Hampshire Climate Action Network

Notes of Meeting 17 April 2021

Present:

Steve Gargett	Basingstoke - Heart and Compass not for profit organisation
Malcolm MacInnes	Basingstoke Transition Network
Eleanor Hill	East Hants - Alton Climate Action Network
Danny Lee Network	East Hants - - PCAN Petersfield Climate Action
Sue James	Havant Green New Deal and Havant Climate Alliance
Graham Crane	Havant Climate Alliance
Margaret Lockyer	Havant Climate Alliance
Anne Stephenson	Fareham and Gosport Friends of the Earth
Caroline Ford	Hampshire CPRE
Gill Hickman	New Forest Friends of the Earth, Greener Brockenhurst
Anna Mellor	New Forest Zero Carbon Alliance
Megan Howson	Portsmouth FOE and Climate Alliance
Carol Bartholomew HampshireCAN Convenor/minute taker	Test Valley Friends of the Earth
Phil Gagg	Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC)
Chris Holloway (chairing)	Winchester - WinACC (Winchester Action on Climate Change)
David Knight	Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC)
Stuart Mills	Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) / Green Travel Hampshire
Pam Glasspool	Winchester – Colden Common Church

This meeting was held on zoom and some were only there for part.

1 Local Work

There is no formal membership of HampshireCAN, and individuals come to meetings as part of groups, not necessarily representatives of that group. A liaison person for each District or Borough is listed on the webpage. Groups in contact with HampshireCAN will be listed on the webpage to help liaison.

1.1 Reports from local areas

Basingstoke: ***Basingstoke Transition Network*** covers many environment groups.

East Hants: ***Alton Climate Action Network*** are producing a Heat Guide explaining energy efficiency measures for different types of housing, asking HCC election candidates question and have a slow fashion and a verges campaign.

Petersfield Climate Action Network: Danny emphasised we need to talk about climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as a triple challenge. Progress is being made with solar on school roofs. A 'Plant a Fruit Tree' Campaign is

underway. ***Horndean*** has a Protection Group and are aware of a proposed reservoir sited in their area.

East Hants District now has a Climate Change Officer.

Eastleigh: Gwen sent apologies. Eastleigh Council approved the planning applications for the runway to be extended at Southampton Airport. AXO/Southampton, FOE and WinACC have written to the Secretary of State asking him to "call in" the decision. Lyn Brayshaw from AXO emailed:

"We have asked the Secretary of State to call-in the decision on these grounds:

-- Conflict with national policy on climate change - needs national Government action because other airports are also trying to expand.

-- Cross boundary issue and controversy - noise affecting Southampton and Winchester (both of which authorities objected) more significantly than Eastleigh.

So, what would we like you to do? Please email the Secretary of State asking that he call-in, for the above reasons. Email to: pcu@communities.gov.uk, robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk; Tom.Kennedy@communities.gov.uk **with subject as:** "*Request for call in of Southampton Airport runway extension Eastleigh Borough Council reference F/19/86707*". If you're a member of a group, your group can also do this.

For more info please see and share http://axosouthampton.wordpress.com"

Fareham and Gosport: ***FoE*** had written a Local Climate Pledge and worked with the Arboriculture team to map where trees can be planted in an urban setting. ***Gosport Borough Council*** is pushing ahead with their Greening Campaign.

Havant: ***Havant Green New Deal*** and ***Havant Climate Alliance*** organising events to promote green jobs for all, are trying to get their council to declare a Climate Emergency and have posted out Pledge Cards to candidates standing in the local elections. Disappointment as there are no renewable energy sites or proposed sites.

New Forest: Anne reported ***New Forest Zero Carbon Alliance*** are working with Parish Councils. Gill from ***New Forest Friends of the Earth*** reported the Greener Brockenhurst project now has a new Recycling Shed. The Hot Composting project is going well.

Portsmouth: ***Portsmouth Friends of the Earth*** and ***Portsmouth Climate Alliance*** have been lobbying the Planning Chief for more walking and cycling facilities and Megan is a representative on the Portsmouth Climate Action Board where they meet with Portsmouth City Council. News and minutes are on the website.

Test Valley: ***Test Valley Friends of the Earth*** along with other Environment groups who are Stakeholders in Andover Vision are working with council officers to organise an Andover Climate Day of Action on 25th June. It will be an online event with a small presence on the High Street. Organisations, businesses, and schools are being asked to do their own climate-related activity and where possible share videos and expertise.

Winchester: WinACC are keen for the council to move beyond words to action. Barriers could be lack of money and lack of detailed expertise. WinACC are willing to help with linking the Council to experts. The City Council organised an excellent

consultation event on the Local Plan which included a speaker from CSE Bristol talking about their Impact Tool (see next minute). WinACC is servicing a new a network of people working on Climate Action especially in the rural parishes.

Winchester Climate Liaison encompassing ***WinACC***, ***FOE*** and ***Extinction Rebellion*** have created Winchester Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill Alliance, put up a banner in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral and got good publicity. The Alliance made a film explaining aspects of the Bill https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WjCu4OHI00&ab_channel=WinchesterCEEAlliance .

CPRE Caroline covers all of Hampshire. Several CPRE campaigns align with HampshireCAN: Local Plans and prompting Councils to have Carbon reductions at the forefront whilst also identifying exemplars of Local Plans; rural buses (details in section 3), promoting knowledge of fields, peatbogs, and trees as a carbon sink. There was agreement that those at the meeting would share email addresses with Caroline to be able to work on shared themes.

Steve Gargett introduced his new Refill shop, ***Heart and Compass***, opening in Basingstoke shortly. Plan is to link this with community projects.

1.2 Impact Tool for community carbon footprint

Danny explained the Impact Tool from CSE which gives estimates of carbon emissions for each parish across the country and is easy to use. It provides a Territorial Footprint and a Consumption Footprint. It needs to be looked at with some local knowledge as explained in the video below. It can be used to help inform debate, and to prioritise effective actions to reduce carbon dioxide.

https://impact-tool.org.uk/footprint/footprint?parishId=E04012251&footprintType=territorial&scale=per-household

Video explaining how to use the Impact Tool

(752) Impact Carbon Footprint User Guide video - YouTube.

1.3 Local Elections

Groups are using different ways of asking climate and sustainability questions of Candidates in the HCC and district elections such as a news spread in the Alton Herald, a hustings in Basingstoke via Zoom, and questions that individuals can ask of candidates on the WinACC website. Phil added be prepared to challenge false claims.

2. Hampshire County Council and the Climate Emergency

Two representatives from each of HampshireCAN, Friends of the Earth and Extinction Rebellion are part of ***HCC Expert Forum on climate change***. It has been agreed that stakeholders can put things on the agenda.

The current net zero target of the HCC Climate Emergency Action Plan is 2050 and although challenged remains so.

As climate groups have concerns about the ***data*** methodology created for HCC by the Carbon Trust, it was agreed at the last Expert Forum they would form a Data Working Group to look into the data and how / whether it ties in with BEIS (government) figures.

HCC has commissioned NEF to produce ***A Green Economic Recovery*** (https://documents.hants.gov.uk/hampshire2050/New-Economics-Foundation-Presentation-jan21.pdf) Lead officer Chitra Nadarajah will speak about this at the Expert Forum on 8 June.

On ***Hampshire Pension Fund***, HCC says it cannot instruct the Pension Fund Panel and Board to disinvest:

> …the Hampshire Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is not a separate legal entity to the County Council. … Hampshire County Council is the Administering Authority for the Pension Fund, and as such is responsible for managing the Fund. The County Council discharges its responsibility for managing the Pension Fund through the Pension Fund Panel and Board (PFPB) which is a committee of the Council and is responsible for all decisions to do with the Pension Fund. Although the County Council is the Administering Authority of the Fund, it is subject to overriding fiduciary and public law duties when exercising its functions as Administering Authority. These duties effectively mean that the Council (in this case through the PFPB) must act in a way that maximises the funds available for paying pensions to Scheme members. The Council is not able to use the Scheme or its investments to further other Council purposes over the interests of the scheme members.

Chitra Nadarajah said a ***Citizens Assembly*** would be too expensive although Cllr Jan Warwick was interested.

A ***renewable energy mapping project*** is to be undertaken by a Masters student at Southampton University.

The Greening Campaign will report back at the next meeting.

2.1 HCC Interest Group

HampshireCAN has a HCC interest group which is also attended by all the rep.s to the HCC Expert Forum. It discusses the feedback from the Forum, what to add to future agendas of the Forum, and agrees a co-ordinated approach.

Email HCAN@winacc.org.uk if you wish to attend this group or want to be in touch with the Data group.

2.2 Integrating climate into all HCC decisions.

HCC have two tools provided by the Carbon Trust who hold the copyright. HCC will not share either with us, but they have sent one to District Councils to enable analysis of potential climate projects. The Data Group will see if it can look at this to see what we think of it.

3. Transport

3.1 Bus Back Better.

The Department for Transport published ***Bus Back Better*** (https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-transport-update-national-bus-

strategy-for-england-published?utm_source=SAPHybris&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2124&utm_term=CoronaMembers%20March%2015___Link&utm_content=EN) . Transport authorities have to come up with a plan to improve bus services or lose their subsidies. HCC is our transport authority so we need to put pressure on county councillors to make sure they create a good plan. WinACC is working out a plan for their area. https://www.winacc.org.uk/better-buses/

CPRE have a petition on improving bus services and have calculated that for the current roadbuilding budget, every rural community could be served with an hourly bus service. https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/our-report-shows-a-bus-every-village-every-hour-is-possible/

3.2 Green Travel Hampshire

HampshireCAN set up a Transport Interest Group which has now got going under the name "Green Travel Hampshire". Stuart Mills was funded temporarily by WinACC to help it get going. Its aim is to have a county-wide voice n transport. It's primarily a network of existing groups on either transport or climate.

A small steering group has been meeting fortnightly to agree terms of reference, set up a website, and identify priority areas for action: Bus back Better and Locate Transport Plan 4 at present.

Please invite people who are interested in transport to get in touch with Stuart at Stuart.mills@winacc.org.uk. New members of the steering group would be welcome.

3.3 Verges campaign

Danny talked about the campaign to reduce mowing on Hants verges. HCC has worked with Plantlife to create a biodiversity friendly mowing programme for rural verges in the county, with just two cuts a year, in early spring and late summer (https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/18052020vergecutting).

This does not include urban verges, which are delegated to district/borough councils. Urban verges must be cut at least four times a year to avoid traffic safety problems, but district/borough councils can ask HCC for permission to cut fewer than four times if there are no safety issues.

PeCAN has asked EHDC to do this for urban verges in Petersfield, if they can identify verges without traffic safety issues. They are looking at ways to do this, potentially through QGIS mapping.

As well as being good for wildlife, this saves pollution and carbon savings.

In the New Forest, Anna had thought there were plans for HCC to produce leaflets about why verges should not be cut and notices for verges, though this seems not to have happened.

To find out more: HCC contact is Nicky Court, **Specialist Environmental Services Manager, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre,** Hampshire County Council Tel: 0370 779 2721 nicky.court@hants.gov.uk https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity

Melanie Oxley melanieoxley44@gmail.com is leading on this in Petersfield; Petersfield Society public meeting on 12 May 2021.

4. National Campaigns

4.1 Green Jobs

Margaret told us about the **Green New Deal campaign** for green jobs which releases figures by constituency on what jobs could be created. This is a central government issue so put pressure on MPs and make them aware of the figures: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u6SRCnOpruiKOQR-OD6OdR8wu9_aBBle/view?link_id=1&can_id=bcdd5127b02e5f09765aff5bda1395a1&source=email-wow-62&email_referrer=email_1121678&email_subject=your-local-green-jobs-data-under-strict-embargo

4.2 Planning for COP26

Three big coalitions aim to raise awareness of climate issues and to put pressure on the government before November.

- The Climate Coalition is planning action around the G7 meetings in June and via the Big Green Week 18-26 September – national and local events (see 4.4 below).
- The COP26 coalition is also planning events and has a 4 day online conference from 22/4.
- Crack the Crisis is another coalition linking COVID, climate and inequality and will be launching political action soon.

All the links are on http://www.campaign.exchange/campaigns/cop26/

Danny will represent HampshireCAN at the coming SECA (S. E. Climate alliance) meeting – Vivian of SECA is leading on COP26 plans for the SE.The route for the Young Christian Climate Network relay walk from the G7 meeting in Cornwall in June to Glasgow in time for COP26 is in the link: https://www.yccn.uk. Walkers and volunteers of all ages are welcome and as it is going through Broughton, Winchester and Basingstoke between 23rd-26th July. People are able to sign up to join for part of the journey.

4.3 The CEE Bill Alliance

The national Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill website has lots of resources https://www.ceebill.uk/ The objective is to get many people to write to their MP. The important thing is the number of letters sent. Be prepared to get a standard reply.

4.4 The Big Green Week

https://greatbiggreenweek.com/ Sign in your event and use the branding and persuade other groups to hold an event. have. Plans are under way for a green week in Alton, Basingstoke (passivhaus and rewilding events), Havant, Lymington, and Winchester. Steve also mentioned work that the RC diocese is doing.

It was agreed that those involved in Green Week events were happy to share email addresses.

5 AOB

5.1 Working on the climate in schools

Gill is an Eco Schools Assessor. It would be good to get a list of resources and ideas for schools together. Gill, Malcolm, Steve, Eleanor, Pam and Anne were interested and share their email addresses. Anna of PeCAN was suggested. Email HCAN@winacc.org.uk if you wish to be added to a schools interest group (to keep in touch – probably no need for meetings).

5.2 QGIS - Quick Geographical Information System. Danny explained this free Open Sourced online tool to make your own maps from data. Using data for maps can display a lot of information is a way that is easier to understand. There is training on You Tube but it is complex to learn.

5.3 Neighbourhood Plans Guy in Over Wallop (Test valley) asked for advice via email as to how to influence a Neighbourhood Plan to include reducing carbon. Gill suggested Lymington. Malcolm suggested that a Community Plan might be easier / more useful in influencing reduction in carbon emissions. Carol would contact Guy. Guy might ask Caroline at CPRE (Caroline had left the meeting.)

6. Future Meetings

Saturday 5th June 10.00am on zoom

Saturday 3rd October 10.00am. Decide at the June meeting whether October is on zoom or face-to-face (place to be arranged but not Brockenhurst as Gill not available).

January meeting - Brockenhurst has been proposed.