



Ware Town Council

Report of	Climate & Biodiversity Manager
Report to	Town Clerk
Date	Monday 27 th January 2025
Subject	Climate & Biodiversity Report

Library of Things

- Despite exchanging contracts to host the lockers, unfortunately Asda pulled out just before Christmas. The store and regional managers are still supportive but we have so far been unable to speak with anyone higher up the chain to challenge this decision.
- The scheme was presented to the Board of Trustees at Wodson Park at their 20th January meeting and it was confirmed afterwards that the Board voted in favour of hosting the lockers. They are meeting again on 28th April and want to review details regarding locker dimensions, locker design, tool list and insurance before a contract is signed, however Jan reported that this was essentially a formality. HP will start redesigning the lockers and prepare the necessary information.
- Whilst this will delay the intended launch until the summer it will give us more time to grow our mailing list for the scheme.

Library of Things Workshop (Toilet Block)

- Work is underway and due to be completed in February 2025.
- Installation of the internet connection has been delayed due to issues with BT however this now seems to be progressing.

City to Sea Refill

The final quarterly report has been received which shows:

- Ware has 13 businesses signed up. We will push again in early summer.
- App users have reduced from 28 to 9 which may be due to the colder weather.
- Between Ware and Hertford, assuming all Refill stations are used once a week, there has been a small saving over the year of 2236 plastic bottles, 28kg weight of plastic and 128 kg CO₂e.

HP and Steve Catterall at Hertford are of the opinion that the service provided by City to Sea has been limited. We are not of a mind to renew in April unless Councillors feel otherwise.

Whilst we cannot then use the App, we can still encourage businesses to provide water refills and it has served the purpose of creating a good relationship with HTC. HP is meeting the new Sustainability Officer from Hertford shortly to discuss other potential collaborations.

Single Use Plastic in WTC Operations

- An on-site area has been identified for a composting facility for plant based products, Bindweed is being cleared and it is proposed to construct the base before the spring.
- We will then trial home composting Vegware products. A collection service has been found but costs are a little high for small volumes.

Grants

The following grants have been received:

Works	Grant Received	Additional Cost	Progress
Priory Schematic to enable accurate efficiencies & maintenance	£3000	£4000 24/25 Budget	Underway Due to complete February 2025
EV Chargers	£1431.19	Monthly Maintenance	Completed
Fletchers Lea Air Source Heat Pump (supply & fit)	£3000	£12,500 24/25 Refurb Budget	Underway
Priory Air Curtain	£1000	£518.42 24/25 Budget	Due to start February 2025
Priory Digital TRVs	£3000	£7388 24/25 Budget	Completed
Thermal Imaging Cameras	£1500	None	1 camera purchased. Second camera ordered.
Walking to School Play	£3000	£3000 24/25 Budget	Booked w/c 24 th February 2025 7 schools attending
Biodiversity Day	£1500	None	Booked 1 st March 2025. Preparations underway.

The following grants are in progress:

Works	Grant Agreed Due Feb 25	Additional Cost	Progress
Fletchers Lea Air Source Heat Pump Technical Design	£2400	None	Design completed
Fletchers Lea Taps	£2449 max	None	To be installed February 2025

ESG & Carbon

- ESG: New legislation is expected this spring which may set specific requirements for ESG reporting therefore we have delayed onboarding with Green Business Benchmark. Works to improve our ESG performance are still ongoing in the meantime.
- We have identified a more accurate carbon reporting software which we will look to onboard with in February 2025 and use for the 24/25 period. Carbon efficiencies for the 23/24 period will be reported using the usual Carbon Report.
- Contracts have been signed with British Gas for a 100% certified renewable gas and electric supply which will in theory provide zero carbon Scope 1 and 2 energy for the Council buildings and operations.
- The 50kWp solar PV array being installed on the Lido together with the 20kWp array approved for Fletchers Lea will in practice reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions hugely for these buildings.

Carbon Offsetting

- The draft questions and prerequisites for the carbon offsetting grant (total £11,000) are currently being put together. These will go on our website in February for applications.

Lido Solar PV

- An application is being made for the new import and export meters so that UK Power Networks can install the increased supply needed for the refurbished building. This is required by mid April to enable refurbishment works to keep on track.