

BCP Council - Van Life Community Pact

Scoping proposals from Councillor P Cooper

Headline outcomes and added value that could be brought by the Environment & Place O&S Committee's work, helping to focus its attention and ensure alignment with the motion's desired intentions.

1. Improved Community Cohesion

- **Outcome:** Reduced tensions between van dwellers and residents by fostering understanding and cooperation.
- **Value:** Builds stronger, more inclusive communities and minimises conflict, enhancing the overall quality of life for all stakeholders.

2. Balanced Use of Public Spaces

- **Outcome:** Fair and sustainable management of public car parks and beauty spots, ensuring they remain accessible and enjoyable for all.
- **Value:** Preserves community assets, supports tourism, and maintains environmental integrity while accommodating diverse needs.

3. Enhanced Support for Van Dwellers

- **Outcome:** Access to essential services (e.g., sanitation, waste disposal, safe parking) for individuals living in vans by necessity or choice.
- **Value:** Improves the health, safety, and dignity of van dwellers, reducing social inequalities and reliance on emergency services.

4. Informed Policy Recommendations

- **Outcome:** Evidence-based policies that address the root causes of van dwelling, such as housing affordability and economic insecurity.
- **Value:** Promotes long-term solutions, reducing the prevalence of van dwelling driven by necessity and fostering a more stable housing environment.

5. Environmental Protection

- **Outcome:** Mitigation of environmental harm caused by unmanaged van dwelling (e.g., waste, pollution, or damage to natural areas).
- **Value:** Protects local ecosystems and ensures sustainability of community spaces for future generations.

6. Cost-Effective Solutions

- **Outcome:** Proactive measures, such as designated safe parking areas and partnerships with charities, to minimize the financial burden on local authorities.

- **Value:** Reduces costs associated with enforcement, cleanup, and emergency services, while providing better outcomes for all.

7. Strengthened Local Reputation

- **Outcome:** Position the council as a compassionate, forward-thinking leader in addressing housing and mobility issues.
- **Value:** Enhances public trust, attracts tourism and investment, and boosts the council's reputation for innovation and inclusivity.

8. Clear Monitoring and Accountability

- **Outcome:** A framework for monitoring the effectiveness of implemented policies and actions, ensuring accountability and adaptability.
- **Value:** Demonstrates transparency and commitment to continuous improvement, reinforcing public confidence in local governance.

By focusing on these outcomes, the committee can align its work with tangible, measurable benefits, ensuring its efforts remain impactful and relevant to all stakeholders.

Potential engagement with stakeholders:

Kushti Bok – Gypsy and Traveller Liaison

Van Dweller contacts – Poole and Bournemouth

BCP Council

Residents Voice through Community Orgs