

MPAPP Meeting – 19.03.2024

In attendance: Ray Tew (RT), Maureen Smith (MS), Andy Westcott (AW), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Zara Aitken (ZA), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK)

Apologies: Nicki Maclean (NM), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP), Paul Matcham (PM)

1. Minutes/Matters Arising/Action Log

Minutes from last meeting approved. A review of action points from previous meeting undertaken and action log updated.

Actions Log Updates:

Educational Sub-Group – PM has outstanding action to check actions on the Plan and see which align to the Connect Somerset objectives.

Walkers are Welcome – to be taken forward when Business lead comes on board into the Group.

Blue Flag – FT trying to arrange a meeting with Jim Whittaker to progress this.

Cultural Festival - FT not had chance to put the paper together. FT to do this for April. ZA to add to April agenda.

Connect Somerset – No update from PM. MS queried if Connect Somerset is up and running as she knows of several people who would benefit from the project. MS to speak to PM directly.

Tidal Pool – RT advises Tidal Pool group are keen to attend April meeting.

Hinkley Point contact – No update from PM. Outstanding Action

Bridgwater College contact – No update from PM. Outstanding Action

West Somerset College Farm Plan – Action complete.

Retrofit Courses – MS has not had any response from Bridgwater. Spoken with local professional who has advised there isn't any training available locally but doesn't think there is enough demand in the area to warrant local training. MS advised re a local event that her fellow Green Forum trustee is attending at Canalside in Bridgwater. RT and MK feel this needs to be a separate agenda item to discuss further in the future. All agree that we need to know what houses/properties need this how many potential trainees are there in Minehead – this is a wider research project to determine need. MS recruiting a Project Worker – part of the job is coordinating retrofitting projects. FT suggests this Project Worker may be the starting point to scope this and report back.

Old Hospital – RT advised West Somerset Free Press reported on Minehead Connect CIC being locked out of Old Hospital. FT has made contact with Ben Jewell (BJ), as he is helping Bill Howard (BH). BJ is acting as a go between and security

guard. FT spoke to BH re a limited survey. BH responded promptly saying he's happy to have a conversation. FT will meet with BH at the start of April. Date to be confirmed. FT and RT to meet ahead of this conversation to discuss and brief FT.

MPAPP Membership – Completed. Welcomed AW onboard. Invitation to GS & BJ sent for April meeting. Requested an update from BJ re Minehead Business Association and GS re the Chamber of Commerce. Awaiting to hear from both.

Shelters – ZA not heard from NM re logos. ZA to chase

2. Individual Updates

Maureen Smith, West Somerset Green Forum

Working on job description for Project Worker and looking for funding. WSGF don't have charitable status. Looking to change to CIO as most funders require charitable status to apply for funding.

WSGF agreed to donate £200 to Beach Fish project and to handle the funding for the project.

Cllr Marcus Kravis/Cllr Andy Hadley, Somerset Council

Harbour Committee set up and looking for co-opted members to join. Majority of applications are from Watchet currently. Both MK and AH on committee. First meeting held on Mon 18th March. Committee's purpose is to develop a short and long term business plan for harbours. Looking for business oriented people with a vision and ideas.

Gravity Project is going ahead. Big opportunities for young people in West Somerset but public transport is limited. MK raised question about why more young people from Minehead aren't working at Hinkley. AW thinks the problem is a lot of young people don't know how to get jobs at Hinkley, and the public transport limitations are an issue. AH advised Hinkley have taken on a lot of apprenticeships, but mainly from Bridgwater and not from West Somerset. MS thinks visits to Hinkley for young people would help to raise awareness regarding career options. AW advised two careers' days at Minehead Middle School and West Somerset College in coming weeks. AW is curious to see if local West Somerset businesses are in attendance, or whether larger companies like Hinkley are present. FT requested AW to get business cards of businesses in attendance at careers' events and report back. MK suggested he could send an email to Hinkley to request data on how many apprenticeships are from Minehead.

Action: AW report back in April meeting on careers' events

Ray Tew, MCDT

RT and ZA shared National Lottery bid was successful. ZA advised some level of match funding needs to be sourced – approx. £50k over 3 years. Looking at various avenues to source this from, such as corporate sponsorships, Minehead Town Council, pitch sales at events, fundraising events.

Andy Westcott, Minehead EYE

AW advised he is the Senior Youth Worker at Minehead EYE. Minehead EYE runs 6 youth clubs across West Somerset and also send a wellbeing team into all schools in

Minehead. They support young carers and home education groups too. A lot of other groups are using the Minehead EYE as a facility, e.g. Mind, WEA.

3. Esplanade Shelters

ZA advised the shelters were completed and opened. Social media posts have gained a lot of interest and engagement with both positive and negative comments. On the whole, the feedback had been leaning towards the positive side. A press release has been sent to West Somerset Free Press on Mon 18th March. MCDT are still planning a celebration at the shelters in coming weeks.

Action: ZA to chase up with NM on funder logos to be placed on the plaques.

4. AOB

i. **Maureen Smith**

Clanville Gardens – New laws around Biodiversity Net Gain, which is now a legal requirement, means that Clanville Gardens may be more of an asset for Somerset Council than originally thought. FT advised Somerset Council talked about putting the gardens out to auction in June.

Climate Hustings - WSGF planning a public meeting of all political candidates to question them on their environmental policies, to be planned some time in next 3-4 months. Looking to include young people too with Youth Parliament involvement.

ii. **Marcus Kravis**

MK queried early intervention methods for young people's wellbeing. How do you report potential issues as a business if you're employing young people? AH suggested going to the local council if any concerns are raised. AW suggested increased connectivity can help businesses find young people to fill jobs and help young people to find local jobs. FT suggested a fact finding task could be an opportunity to pull together options for businesses and young people.

Action: AH offered to research this.

iii. **Andy Hadley**

Information only – Knife Angel is coming to Somerset, which is a statue made of knives. Being displayed from 3rd April at the Market House in Taunton as part of a 30-day campaign against knife crime.

iv. **Fiona Toms**

FT raised concerns re Minehead Post Office being closed. Deadline for applications is 22nd March. Andy Hadley is meeting with Post Office representatives to discuss options including a suitable location.