

Agenda item 6

For information -Towards a more environmentally sustainable town

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Summary

This report covers aspects of the Resilience work programme (covered by Cara Naden while Anna Francis was on maternity leave) including work on 'A Clean and Healthy Future for Frome', reducing business waste, reducing carbon emissions, renewable energy and sustainable transport

A presentation will be made at the meeting by Cara Naden and Anna Francis who has now returned from maternity leave. This will include images of the various initiatives covered in this report.

Reducing business waste

A meeting with the Retail Group recently indicated there was still interest and demand for improved business waste collections particularly in Catherine Hill which has issues with vehicle access and storage. The Retail Group members are surveying their business members and their waste contracts to see if there are opportunities to join up collection services (e.g. with JW Waste and Perry's Recycling who already have contracts with several businesses in the town) and reduce costs.

Support the development of green business and promote how businesses can be greener
We have undertaken more Good Business Audits (12 done to date) - supporting local businesses to be more environmentally sustainable (as well as ethical). We are working with CIL Management Consultants (who are volunteering their time) to deliver more Good Business Audits.

FTC has been signed up to the Ethical Consumer for support on environmentally friendly and ethical purchasing. A draft Green Charter/Environmental Policy document for FTC has been prepared and will be brought to a future meeting for adoption.

Reduction of carbon based energy use; increasing renewable energy

We are awaiting confirmation of funding in the autumn from Mendip's Better Care Fund for fuel poverty and a hard to heat household project in partnership with CSE. Our thermal imaging camera was used in the winter with householders in Nunney Road and a volunteer on the Mount to assess heat loss from local properties. A meeting has been held with the the Commerce Park management company director about the opportunities for business owner occupied units to install PV or other renewable energy technologies with FRECo. 8 businesses at Commerce Park are being targeted.

Towards a sustainable transport system, 267 bus and alternative, car club, electric bikes

The 267 campaign group has been engaging with First Group to retain the evening service to Bath. FTC have sponsored the service until August 2017 and the delivery of the 267 bus time

tables that included the Bus It campaign information to all householders in Frome. We have surveyed businesses at Commerce Park to see if the 267 can stop off in the business estate to enable workers to arrive by bus and enable people staying at the hotel to use public transport to the town centre. The data is being analysed. There is a location at Commerce Park set aside for a bus stop.

We have continued to sponsor the Wednesday Village Bus service to Frome (until the end of August). The total gross risk of this option is £225 per council, with a projected actual cost of £137 (noting that August is a five-week month). Possible additional opportunities for the supermarkets to sponsor this bus scheme are being explored. In due course, FTC will need to decide on whether it should continue and increase its subsidises for fossil fuelled bus services in the town.

Frome Community Cars is looking to partner with Active in Touch as a lot of their clients use the service so it makes sense to join up. This will also enable the scheme to apply for funding to cover the ongoing running costs under the umbrella of Active in Touch charitable status. Alternatively, there is a possible opportunity to join up with Mendip Community Transport who currently can't provide the clients with Frome to Frome journeys.

A new all electric car club, E Car Club, has been launched in the town with one at the Cheese and Grain powered by the solar panels, and the other at the Town Hall powered by Good Energy. Will be looking to run an introduction to EV driving event with the ECarClub once membership gathers momentum.

New electric assist bikes have also been purchased for the town as part of a Bike to Health scheme to get more people cycling, particularly to help improve health and wellbeing. Opportunities to expand this with a fleet of Frome designed and made bikes at several locations around the town to get more people across the community cycling. Awaiting a quote from Frome bike manufacturers.

A "pop up workshop" about a strategy for Sustainable Transport is being planned in the next month.

Reducing domestic waste and promotion of re-use, re-cycle etc (SHARE, Community Fridge)

The WEEE sponsored project educating people to reduce, reuse and recycle electrical waste and share electrical items from SHARE rather than purchase has been delivered. Leaflets have been printed and distributed to all householders in Frome. The final analysis concluded that 6 tonnes of electrical waste were diverted from Landfill.

SHARE membership levels are up to 400 since it opened in May 2015, but not enough to provide sufficient income to keep the SHARE Shop self-sustaining until possibly the start of 2018. Anna Francis is exploring how the initiative can be put on a firmer footing.

The Community Fridge has been going for a year and has diverted 15000 food items from Landfill. To continue, the Fridge will need to find £273 a month for running expenses with Edventure. Again, Anna is exploring the way forward. There has also been interest from a

community at the Mount in having a Fridge in their community who are more likely to benefit from it there than having to go into the town centre.