**Zoom Meeting – Earth Protector Town Actions – 6 February 2023**

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks (Deputy Chair), Andy Pearce, David LeGrice and non-councillor members Deborah Ray, Rachel Bunn and John Sillett

In Attendance: Lauren Elliott (Project and Committee Clerk) and Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk)

Three recommendations were noted as part of the Earth Protector Town Declaration:

1. Ecocide – it was thought that signing the declaration included this.
2. Seeking support from the MP
3. Publicise declaration – the declaration has been publicised.

A climate action plan is required to reach the 2030 zero carbon goal therefore it was suggested to have a Climate Action Community Group set up comprised of Councillors, members of the public and other organisations (such as ESTA), with a view to grow membership and split into various working groups. It was noted some community groups were already set up, such as the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership and the Bulky Waste Working Group.

It was noted that grass roots events could be a good avenue for engaging the public. Other events considered were The Big Green Week (10 – 18 June) and a stall at the First Light Festival. It was noted that the First Light Festival had submitted a grant application and it was suggested that once the grant decision is made at the Finance and Governance Committee meeting, Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) could open dialogue with First Light. Rachel Bunn suggested acquiring a stall at the festival.

It was noted achieving Plastic Free Community status required the involvement of forty organisations. It was suggested the officers research and contact existing plastic free communities in Lowestoft, such as Green Print Forum.

The Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee and the Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee could examine issues such as wildlife corridors and the reduction pesticides in their meetings. However, as that could require a change in the terms of reference for the committees it may remain under the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee for now.

Ethical procurement and investment – It was noted that feedback should be provided by the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee to the financial body.

Transparent and regular reporting – This item was already covered via the LTC website.

Facilitating Network - LTC could network with groups in Lowestoft such as ESTA and the Green Print Forum and act as a facilitator, supporting and publicising these organisations and raising awareness at public events. The Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee would need to agree to act as a facilitator of networking and work to raise public awareness as to what an earth protector town is.

It was suggested the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee have a standing agenda item to set manageable monthly targets to be achieved and reported back at the meetings, with zoom calls in between committee meetings to progress the targets.

It was suggested to have sub-headings on the agendas for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee meetings such as earth protector status, climate action plan, natural world, energy and transport. It was agreed sub-headings for the agenda would be decided at the next meeting.

It was noted that Stroud Town Council had made good progress as an earth protector town and could be contacted. Items were suggested for the next agenda: to consider contacting Stroud Town Council, to review the terms of reference in light of the recent declaration and to consider altering the agenda format with sub-headings.