



Much Wenlock Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee Meeting

7th November 2023

Supporting Papers

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 3rd October 2023 at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock

Present: Councillors William Benbow, David Fenwick (in the chair), Daniel Thomas

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Councillor Wilf Grainger – work, Chris Tyler – Holiday, Linda West - unwell

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the Register of Members' Interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

3. Dispensations

None requested.

4. Public Session

There had been no requests to speak.

5. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th September 2023 be **APPROVED** and signed as a true record.

6. Planning Applications

Members considered a response to the following planning applications:

23/04038/TCA Wenlock Priory, Bull Ring, Much Wenlock	Crown lift to 4m 5no Lime, fell 1no Cherry & fell 1no Horse Chestnut within Much Wenlock Conservation Area. It was RESOLVED no objection.
23/04067/TPO Wenlock Priory, Bull Ring, Much Wenlock	Remove dangerous branch of 1no Pinus, remove various branches and add bracing (see report) of 1no Beech, add bracing to 1no Pinus & fell 4no Ash covered by the Shropshire Council (Wenlock Priory, Much Wenlock) TPO 2010 (Ref: SC/00024/10). It was RESOLVED no objection.
23/03985/FUL Proposed Barn Conversion Barn 6 At Hill Farm, Bourton, Much Wenlock	Conversion of existing traditional single storey cow byre into a two-bedroom dwelling with a courtyard and parking area (as consented under ref 15/04539/FUL). It was RESOLVED no objection.
23/03858/LBC The Old Vicarage, Victoria Road, Much Wenlock	Works to facilitate removal of part of kitchen wall to restore kitchen to an appropriate footprint, installation of back door providing access and improved security to garden, installation of window in rear lounge, installation of window cils on front elevation to resolve water damage caused by historical window design, improvements to ground floor windows to align the aesthetic, repair the functionality and return levels of insulation and security to the ground floor. It was RESOLVED no objection.
23/04134/FUL 31 Oakfield Park, Much Wenlock	Erection of single storey extension and reposition window within front elevation following removal of existing polycarb roof link structure. It was RESOLVED no objection.
23/04141/LBC 24 Sheinton Street, Much Wenlock	Replacement of a window and the replacement of a door and casing in an outbuilding affecting a Grade II Listed Building The second proposal is to build a small single storey garden room off the kitchen.

18/23

	Having declared a personal friendship with the applicant, Councillor Fenwick spoke at the beginning of the discussion and took no further part in the deliberations. Councillors Thomas and Benbow had no objection to the application. It was RESOLVED to seek views from other members of the Committee before submitting a comment to Shropshire Council.
23/04267/TCA Laundry Cottage, Barrow Street, Much Wenlock	Reduce by 20% 1no Maple within Much Wenlock Conservation Area It was RESOLVED no objection.

7. Planning Decisions

It was RESOLVED to note the following planning decision:

23/03359/FUL 20 Southfield Road, Much Wenlock	Erection of single storey extension to the side and rear of the property. Decision: Grant Permission
--	--

8. Draft Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016 - 2038

Members noted an update on the Local Plan review. Bradford Estates had submitted a legal challenge to the Local Plan and the effect of this was expected to be a delay with progress.

Members discussed the need to establish main points to be made concisely at Stage 2 of the Examination in Public. They noted the link with the review of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan.

It was RESOLVED to arrange a meeting in November between members of the Planning & Environment Committee and the Town Council's associates to discuss preparations for Stage 2 of the Examination in Public.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

- a. Members noted that the Council had been awarded Technical Support by Locality for the review of the Neighbourhood Plan including Design Codes and Housing Needs Assessment support. The consultancy AECOM would be engaging in this work with the Council. An initial, online meeting with the consultants had been arranged for the afternoon of Monday, 9th October.
- b. Members noted that Alison Eardley was currently working on the desk-based review and expected to provide a first draft to Councillors later in the week. Dates had been provided for an online meeting with members of the Council's Planning & Environment Committee.
- c. Members noted that composition of the steering group would be on the agenda of the forthcoming full Council meeting.

10. Flooding Issues

- a. Members noted a report from the recent meeting of the Strategic Flood Working Group. The meeting had discussed the WSP Flood Risk Mitigation Update and a suggested response to WSP. **It was RESOLVED to support the suggested response, for recommendation to full Council.**

Members noted the other matters discussed. Councillor Thomas agreed to follow up with Shropshire Council the proposed linking of drains on the Stretton Road to the attenuation pond.

Members of the working group were of the view that flooding in Much Wenlock was under-reported and that every opportunity should be taken to raise matters with the relevant flood authorities.

Members considered concerns about Shadwell Quarry and the potential risk of the side wall collapsing. **It was RESOLVED to write to the Reservoir Safety Team of the Environment Agency, referencing the Reservoirs Act, to raise concerns about the collapse of the side wall at Shadwell Quarry. Mention should also be made of the potential risk to Quality Liquid Feeds at the Farley Quarry site, which was in the breach zone.**

It was RESOLVED to write to Shropshire Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water to enquire about contingency plans should there be an environmental incident at Quality Liquid Feeds, the company occupying the site of the former fuel depot at Farley Quarry.

- b. Members considered the response from Cllr Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council, to the Town Council's letter regarding flood alleviation. They noted that Cllr Picton had not addressed the Council's request for a comprehensive, best-case flooding plan.
- c. It was noted that a meeting had been organised between Philip Dunne MP, the Environment Agency, Shropshire Council's Drainage & Flood Risk Manager and Cllrs Will Benbow and Chris Tyler.

11. Transport and Highways Matters

- a. Members considered a report from the Transport Working Group. There had been no progress with the agreed pedestrian crossing on the A458. The Transport Working Group was monitoring Shropshire Council's response to the 20mph campaign.
- b. Members noted that a holding response had been sent to WSP pending receipt of Shropshire Council's comments on the Gaskell corner feasibility study.
- c. It was noted that Shropshire Council had not yet provided their views on the WSP Gaskell corner feasibility study. It was understood that Shropshire Council would respond to WSP, then to the Town Council, following which the Town Council would respond to WSP.

12. Shropshire Council Streetscene and Grass Cutting

Members noted an update from Shropshire Council's Streetscene service. Councillors felt there was little substance to the content which did not address the issues.

13. Climate Change and Ecological/Nature Emergencies*

Members considered the response received from Andy Wilde, Head of Highways at Shropshire Council, to the Council's letter regarding the management of roadside verges. They noted that this was a direct copy of the update from Shropshire Council Streetscene and did not address the matters raised by the Council. The Clerk had responded with a request for comment on the specific matters raised.

14. Consultation***15. Street Lighting****16. Street Naming *****17. Footpath Issues*****18. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders*****19. Footpath Diversion Orders*****20. Road Closures***

Members noted the following road closures:

- a. Location: High Street from Wilmore Street to Back Lane
Date/Time: 28th October 2023, 08.00 – 16.00
Purpose: 'Made in Shropshire' Market
Agency: Much Wenlock Town Council
- b. Location: A458 Much Wenlock to Muckley Cross
Date/Time: 30th October to 4th November 2023, 20.00 - 0600
Purpose: RNI Multevo works
Agency: Shropshire Council
- c. Location: A458 Harley to Much Wenlock
Date/Time: 7th – 8th November, 20.00 – 06.00
Purpose: RNI Multevo works
Agency: Shropshire Council
- d. Location: A458 Much Wenlock
Date/Time: 8th – 10th November 2023, 20.00 – 05.00
Purpose: Lining works and repair of street furniture and ironworks
Agency: Shropshire Council
- e. Location: High Street (Back Lane to Wilmore Street), Wilmore Street, Barrow Street (High Street to St Mary's Road)
Date/Time: 19th November 2023, all the time
Purpose: Christmas lights installation
Agency: Much Wenlock Town Council
- f. Location: High Street (Back Lane to Wilmore Street), Wilmore Street, Barrow Street (High Street to St Mary's Road)
Date/Time: 23rd November, 15.00 – 21.00
Purpose: Christmas Lights Switch-on
Agency: Much Wenlock Town Council

20/23

- g. Location: High Street, Barrow Street (from St Mary’s Road to High Street), Wilmore Street, Bull Ring
- Date/Time: 2nd December 2023, 05.30 – 18.00
- Purpose: Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre
- Agency: Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre Committee

21. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)*

22. Stopping Up Orders*

23. Speed Limit Orders*

24. Prohibition Orders*

25. Date of next meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 7th November 2023 at 7pm at either the Corn Exchange or Guildhall (tbc), Much Wenlock.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it was **RESOLVED** that the public and press should not be present.

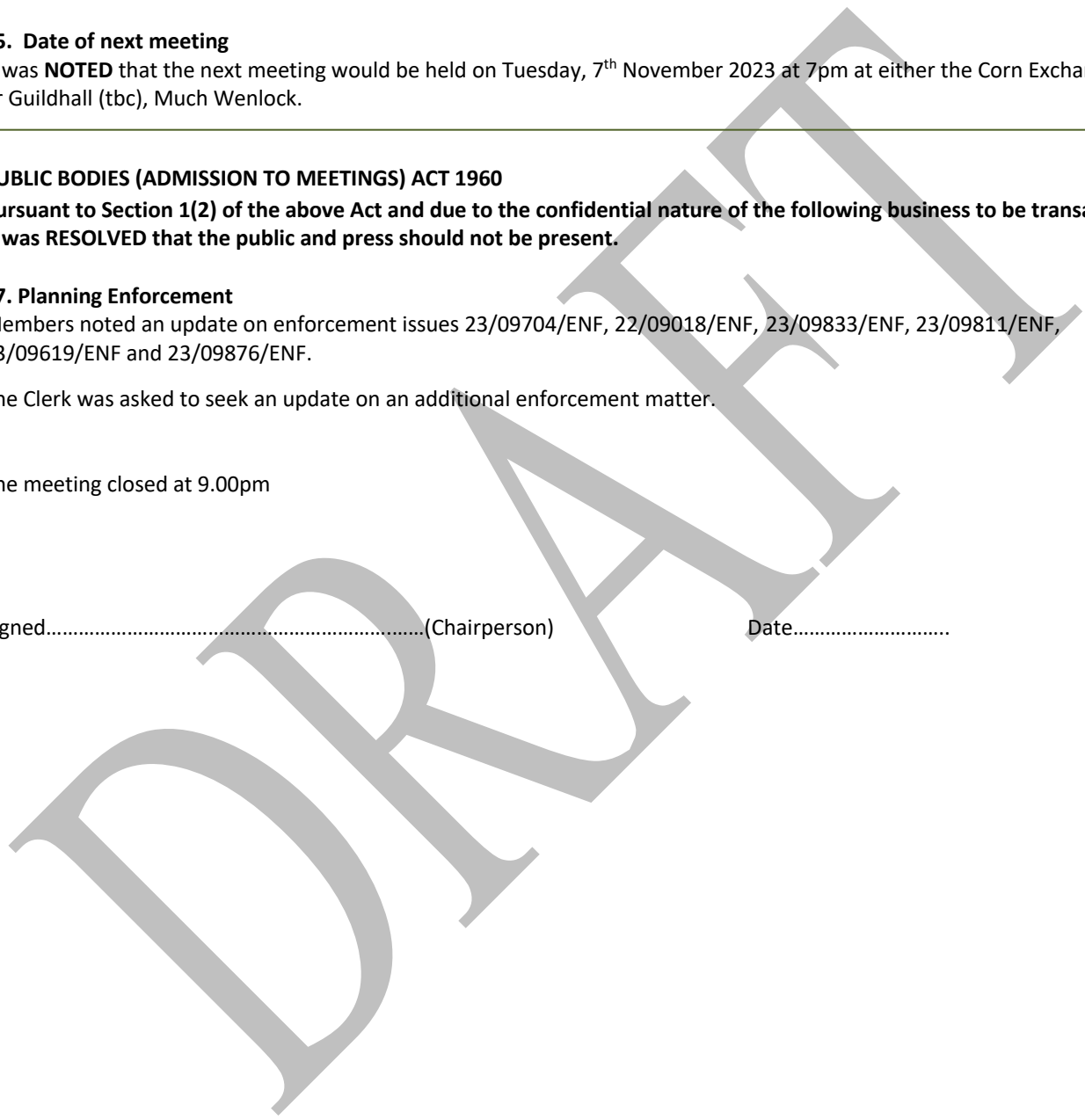
27. Planning Enforcement

Members noted an update on enforcement issues 23/09704/ENF, 22/09018/ENF, 23/09833/ENF, 23/09811/ENF, 23/09619/ENF and 23/09876/ENF.

The Clerk was asked to seek an update on an additional enforcement matter.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....(Chairperson) Date.....



Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 4:18:53 PM British Summer Time

Subject: FW: Storm Babet Impacts

Date: Thursday, 26 October 2023 at 15:53:12 British Summer Time

From: Dianne Dorrell

CC: Sherry Woolgrove

Forwarded on behalf of Emergency Planning, Shropshire Council

To Local Councils, and Parish Meetings, Shropshire

As you are no doubt aware, Storm Babet brought in significant rainfall totals across Shropshire.

As reported on the BBC, Pennerley received up to 61mm of rainfall in 24hrs with widespread rainfall totals of 40-50mm across the County. During the event there was significant disruption to transport infrastructure with runoff from surrounding land overwhelming smaller watercourses and drainage systems. Although this disruption continued throughout the day, once the heavy rain stopped the localised flooding began to drain away with the majority of locations returning to normal by Saturday morning. River levels on the Severn remain high however these are likely to fall throughout the week, but the weather remains unsettled. .

In order for Shropshire Council to gain a better understanding on the impacts of storm Babet we would appreciate it if all Town and Parish Councils could provide us with information on any significant flooding in your area. We are aware that there will have been a large number of minor events where runoff from fields temporarily exceeded the capacity of drainage networks before returning to normal. Therefore for the purposes of this update we would classify significant flooding as flooding which caused internal flooding to residential or business properties, or flooding that caused significant transport disruption. You can report the above information via email to resilience@shropshire.gov.uk.

For minor issues please ask residents to report these to Shropshire Council via the fix my street app. Issues with the sewer network can be reported to Severn Trent Water via 0800 783 44 44. Issues with pollution and main rivers can be reported to the Environment Agency via 0800 80 70 60.

If any of your residents have been affected by flooding, need advice on post flood clean up, or advice on dealing with insurance companies, Shropshire Council are working in partnership with the National Flood Forum (NFF) to offer support to Shropshire residents. The NFF have a range of advice and useful information on their webpage: <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/> and can be contacted on their helpline 01299 403 055. The NFF are also supporting communities in establishing flood action groups therefore if you are aware of a need for a group in your area the NFF can support its establishment.

Kind Regards,
Sherry Woolgrove
Emergency Planning Team Leader
Emergency Planning Unit
Public Health
Shropshire Council

T: 01743 251785

M: 07582 005327

If this is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, or similar legislation, please submit your request using our online form, at www.shropshire.gov.uk/access-to-information/request-

Subject: StreetScene update
Date: Friday, 20 October 2023 at 14:59:45 British Summer Time
From: Laura Howells
To: Town Clerk
Attachments: image001.png



Member Briefing – StreetScene Update

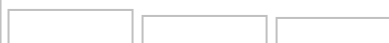
As members will be aware the Street Scene service is undergoing transformation work with our service partners Kier and Idverde. In response to feedback, the initial phase has concentrated resources on outstanding grass cutting, following this summer’s unusual growth due to weather conditions and to ensure the routine programme is fully achieved by the end of October.

During November and December, the service will turn its attention to sweeping activity, collecting leaf fall and removing detritus to help water flow off the carriageway during periods of heavy rainfall. Subject to weather conditions we will also weed spray through the remainder of October but perhaps, more importantly start to remove, during November and December, some of the medium in which this vegetation grows.

You will also appreciate these seasonal activities are essential to ensure the longevity of our carriageways and preventing water damage to the surface during the winter. Plainly, we will also attend to other issues such as hedge cutting, although, not as timely as we would wish and in order not to disrupt the main thrust of our work.

If this is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, or similar legislation, please submit your request using our online form, at www.shropshire.gov.uk/access-to-information/request-general-information/

[Shropshire Council logo](#)



Information from Shropshire Council regarding roadside verge management in Much Wenlock

Date: Thursday, 5 October 2023

Dear Trudi,

Thank you for your email. Please find below my response to the specific queries you have raised.

Shropshire Council has an existing Environmental Maintenance contract until 2025, for Streetscene & Ground Maintenance Service which was let with a fixed set of arrangements. We are however currently negotiating areas of this contract in order to bring about changes and improvements that will enable service transformation that reflects some of the emerging ambitions. This will take some time and will be subject to a specific process to ensure the contact aligns with the future service model.

One of those areas is how we the council will embrace new initiatives linked to climate change and biodiversity. Shropshire Council has been actively engaging with Restoring Shropshire's Verge Project (RSVP) which has already been successful in the roll-out of a range of 'Verge Rewilding' trials. This work is continuing and identifying large verges where more species-rich long grass and wildflower could be grown in corridors along the highway.

We are also very aware that there is not always universal consensus of opinion, in many locations the Council receives pressure for a more regular cutting frequency, therefore consultation, planning and staged implementation will be required for future schemes if they are to be successful.

I am sure you will appreciate a differentiated service model, and one that includes greater bio-diversity, will take time to achieve and indeed with the involvement of our communities. However I am confident this will be an aspect of service transformation and one that you will be engaged at the appropriate time as the initiative develops.

Kind regards

Andy Wilde
Interim Assistant Director
Highways & Transport
Place Directorate

Date: Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Dear Trudi

Generally verges outside the urban areas (40 mph) will be cut annually late spring/early summer (using flail mowers) with priority given to junction/visibility splays for safety reasons. We are also aware of 'species rich' verges in Wenlock which contain Orchids that need a late cut in June.

Inside urban areas verges will be cut generally twice (typically Spring and Autumn) and to a contractual standard using standard mowers or flails. However I'm aware that there are some areas and amenity grass which are cut more frequently.

Kind regards

Andy Wilde
Interim Assistant Director
Highways & Transport
Place Directorate



Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project - POST CONFERENCE REPORT

VERGES, HEDGES and WATERWAYS

The importance of these features in our Shropshire Landscape

Friday 13th October 2023



Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project sponsored by Severn Trent brought together representatives from Town and Parish Councils and interested members of the public from across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

We were delighted that the conference attracted 100 delegates and was oversubscribed all indicating the high level of interest from local Councillors and residents working to improve the quality of life and the environment across the county.

Presentations are available on request by emailing conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk

Follow up event on Nature Recovery and the role of Town and Parish Councils is planned for 17th November at FITZ village hall information here:

<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/town-pc-nature-recovery-conf-17-11-23/>

To book email conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk

Verges, Hedges and Waterways conference internet links to speaker websites are below.

1. Nigel Adams, expert Hedge layer and Hedgeline steering group member
<https://hedgeline.org.uk/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f73XyxNYW5c>
2. Nick Rowles, Trees Outside Woodlands Project Officer, Shropshire Council
<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/trees-woodlands-and-hedges/trees-outside-woodlands-programme/>
3. Jenny Jackson-Tate, Wilder Marches Programme Manager
<https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-marches>

<https://www.wtwales.org/news/new-welsh-english-project-restore-nature-and-boost-rural-prosperity-across-historic-marches>
4. Charlie Bell, Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP)
<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/restoring-shropshire-road-verges/>
5. Alan Herbert, Local RSVP project
Presentation on request & to contact Alan direct email alan.herbert@bomereheath.co.uk
6. Richard Small, Marches Meadow Group, Hay meadows and their importance
<https://www.marchesmeadowgroup.com/>
7. Wilfred Denga, Severn Trent bathing waters lead, Green Recovery bathing rivers
<https://www.stwater.co.uk/wonderful-on-tap/green-recovery/creating-bathing-quality-rivers/>
8. Katie Cockerill, Severn Trent Green Recovery
<https://www.stwater.co.uk/wonderful-on-tap/green-recovery/>
9. Callum Sproull, Severn Trent lead replacement project manager, Bomere Heath lead pipe replacement scheme.
<https://www.stwater.co.uk/get-in-touch/bomere-heath-lead-pipe-replacement-scheme/>

Many thanks indeed to our sponsor



The importance of Town and Parish Councils to help deliver Nature Recovery across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

Fitz Village Hall 9.45am to 4pm, Friday November 17th

Programme

- 9.15am** **Arrival:** Tea/Coffee/breakfast croissants available from 9.15am
- 9.45am** **Dr Richard Keymer, Middle Marches Community Land Trust**
Welcome, introductions and outline of the day
- 9.50am** **Ian Nellins, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport:** Nature Recovery across Shropshire
- 10.00am** **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Vice chair National Association of Local Councils (NALC)**
The role of Town and Parish Councils in Nature Recovery
- 10.30am** **Andrew Maliphant, Environmental and Sustainability Advisor Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and advisor to NALC:** Place based initiative's
- 10.45am** **Allan Wilson, Vice chair Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) and climate change portfolio holder:** How Parish Councils can support local groups
- 11.15am** **Suzanne Wykes, Specialist Practitioner Ecology at Shropshire Council**
Local nature recovery strategy: how you can be involved
- 12.15pm** **Lunch and networking**
- 1.15pm** **Mandy Thorn, High Sheriff of Shropshire**
The Power of bringing together Town and Parish Councils and citizens for Nature Recovery
- 1.30pm** **Simon Cooter, Natural England Senior Reserve Manager, Stiperstones and Downton Gorge NNRs:** Species action plans for the Stepping Stones project
- 2.00pm** **Pete Carty, Bishop's Castle Parish Initiative:** Go Wild in Bishop's Castle
- 2.30pm** **Tea & Coffee break**
- 3.00pm** **Lauren Quinn, Senior River Ranger, Severn Trent**
Protecting rivers across the Severn Trent region and helping them to thrive.
- 3.30pm** **Richard Grindle, CEO Shropshire Wildlife Trust:** Nature Recovery across Shropshire
- 4.00pm** **Dr Richard Keymer:** Closing remarks



DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

Introduction to Deposit Return Scheme (DRS):

What is it?

A Deposit Return Scheme is a system to encourage the reuse and recycling of drinks containers by paying a deposit for the container of the drink you buy which you get back when you return it.

Imagine it this way: you're buying the contents, but renting the container.

Remember milkmen? It's the same idea with plastic, glass and metal drinks containers. So, you buy your usual drink and it's 20p more expensive than before, but you get this deposit back when you take it back to the shop, or post it into the reverse vending machine. This bottle can then be recycled, refilled and reused over and over. It's as simple as that.

What has been going on in UK Government?

Over the past 7 years, governments across the UK have been promising to deliver a deposit return scheme. However, after years of delay from government and strong push back from producers and retailers, the future of the scheme becomes increasingly uncertain.

A simple scheme to ensure producers pay for the pollution they create and take pollution from our streets, beaches and ocean has become a political football across the UK. Despite over 40 countries across the world delivering similar schemes with great success, the UK government continue to bend to the pressure of lobbyists meddling in its future.

What does Surfers Against Sewage want?

We want to show governments across the UK that the public are sick of the pollution they see on their streets and that we see an all in Deposit Return Scheme as the next best step to deliver change. This means the scheme will apply to plastic, metal and glass containers. A scheme which is not 'all-in' and focuses on only 'on-the-go containers' would be a significant oversight. An 'all-in' scheme would generate £5.5 billion and save six times more carbon than an 'on-the-go' system.

This is something the government promised in their 2019 manifesto, but have recently indicated may not be the case. We must show the strong positive support for the plan and ensure governments hold strong in their plans to deliver schemes as soon as possible. With 8bn containers entering the environment with every year of delay in the UK – there is no time to waste.

More information on the need for a Deposit Return Scheme can be found on our 2023 Brand Audit Report here:

<https://brandaudit.sas.org.uk/deposit-return-scheme/>

