting team policy.

c) It was **agreed** that Cllr Clayton was assist STC Officers in continuing the conversation with KCC to finalise the proposed scheme.

d) It was also **agreed** that a further Movement & Net Zero Working Group be scheduled for the morning of Monday 10th June 2024, in order to discuss the detailed costings anticipated from KCC. Finance & Delivery Committee members would also be invited, in order for the

Working Group to agree a recommendation to be made to and considered by the Committee at its meeting scheduled for 7pm on 10th June 2024.

28. Speed Indicator Device

a) It was noted that the 20mph scheme was no longer being pursued by KCC on the relevant stretch of St John's Hill where the Town Council's Speed Indicator (SID) was periodically located. Councillors noted that the SID would need to be moved if and when 20mph limits were implemented on St John's Hill, due to KCC not allowing SIDs to be put on roads with 20mph limits. The Item may therefore be considered in future.

b) Cllr Clayton noted that this prohibition is singular to KCC, with other Highway Authorities allowing and encouraging SIDs on 20mph roads. It was proposed that STC reach out to other Councils who do not impose the same rule, and request information on how they have been able to implement SIDs on roads with 20mph speed limits. This due to STC considering that the SIDs can help compliance and would therefore be an asset at locations where it is more difficult to ensure.

29. KCC response to STC request for road closures to be coordinated better with scaffolding permissions

The Working Group received and noted copy of correspondence relating to the Town Council's earlier request to KCC that emergency road closures be better coordinates with scaffolding permissions.

30. Letter Box Lane Traffic Regulation Order

a) The Working Group received and considered correspondence from KCC regarding the Town Council's earlier request that its pursue a second Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to extend the double yellow lines proposed for Letter Box Lane further into the road. This included response from KCC, suggesting that it could extend the yellow lines if STC were to agree to become the scheme's promoter and cover the £3000 cost of a new TRO.

b) Members considered that the relevant Ward Councillors, being Kippington, would be better informed to provide a recommendation as to whether STC should agree to become the scheme promoter. It was therefore **agreed** that the Working Group not provide a recommendation.

31. Updated KCC Highway Improvement Plan Information Pack

a) The Working Group received and noted the latest Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) from KCC, which outlines the HIP processes and provides details on frequently requested items/schemes.

b) It was noted that STC's HIP was last submitted to KCC at a meeting on 6th September 2023, and was therefore not due to be reviewed until September.

c) Cllr Shea requested that the following items be added to the HIP, in anticipation of its resubmission in September:

- Addition of advisory cycle lanes: on the uphill side of Dartford Road from Hollybush to The Vine, as well as in St Botolph's Avenue
- Moving car parking spaces on Hitchen Hatch Lane from the south side of the road to the north side between Winchester Close and Mencap Hall
- Addition of further on-street parking spaces in Mount Harry Road

d) Cllr Skinner proposed that STC request a meeting with KCC prior to the HIP's annual review, in order to discuss and agree the proposed actions. It was further noted that KCC Members can create their own HIPs, and agreed that Cllr Streatfeild therefore be invited to this meeting.

e) It was **agreed** that the above outlined priorities be added to the next draft HIP, and that STC request a meeting with KCC Officers and Cllr Streatfeild, prior to the HIP's next submission date in September 2024.

Meeting concluded at 6:45pm.