Hampshire Climate Action Network

Saturday 21 January in St Paul's Church, Winchester SO22 5AB

Minutes

Present:

1. Carol Bartholomew *on Zoom*	Andover (Test Valley)
2. Liz Batten *on Zoom*	Southampton
3. Jo Crocker	Winchester
4. Phil Gagg	Winchester
5. Norma Goodwin	Winchester
6. Mark Hancock	Southampton
7. Eleanor Hill	Alton
8. Chris Holloway	Winchester
9. Sue James *on Zoom*	Havant
10. Keith Jones	Winchester
11. Danny Lee *on Zoom*	Winchester
12. Kazuhiro Manabe	Winchester
13. Felicity McElderry *on Zoom*	Winchester
14. Roger Munford *on Zoom*	Southampton
15. Paul Newman	Winchester
16. Anne Stephenson *on Zoom*	Gosport & Fareham
17. Sarah Wood *on Zoom*	Blackwater Valley

(Not all people on zoom attended the whole meeting).

National context

1. **Warm this Winter:** https://www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/.a new coalition focused on demanding urgent government action to help tackle rising energy bills this winter and ensure energy is affordable for everyone in the future. Supported by FoE grassroots campaign United for Warm Homes. Anyone who wants to know more, email HCAN@winacc.org.uk to be put in touch with Havant Climate Alliance which is taking part.
2. **"100 Days" project:** XR aims to get 100,000 people to the Houses of Parliament from April 21st. Zoom Open Calls every other week (26 Jan, 9 Feb, 23 Feb, etc) to get information. XR does not intend it to include illegal disruption. Several HCAN groups are telling their supporters about the opportunity. WeCAN adopted a statement, closely based on Operation Noah's, about its relationship with XR – see https://www.winacc.org.uk/extinction-rebellion/
3. **Show the Love 2023:** The Climate Coalition is repeating its annual call to display green hearts around 14 February https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love/
4. **The People's Plan for Nature:** RSPB, Wildlife Trusts and other nature organisations are consulting people and will launch their People's Plan in March 2023.. Agreed that it is important that they see the close connection between

the climate crisis and the ecological crisis, so HCAN groups are encouraged to publicise and take part https://peoplesplanfornature.org/

5. **Great Big Green Week: t**he Climate Coalition has moved the date to 10th - 18th June 2023. Some HCAN groups are sticking to their usual autumn dates, using the June week as an opportunity to do something smaller, as a taster for their own green week. Anyone running a Green Week (whatever the date) email HCAN@winacc.org.uk to be put in touch with other local green weeks, to share ideas.
6. **Hydrogen:** hydrogen is not a means to reduce carbon emissions or address the climate crisis. It is a way for the fossil fuel industry to continue business as normal.

   Grey, Green or Blue Hydrogen. Grey is a product of fossil fuels; Blue is a product of fossil fuel with carbon capture and storage. Green Hydrogen is made from renewable energy but hydrogen for heating the home is 6 times less efficient than using renewable electricity to run a heat pump. There are a few small projects where green hydrogen play a part but otherwise it is a distraction on the path to Net Zero and beyond, slowing down our progress. (Currently Green Hydrogen is a small proportion of hydrogen produced.)

   Solent Cluster includes Exxon and they are pushing for hydrogen. We have to reduce carbon now, urgently. So we mustn't go down the wrong path by introducing a new fossil fuel into the energy mix.

   Agreed to create a link to materials on hydrogen on the HCAN page.

   Liz Batten is collating papers to be presented to Southampton Council to bring to their attention the negative affect of promoting hydrogen as a green product. Once collated these can be shared with HCAN and shared more widely.

   Agreed, unless any HCAN group objects, to support the campaign being organised by Southampton.
7. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy:** since April 2022, local authorities are required to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (this applies to Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton). We haven't heard anything about what is happening on this locally.

News from each area

8. **Local Plans:** Winchester is adopting LETI standards for buildings. These are good; there are standards for housing and other buildings, and for both construction and use. Southampton is developing its Plan http://transitionsouthampton.org/southampton-local-plan-overview/

   If a climate issues isn't covered in the Local Plan, a separate Supplementary Planning Document is a useful way to get it into that Council's planning rules – Danny referred to one on Sustainable Construction,.

Liz spoke of action by Sam Hunter-Jones of Client Earth to make them take climate into account in their Local Plans, including a submission to the Planning Inspector

about the Local Plan for Great Yarmouth (not Norwich, as said at the meeting): "Taken as a whole, the Plan is not legally compliant or sound. .. key areas of deficiency include: (i) energy efficiency, (ii) renewable energy generation, (iii) sustainable transport, (iv) green infrastructure, (v) sustainability appraisal, and (vi) monitoring" See https://www.clientearth.org/latest/press-office/press/lawyers-put-local-authorities-on-notice-over-climate-inaction/ . See also links to examples where inspectors recently approve plans from councils leading the way on energy efficiency and construction emissions:

- https://newsroom.bathnes.gov.uk/news/council-adopts-ground-breaking-planning-framework
- https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/adopted-plans/climate-emergency-development-plan-document/

9. **Community renewable energy:** anyone thinking about a local community schemes can get advice from Energise South Downs.
10. **Climate Scorecard:** In 2021 Climate Emergency UK produced a scorecard for councils across the UK. This is a useful resource e.g. to identify best practices across the UK. Climate Emergency UK need volunteers to score the next stage. It would be good for people from HCAN groups, who understand about climate actions, to volunteer to help score. More details on their website

Working together

11. **Effluent recycling in Havant reservoir:** Sue James reported that Southern Water have a consultation about their plans to recycle effluent, and pump the result via Havant thicket reservoir to customers around Southern England. She said there are environmental considerations as well as safety and cost. She asked HCAN group to share the consultation, and encourage people to respond - possibly just to Defra to ask them to consider other options. The background information is at https://havantmatters.org/water/

12. **National Lottery Climate Fund:** the meeting considered what major project might be suitable for a partnership with HCAN groups and other bodies to submit for a major bid? Suggestions included:

- Renewable energy especially wind and solar
- Community renewable energy schemes – and supporting their creation: community energy needs seed-corn money and it is important to link this with biodiversity and land use
- Miyawaki forests - and planting them
- Rewilding
- Hedgerows and wildlife corridors
- Mapping the potential climate-related uses of land across Hampshire (using geospatial data), analysing what land and is best for different uses and identifying suitable sites for each of the above
- Getting more people involved in nature via green gyms and social prescribing, working with GPs and care navigators

- Whatever we bid for, include funding for a worker to organise HCAN.

Chris will reflect on what would match the criteria - more at https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund-programme and will liaise with Carol, Jo, Danny and Phil, keep Liz Batten in the loop, and talk to Phil Taverner of the CVS Together for our Planet project..

She will also check Danny's suggestion of Innovate UK funding.

13. **Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan:** The draft Plan would allow companies to profit from fossil fuels under the ground in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. Chris asked everyone ibn Hampshire, Portsmouth or Southampton to respond to the consultation on the draft Minerals and Waste Plan (the equivalent of a Local Plan). We should also contact your HCC /Portsmouth / Southampton councillors asking them not to approve allowing further oil and gas extraction. **Deadline 31 January 2023.**

    - WinACC submission
    - Briefing from WinACC;
    - Use this response form: Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Partial Update – Draft Plan Consultation Response Form submitted via email to hmwp.consult@hants.gov.uk.
    - More from HCC on the consultation, including links to relevant documents.

14. **Pension Fund Divestment –** please encourage your councils (district, Portsmouth and Southampton) to pass resolutions asking Hampshire Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels and support investment in renewables.

15. **Call on Hampshire County Council to stop using glyphosates** – Please sign Gosport and Fareham Friends of the Earth petition to ban the use of glyphosate. There are health issues as well as biodiversity implications. https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/call-on-hampshire-county-council-to-stop-using-glyphosates?source=facebook&

16. **HCC's Hampshire Perspectives forum: sign up to** shape decisions affecting Hampshire. Register here.

17. **HCC Nov 2022** Climate Change Annual Report "provides an update on the climate change progress the County Council has made over the last 12 months (July 2021 to June 2022)". The meeting felt that there was not enough analysis or evidence of success, with no measures if emission reductions.

    Agreed that our reps on the Hampshire Expert Forum should ask for the 2023 report to include these.

18. **Hampshire Expert Forum** Anne and Phil reported that the Hampshire Expert Forum had been rather more receptive recently. But attendance is low, and they are not convinced of its effectiveness. It would be better if it included land user reps e.g. Countryside and Business Alliance, NFU and other Wildlife groups.....

    The future of the Panel was uncertain. The council leader Rob Humby is now the lead on climate in place of Jan Warwick; and although not everything was

clear, HCC had reorganised into two groups on focusing on Hampshire 2050 and the other on service delivery. Danny Olsson and Chitra were staying in post.

Our rep.s on the Forum were asked to write to ask about:

- The future of the Forum
- How to make it more effective
- What the County Council is doing about producing its nature recovery plan
- What's happening when on the report from Parity Projects on a retrofitting scheme for home-owners
- When Local Transport Plan 4 will be published
- For the next agenda to include Nature Recovery Strategy; Retrofitting; and the Minerals and Waste Policy

19. **Retrofitting / Parity Projects:** Danny raised the question of retrofitting for people able to pay apparently although extra funding has been promised, a number of projects are being held up because the money has not been made available. He asked that this be raised at the next Expert Forum.
20. **Transport:** No final version of Local Transport Plan 4 has yet been published. Phil worries that the good ideas in the first draft may not be carried forward.

HCAN

21. **Convenors:** Carol had stood down as convenor for HCAN and was thanked for her efforts over the last few years. Sue would continue but other volunteers would be welcome.

Future meetings

1. Saturday 25 March. Mark would look into venues in Southampton.
2. Next date – **July 1.**