



Environment Scrutiny Committee

Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors Gilly Latham-Reynolds (Chair), Mark Boylan, Graham Cook, Thomas Janke, Tim Nelson and Gemma Offland



Chair's Summary:

The role of the Environment Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise and monitor the Council's environmental impact and policies. The Committee is also the designated body for scrutiny of Flood and Water Management. Some of the highlights of our work during the last year are set out below.

Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free Update

In November 2022, the Committee received an update on the Council's progress towards its carbon neutral and plastic free goals. Members heard a number of positive steps that the Authority had taken since the last update, including the impact of retrofitting works at Newport Leisure Centre. The Committee was supportive of the progress being made and expressed specific support for the retrofitting work and any future schemes of a similar nature.

Members were keen to see the Council promote its successes in its effort to become carbon neutral and to utilise its unique position to act as a leader and convenor of businesses and other organisation within the Borough in their own efforts to become more environmentally responsible.

Active Travel & Electric Vehicles – Workstream Update

The Committee heard an update on active travel and electric vehicle (EV) policies in Telford & Wrekin. The update detailed a number of initiatives and the work that had been undertaken to date as well as next steps. The Committee was supportive of the work but noted the need for accessibility to be considered when planning for EVs. The Committee also noted the current prohibitive cost of EVs for many residents and the problems posed by the evolving technology of EVs potentially putting people off investing in an electric vehicle for personal use.

Shropshire Good Food Partnership

The Committee received a presentation on the work and priorities of the Shropshire Good Food Partnership. Food and the environment had been a subject of interest for the Committee for a number of years and Members were pleased to receive the Partnership to discuss these matters. The meeting came as the Partnership and the Council were embarking on joint work, as a result, the Committee requested a further meeting with the organisation in the next municipal year to review the outcomes of the collaboration.

Expected work to come:

The Committee plan to examine the following topics further:

River Sewage

There is a planned item focussing on the issue of river sewage in the Borough, this item will involve the Council's partners and look at how, when, and why sewage is released into rivers.