

Councillor Report: Environment and Sustainability, WCFA, Bob Seely and IWALC Beaver introduction.

Environment and Sustainability Forum 15th Feb

Topic...Electric Buses, and Sustainable Transport.

2 Speakers

1st Alexander Lewis Jones: Energy and Environment 2021, from "Delta EE."

Examples and stats for electric buses in Europe, and elsewhere. (Some cities in China all electric.)

Diesel still dominates in Europe and elsewhere, as a known entity and therefore less risk.

Biggest problem is infrastructure., and this is holding things up. It is expensive. More information is needed.

The two main areas here are charging, (AC/DC, Pantograph, battery swaps, nighttime charging) and existing depots (to retro fit or build new)

The best we can hope for is a long term transition, but suggested trying a couple of buses and to look at innovation on offer from Government.

2nd Paul Walker: Transport Planner, Southern Region.

Stated that diesel is much better and cleaner than it was, and a bus gives off less emissions than a VW GOLF!

He also stated that buses are the solution for clean air as they get people out of cars, and that proven technology for change is necessary.

He talked about the plusses and minuses of the Salisbury Project, where they are trialling 3 electric buses.

Sustainable transport. Public transport should be part the planning and a statutory consultee.

Discussion around working towards a small minibus fleet on the IOW.

No outside funding as IOW air quality insufficiently bad!

Answers to pre submitted questions:

Is pollution monitored? IW Council have a duty of care and DO look at Air quality.

Flailing damage. Passed to relevant bodies to "look into".

Single use plastic. Packaging is going to be taxed, but this is still a way off.

20 ml an hour zones. These to be considered near cycle and walking tracks.

Where is IW in reducing CO2? IW lies 54th Nationally.

How is Biosphere status impacting IW? Trying to raise profile, and "get on with it".

Next meeting will be on the Climate and Environment Strategy.

WCFA 2nd March

I could not attend this meeting, as I had a Vaccine Centre Shift.

However, much of the meeting was a discussion re AGM on 25th March.

I asked if there was anything that would impact Fishbourne residents.

One response from Dave Moore. The public slipway at "The Sloop" is out of action, undergoing repair. Local residents can only access the Creek via the Public slipway off Fishbourne Green.

Bob Seely and IWALC 4th March

Speaker: Jamie Marsh Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust.

Introduction of Beavers to IW. (Thought you might be interested in this)

Jamie stated there was much unnecessary speculation and concern over this.

It was a long way off and subject to detailed surveys, planning, and the granting of a licence.

It is part of a 10 year "Wilder" strategy that the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust are now adopting due to Climate change and biodiversity loss.

It is a "landscape based" strategy.

The identified site would be the Eastern Yar, in the Bembridge area. This area is considered ideal.

A project officer will be taken on this year.

The environmental benefits outweigh the concerns. Beavers moderate water flow, mitigate flooding, and help biodiversity.

The introduction of beavers will be closely monitored and can be reversed at any time should the need arise.

If they thrive and produce many more beavers they would be taken to other key sites on the mainland, not culled.

Beavers could potentially swim the Solent and relocate themselves!!

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