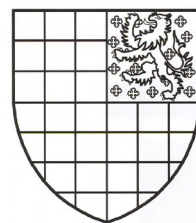


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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

of a meeting of the Working party formed to consider the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG's), held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020** online via Zoom Meetings at **6:30pm**.

**PRESENT** Cllrs Baah (*Chair*); Bird; Henman; and Makepeace. Also (*not appointed to the Working Party*) Cllr Dr Maples and Cllr Waring.

**In attendance:** S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*).

**UNWP2020/01** The meeting welcomed Professor Sir Richard Jolly, Honorary Professor and Research Associate of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, who had advised the inaugural meeting of the Working Party in 2018.

**UNWP2020/02** **ELECTION of CHAIRMAN**  
Cllr Baah was elected Chairman of the Committee for the 2020/21 year.

**UNWP2020/03** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr O'Keeffe who was working. No message had been received from Cllr Herbert.

**UNWP2020/04** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

**UNWP2020/05** **QUESTIONS:** There were none

**UNWP2020/06** **REMIT of the COMMITTEE**  
Members noted the remit of the committee, as:

A To assess the current activities of the Town Council against the 17 over-arching United Nations Sustainability Goals, as well as their sub-categories, to establish what we are doing to help bring about the goals.

B To look at what further activities the Town Council might promote that would enable Lewes to make its contribution towards achieving the goals.

C To create a snapshot report against which all future activities can be measured

**UNWP2020/07** **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

1 The previous identification of areas where the Council addressed aspects of the 17 goals was revisited, and developments noted as:

- > *Revision of the stated aims and structure of the Councils financial grants scheme to encourage sustainability.* The scheme had been accordingly re-focused for 2020/21.
- > *Introduction of initiatives to support composting and encourage organic practices on Council allotments (eg new prize categories at the annual show, and guidance leaflets).* Tenants from April 2020 had been advised and encouraged to adapt gardening practices in anticipation of the introduction by Council of pesticide controls and similar initiatives. Further consideration of these issues was imminent.
- > *Further develop the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 "Building a Sustainable Lewes" event and invite stakeholders to form an extended Sustainable Goals Forum.* There had been no further work in this area. Members proposed various groups of their acquaintance who might be prepared to assist.
- > *Support Lewes FC youth outreach programme and assist promotion of club membership.* Lewes FC had benefited from Council grant.
- > *Support school uniform exchange programmes.* No development in this area
- > *Instigate a Lewes Youth Council.* Preliminary meetings had been held, but there was no further development

- > *Encourage Lewes Bonfire Council to promote makers skills by introducing an annual award for costume-making.* No further development, and Bonfire 2020 cancelled due to Covid-19.
- > *Support a Lewes Youth Band.* This band was becoming established
- > *Provide access to computer(s) for public use.* No further development
- > *Promote effective sustainability features of Council buildings as encouragement to other owners of heritage-listed or unusual buildings.* Various initiatives such as Ground source Heat Pump installation specified for Malling Community Centre rebuild, and Air Source Heat Pump selected for replacement system at Town Hall.
- > *Assist in formulation of an integrated transport policy for the town.* Transport forum held in July 2020 and various ongoing developments under aegis of Council's Transport and Planning Committees.

2 There followed a wide-ranging discussion. The Chair reminded everyone that sustainability was not exclusively about climate issues and should broadly encompass “the five P’s” by which the 17 (seventeen) UN Goals were described – People; Prosperity; Planet; Peace and a just society; and Partnership. Prof Jolly noted that Bristol City Council, although it was a Unitary (principal) Authority had many admirable initiatives in the field of sustainability that might offer helpful models. Members cited groups who were active locally such as Sustainable Lewes; Lewes Climate Hub *etc*

The Town Council had agreed some funds for a ‘biodiversity audit’ and there had been discussion as to how best to approach that, including suggestions that friends of Lewes might be asked to extend the scope of their very comprehensive town trees audit.

In discussing sustainability audits for the Council’s buildings/operations, Members were interested to extend this beyond statutory requirements for evaluation of the efficiency in the use of energy and other consumables, into areas such as procurement of protective clothing; food; office supplies *etc*. It was noted that such an exercise was primarily to establish benchmarks against which improvements might be measured. There were a number of tools/systems commonly used for the purpose and Prof Jolly kindly offered to help compile a list of relevant points on which to base indicators; this was gratefully accepted.

There was speculation on whether the Council might encourage local schools to engage with sustainability and perhaps choose one UNSDG upon which to concentrate. There was to be an international Climate Change Summit in 2021, to be hosted in Glasgow, and this might form a useful focus for schoolwork. A suggestion was that a ‘mini-summit’ might be held in the Town Hall to mirror this, with representatives from each school attending. It was understood that there was already a local youth climate forum, and this could be investigated.

**UNWP2020/08**

**CONCLUSIONS:**

Priorities for development were an ‘estate’/buildings operation audit and a school project. Professor Jolly offered to work with a small group and Cllrs Baah; Bird; Henman and Makepeace were nominated.

Council would be asked to note these considerations and support the approach being taken.

**UNWP2020/09**

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed, and thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

*The meeting closed at 7:25pm*

Signed.....

Date .....