

Extract Minute of Council meeting held on 10 December 2024.

Minute 53, Van Life – Supporting All Communities

'To this end, the Council resolves to: develop a Community Pact, **requesting that the Place and Environment OSC consider the detail**, for all vehicle dwellers that will:

- (a) Outline a clear plan to establish designated safe parking areas with access to basic amenities for van dwellers that will provide both permanent and temporary sites for vehicle dwellers and ensure that they have secure and legal places to stay.
- (b) Meet anticipated future requirements and facilitate access to essential services such as healthcare, sanitation, and education, ensuring that all residents can live safely and healthily.
- (c) Set up an ongoing forum for dialogue between local communities and travellers as a safe space in which discussion can take place and issues can be resolved quickly.
- (d) Promote anti-discrimination policies that protect these communities from harassment and unfair treatment, whether by private individuals or public authorities, alongside the responsibility of all concerned to abide by existing laws and expectations.'

Minute 53, Climate and Nature

'BCP Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Nature Bill
2. Inform residents and local press/media of this decision
3. Write to the five MPs who represent our local area to inform them that this motion has been passed and to urge those who have not yet done so to support the Climate & Nature Bill
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross party campaign for the Climate & Nature Bill, expressing BCP Council's support
5. Pledge to work with our communities and partners to reverse the decline in biodiversity and protect our town from climate related issues, taking this into account in all decision making
6. Request that within the next 12 months the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment & Energy commission a review of all targets and objectives relating to the climate and nature crises within the BCP Corporate Plan, to ensure a) that they are SMART and b) that all aspects of these two critical issues over which the Council has influence are fully addressed within the Plan. Objectives should include building officer capacity and expertise to apply for funding for Climate Action, including for developing a conurbation-wide climate action plan involving all major stakeholders by way of a local citizens assembly, forum or similar. This should also include urgently developing a Climate Adaptation plan for the conurbation, which should support and extend the climate adaptation work already going on around flooding and coastal erosion.

7. Request that the Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee determines a scrutiny process focused on the relevant key priorities within the Corporate Plan, with an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable in society from the effects of climate change.'