

# Chairman's Report – 12 April 2021

## 1. Land Behind the Glebe

The response agreed at the last PC meeting was sent to BANES in that the PC is not prepared to fund a valuation of the land (c.£1,500).

The point was made to BANES that PC was hoping to be able to maintain this land as BANES are not undertaking any maintenance, nor have done for as long as can be remembered.

I have requested that BANES consider outsourcing the maintenance of the land at zero cost, with the ideal being that as the land is worthless to BANES they would pass across ownership of the small piece of land at zero cost.

This concept is being put to the management committee which will sit at some point in the future – although currently there is no planned date.

## 2. Website Update

This is an Agenda Item, but it is worth noting that in over a week since the new website has been opened to all councillors, not a single problem has been reported or query raised.

Please see the separate note as regards the potential Go Live.

## 3. BWCE – Community Renewable Energy

The Application to FLiSCA has been made for the additional funding and a decision will be made on April 25.

BWCE have been made aware of the PC decision at the last meeting, and they are lining up resources to begin work following the FLiSCA decision.

The positive message is that this project is being planned into the BWCE schedule of work.

The steps that need to be undertaken in the interim are:

- Bring Limpley Stoke up to date and encourage LSPC to join the project.
- Contact some landowners to open up communications in preparation for BWCE activities.

## 4. EV Charging

The BWCE / Electric Blue survey on EV Charging was highly successful. There were 105 responses from Freshford and Limpley Stoke, with 104 responses in favour of EV schemes.

The key findings overall identified a need for public charging points. There is very strong support for the BWCE proposal for a Community Owned Network, over 95% supported paying for EV Charging and also over 72% showed interest in support for an e-car club.

The Memorial Hall has been investigating EV Charging at the Hall and has approached both BANES & BWCE.

Tania is meeting with Philip to move EV Charging at the Hall forwards.

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## 5. Village Fete

The date of the next village fete has been set for Saturday June 26th.

The fete is being organised by Ian Sharp, and fresh thoughts are being looked for.

The PC has been running the same stall for many a year.

Could councillors please consider what the PC could do this year that would be different, interesting and also there needs to be a fund-raising aspect too.

## 6. River Avon Bioregion Group

The River Avon Bioregion Group was formed last summer to take a positive and community-led approach to the twin challenges of the climate emergency and loss of biodiversity in the catchment area of the River Avon between Bradford-on-Avon and Bath.

The group is looking to embrace the potential of this region environmentally, socially and economically.

They are looking to hold a series of community workshops and possibly develop projects.

There is an aim of holding a River Festival in the summer of 2022.

This is a high-level overview, and Richard Mann is looking to present to Freshford PC to help further engagement.

This is partially to inform the PC of the initiative, and also to request the PC to support formal engagement with The River Avon Bioregion Group.

## 7. Freshford Station Garden

The Application made to Severnside is being processed – the delay is due to safety training dates for the volunteers being checked.

To move things forwards, training is being arranged for the volunteer gardeners during April.

It is hoped that all being well, gardening work at Freshford Station can restart around April 15/16.

This is in no small part to the persistence of Rowena Wood who has made sure that things keep moving forwards.

## 8. The Tynning

With the barriers being put in place to prevent cars from accessing The Tynning, a couple of issues need to be considered:

- Parking in the passing place. Is signage required to inhibit this?
- When vehicles approach from the High St., traffic coming in the opposite direction may not be seen. Is a second passing place needed?