

Climate & Environment Network Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 22nd February 2022

Chair Maggie Shelton, Watercress & Winterbournes Community Catchment Officer, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



The meeting was attended by 11 participants representing a diverse selection of organisations from across the borough and staff from Basingstoke & Deane borough Council. It was chaired by Maggie Shelton, Watercress & Winterbournes Community Catchment Officer, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

After introductions, Maggie explained the purpose of the network; to provide an opportunity for groups and organisations within the area to network and participate in an environmental and community-focused discussion. The network is a chance to help further climate emergency and environmental space. The intention is that the meetings will enable participants to keep up to date with all the latest climate & environmental news, give a chance to network and meet with groups with a similar passion.

Topics/themes discussed were:

Mapping: the group said they would find it helpful for BVA could provide a map of groups operating in the Climate and Environment field and where they are located in the borough. This would enable groups to join up where appropriate and understand what others were doing.

Admin and Bureaucracy: There was a discussion about compliance, risk assessments, public liability insurance, BDBC Greenspace Volunteer Information pack for Basingstoke and how these things can sometimes be a barrier to engagement.

Volunteering: Groups had a range of volunteering approaches. From young Mums volunteering on Sunday mornings, older semi-retired/retired volunteers wanting to volunteer weekdays during the day, volunteers from the area immediately adjacent to the area being worked on. There was an agreement that for some groups getting some new/young blood on board was needed, not least in areas such as social media and IT which could benefit from input from younger volunteers. Suggestions from the group included QMC volunteering day coming up in May and BVA Volunteer Centre.

Technology: Information was shared about how to add google translate to websites so that speakers on languages other than English could access them. Moodle for sharing learning materials

Partner Updates: Areas of particular discussion 1. The Loddon and 2. Saunders Field

Actions being taken forward: Groups invited to join together with specific focus on The Loddon and Saunders Field. BDBC to review administrative policies and procedures as part of the new appointments.