

FEEDBACK



With thanks to Penny Tarrant, Pat Bushell, Richard Sroka, Sheila Evans, Sue Baxter, Claire Pettinger, Ian Smith, Tess Wilmot and Paul Warwick. Apologies from Coral Smith, Claire Preston, Nicky and Paul Hatherell, George Wheeler, Andrew Pratt, Tim Purches, Hugh Janes, Doug Herdson and Fiona Waring

GDPR – I know. You're probably just as fed up with this as I am but without your permission to retain your email address I won't be able to contact you about Environment Plymouth any more. I have just sent a reminder survey round so, if you haven't already, can you please fill it in and return it. It's a Survey Monkey thing so this should be automatic. If, by any chance, you lose it or it goes in to a spam box, can you please email me to confirm that you are still happy for me to retain your email address for the purposes of Environment Plymouth communications. You can, of course, unsubscribe at any time by emailing me.....you have my permission to keep my email (jyoung.urbanagenda@gmail.com)

PLASTIC FREE PLYMOUTH SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

We are so very close to securing the 50 businesses we need to confirm our status as the UK's first Plastic Free Coastline City ! If you'd like to be a Community Ambassador or a Plastic Free Pioneer Business please get in touch with your name, the business or group you represent (if applicable) and brief details of the three single use plastic items you have removed or replaced.

The citywide Task Group has also met twice and we are working with them to pull together a joint effort on this.

Keep an eye out for an invitation to the formal launch event on June 8th (World Oceans Day) from 5.30pm at Plymouth Dome or join the Facebook Group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/140911630099135/>

Comments and amendments to jyoung.urbanagenda@gmail.com

COMING UP.....

OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY ! : June 5th 2018 ! : To celebrate we have organised a boat trip on the Sound – looking for wildlife and floating plastic. There will be a prize for the best photo of the night ! Tickets are £4.50 and can be secured at

<https://nationalaquarium.digitickets.co.uk/event-tickets/15895?catID=14094&>

Limited places and they're going fast !

We Can Do It – 1 day symposium on community action for local buildings : Sat 2nd June in the City Centre (details will be sent round if available).

Social Action Week : First week of June 2018 – details to be announced.

Blue Marine Foundation : Marine Parks bringing It All Back Home : 1 day conference at the NMA on 6th June. To reserve a place contact Dan at dan@bluemarinefoundation.com

12th June : Radical Cinema presents 'Timbuktu' – a film with an African perspective. Food from 7pm, Starts at 7.30pm. Stonehouse Lecture Theatre, Portland Square, Plymouth University.

12th June : The first of three local events looking at a different approach to politics. Devonport Guildhall evening event. Tickets £3.00 – no further details I'm afraid.

17th June : Family Foraging Kitchen event looking at identifying what you can and can't eat when foraging....very useful info !

NEXT MEETING :

PLYMOUTH AS A COASTAL COMMUNITY

Monday 11th June, 10.00am upstairs at the Oggy Oggy Pasty Shop, 161 Armada Way

After her recent visit to Plymouth we were asked by Shadow Environment Minister Sue Hayman if we could gather your thoughts on the challenges facing Plymouth as a 'coastal community'. A discussion paper already informed by your ideas will be circulated with the Agenda but have a think about the following questions and let me know what we should tell Sue.....

Challenges coastal communities face

- What kind of government support would you like to see for coastal communities ?
- What are the greatest challenges facing coastal communities today ?

Economic Development

- What more can be done to improve local skills and training ?
- How can we better engage with coastal communities and seaside towns with regard to economic development ?

Brexit

- What is the biggest challenge that Brexit poses for your organisation and the local economy ?
- What would you like to see in the new fisheries policy after Brexit ?

Transport and Tourism

- What kind of support would you like with regard to tourism ?
- What can be done to improve transport links ?

AIR QUALITY

We are still trying to source the evidence used by the World Health Organisation on PM2.5 pollution in the city so as soon as we have any updates we will let you know. Research shows that the recently published claims of high levels are unlikely to come from a single source – it is more likely they come from traffic but the Working Group is trying to gather a response and we hope to be working with the new Council to encourage improved protection in the city.

FAIRTRADE PLYMOUTH

It is very likely that Fairtrade Plymouth will soon be managed by the Food Plymouth Network so if anyone has any objections to this happening can you please let me know.



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Monday 9th July, 10.00am, Upstairs at the Oggy Oggy Pasty Shop, 161 Armada Way : Plymouth's Carbon Footprint – how can we become a carbon neutral city ? The latest national estimates are to be released on 28th June so can we maintain the city's downward trend ?

Thursday 16th August, 3.00pm to 5.30pm Environment Plymouth On Tour : On the beach ! A rockpool ramble and nurdle hunt with the Wembury Marine Centre. Thanks to Coral for her help with this.

Monday 10th September, 10.00am, Upstairs at the Oggy Oggy Pasty Shop, 161 Armada Way : Topic to be confirmed.

Featuring Food – May’s Discussion Topic

What do you think of when someone says ‘food’ ?

Most of our responses are positive – taste, quality, availability, organic – but for many the answers are not quite so good. Claire Pettinger from Food Plymouth took us through the role of Food Plymouth and introduced some of her extensive research in to diets and food poverty.

Food is a clear defining characteristic of who we are and where we are from...just think about the foods you enjoy on holiday that are completely different when you try them at home. It defines class, culture and civilisation and is the topic of an excellent book by John Coveney (ISBN 978-0-415-52446-9).

Plymouth is well placed to benefit from food resources and yet very little of what is available to us is sourced locally. Even so, it provides one of the biggest employment opportunities (from farming to fast food) and continues to have one of the biggest socio-environmental impacts.

Food, or the lack of it, is a prime cause of health inequalities resulting from poor practice, a lack of skills and limited understanding. Obesity, diabetes, food deserts and a 10 year difference in life expectancy across the city are all outcomes that need to be addressed.

Food Plymouth (see <http://www.foodplymouth.org/>) was established in 2010 as a multi-sector food partnership and Bronze Sustainable Food City status was achieved in 2015. Working to six key themes and aligned with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, the Network is now working towards Silver Sustainable Food City status. This has received a boost as the city’s Thrive focus for 2018 is ‘food’ !

Claire asked those present to consider the six themes and to identify current activities and new ideas and the barriers or drivers to taking action forward.

Theme	Current activities/new ideas	Barriers and Drivers
Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public.		
Tackling food poverty, diet related ill health and access to healthy food.		
Building community food knowledge, skills, resources and projects.		
Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy.		
Transforming catering and food procurement		
Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system		

If you have any ideas to add to this please let Claire know at claire.pettinger@plymouth.ac.uk

There was a ‘healthy’ debate which included discussion about the location of fast food outlets and the power of certain retailers to question local planning decisions as well as the lessons we could learn from elsewhere – such as Finland where some radical steps have been taken; particularly in schools.

It was recognised that behaviour change might be the key – moving away from what we are used to and adapting to options that are better for us. Maybe ‘bite sized’ meals are better for us sustainably and ethically but, these days there are so many cultural influences, not least the advertising industry’s impact. The local Sugar Smart campaign is making inroads but we are still unaware of the sugar loading we face every day and in everyday food choices...especially those that are processed and ready to eat !

Environmentally we are facing an industrial sized food system and whilst changes to locally grown, sustainable options needs to be the norm. We need to think far more carefully about our choices !

FINAL WORDS.....

- (1) Environment Plymouth’s current Working Groups consider plastics, air quality, Fairtrade and Trees/Open spaces.**
- (2) Further events for the University’s Urban Dialogues project will be promoted – ideas welcome for increased links between the community and the University.**
- (3) It is hoped that work will begin on the University’s ‘Sustainability Hub’ very soon.**