HampshireCAN 25 March 2023

Minutes

Present:

Jenny Griffiths	Energy Alton /Alton Climate Action & Network
Caroline Winchurch	Hart CVS
Sue James	Havant Climate Alliance
Anna Mellor	New Forest FoE
David George	Hampshire and Islands Quaker Area Meeting Sustainability Action Group (AMSAG)
Gwen Collins	Eastleigh/Southampton (Avenue St Andrews)
Jerry McFadden	Southampton Green Living Group
Liz Batten	Southampton Climate Action Network
Lyn Brayshaw	Southampton Greenpeace & FoE
Mark Hancock	Transition Southampton
Phil Gagg	Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis
Christine Holloway	Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis
Deborah Gearing	The Eel Run

1. Unite to Survive "The Big One" 21-24 April

100,000 people at the Houses of Parliament, from lots of different organisations. Useful briefing at https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-nQvpHvYGT7tygdUkmcr5lA10rL_Fvp_gtVntdDdTmo/edit#slide=id.g21ce15316b2_81_0

- Fri 21 - flooding Westminster in a wave of flags and banners.
- Saturday 22 is Earth Day – we unite for nature, biodiversity and the planet.
- Sunday 23 London Marathon cuts across Parliament Square.
- Monday 24 – Parliament returns, the demand is delivered

Nothing's being said about the best day to go. Some feel that Friday would be the most important.

On the Friday, some people are gathering at St John's RC Church opposite Waterloo Station to set off together at 10.00.

On the Saturday, Winchester Together for Our Planet will travel in the last carriage of the train that arrives in Waterloo at 10.20, leaving Southampton 09:00, Winchester 09:18 and Basingstoke 09:36

2. Local elections 4 May

Winchester is planning a hustings on 29 April. Alton is writing to candidates to pin them down with four specific questions. Jenny would share the letter.

Other groups are asking candidates to sign up to the SECA pledges (Accelerate action, Boost partnerships, Communicate, and Divest from fossil fuels). https://seclimatealliance.uk/abcd-pledge-2023/

3. Clean Air Day 15 June

Groups were considering action in this, possibly linked to Great Big Green Week. https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day

4. Great Big Green Week: 10th - 18th June 2023

Some groups working on this. Southampton Council pays an events company to organise their Big Green event. https://greatbiggreenweek.com

5. 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.

Lyn from Southampton Greenpeace is asking local MPs for pledges. Havant asks all to share this to collect signatures on a petition to local MPs https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/ask-alan-mak-mp-and-flick-drummond-mp-to-take-action-for-warm-homes

6. UKSP Fund

Danny Lee had asked how local authorities are using UKSP levelling up funding on any Climate or Nature crisis actions:

- Southampton – The sports centre in north Southampton: updating the dated and tatty changing rooms and other buildings.
- Hart- community hubs and employment skills e.g. for retrofitting
- Alton - a Community Farm. Suggested that Alton might press for the community farm to be an exemplar of low carbon farming.

7. News on nature

a) **The People's Plan for Nature**: A new report on action to be taken based on collecting public opinion by WWF, RSPB and National Trust. Looks worth studying in detail. Alton planning a public meeting - were asked to see if people could follow it remotely so that other areas could learn about it too.

https://peoplesplanfornature.org/ ; Executive Summary at https://peoplesplanfornature.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/PPFN-ExecutiveSummary-160323-FINAL%20W%20Links.pdf

b) **Plant Based Treaty:** Danny Lee had recommended this document which had detailed suggestions for supporting sustainable diets. www.plantbasedtreaty.org.

What's the value of getting such resolutions through councils etc when they do not follow through ? or is it a useful way to raise issues, and could lead to action?

c) **Plantlife** Jerry recommended this organisation which he supports.

d) **Local Nature Recovery Strategy:** since April 2022, upper tier local authorities (Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton) are required to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

8. **National Lottery Climate Fund (Nature)**

(https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund-programme)

Chris outlined the ideas developed at and after the January HCAN meeting about developing a potential bid for this funding stream (briefing at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xsyN8YXhgL6U7XZL2xHtLgM6nP8AOAta/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=114867955654048095342&rtpof=true&sd=true

The meeting discussed whether HCAN wanted to continue developing a potential bid for this funding stream, in partnership with the Hampshire CVS Community Interest Partnership which had led "Hampshire Together for Our Planet" in 2022. It's important that climate groups keep their climate focus. But it was agreed to continue to work on a bid because nature is a good way to reach people who have not got involved in work on the climate,

HCAN people willing to support Phil Taverner of the Hampshire CVS Community Interest Partnership to develop the bid are Jenny Griffiths (Alton), Carol Bartholomew (Andover), Liz Batten (Southampton), Jo Crocker, Phil Gagg, Danny Lee (all Winchester).

9. Transport

Local Transport Plan 4 has still not been published following last year's consultation. Phil will warn us all when it appears.

Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plans (LCWIP) have been submitted in some areas. Apparently the one for East Hampshire was being amended/rewritten to make it compliant. It seems the HCC officer working on the New Forest LCWIP had assumed that cycle routes there were leisure routes, and that since LCWIPs were only for 'utility routes' there would be no money for them. The possibility that even in the New Forest some people might need to cycle to work /schools /shops /hospitals had not been considered.

Winchester green groups had been working on positive ways of presenting ways of redesignating urban space for activities other than traffic. There had been a workshop for 'creatives' about new approaches for positive campaigning; more work needed to be done.

Green Travel Hampshire seems to be inactive, although Wilf Forrow continues to be active on cycling. Chris will ask Anne Sayers if she intends to do anything in future; if not, HCAN will consider what it might do. We need to maintain contact with the Transport Action Network, and track what's going on with Transport for the SE.

David George said Nick Sebley of Portsmouth University [Portsmouth Climate Action Board Coordinator] was a useful and knowledgeable speaker on transport issues. He could be a good source of examples of where transport volumes have been reduced. Sue James knows him.

10. Hydrogen

Southampton have now finished the paper they produced for Southampton Climate Commission. It had been revised several times in consultation with other groups (thank you all who commented). It is now on the HCAN webpage

(https://www.winacc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Mythbusting-hydrogen.pdf) - please share widely. Southampton Climate Commission is likely to accept its recommendations. If so, it will be sent to all relevant officers and elected members in Southampton. It is important that they understand the science of hydrogen production when making decisions about funding, etc as it is potentially a serious distraction from getting on with insulating properties and building more renewable energy.

Mark added his disappointment that so much emphasis and money was going into carbon capture and storage.

11. **Effluent recycling in Havant reservoir**

Sue asked for support in sharing the petition to get this plan reconsidered before we are all drinking water recycled from effluent. The Havant group are finding that the public are completely unaware of the plans, so more publicity would really help. See https://HavantMatters.org/water

12. **Hampshire Expert Forum**

This had not met for a while due to HCC reorganisations. The Council leader, Rob Humby is now the Cabinet lead on the climate. HCAN members were still frustrated by the way it was run but would continue to try and modify this.

13. Greening Campaign

Members were asked to share the impact of the Greening Campaign in their areas.

After the meeting, Sue asked Terena Plowright for an update and received an email saying that the Greening Campaign supported 15 communities in Hampshire over the last year "and learnt a vast amount about what communities need to tackle Climate Change." This was with CRF and HCC funding. They hope to support 20 further communities in Hampshire in the near future on:

- Community Engagement
- Energy Efficient Warmer Homes
- Food security
- Space for Nature
- Waste Prevention
- Health & Climate

Terena is looking for a further Partner who will deliver the programme around food so she'd like to know of anyone with expertise as a group in growing food

14. **Retrofitting / Parity Projects**

Chris reported that HCC had commissioned Parity Projects to consult and propose a way for coordinated action across the county to encourage home-owners to retrofit. Their report had first been due before Christmas 2023, but has not yet appeared. Chris had heard that HCC has now said it cannot fund whatever the proposal says, and that district authorities' budgets gave no cause for optimism. She had heard rumours that nothing was likely to happen. Caroline was interested

in pursuing this further.

15. **Solar Together** is a different HCC project which people have benefitted from. *Following the meeting, Chris checked and this is currently closed to new applicants.*

16. **Alton's "Listen to the Children"**

See https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/listen-to-the-children-exhibition-and-photobook/

17. **The Eel Run:** Deborah Gearing described her public art project for Riverside Park in Southampton raising awareness and prompting discussion about biodiversity. More at https://www.hostproductions.org.uk/portfolio-item/the-eel-run/

    Chris suggested she put it onto the HCAN Facebook page, and reminded people to share events and news on the page.

18. **Films: David George (**utilityfilms@gmail.com, 01983 852540) provided links to two of his films, saying "These are both freely available and you do not need permission to forward them":

    - **'Why on Earth isn't Ecocide illegal?'** Utility Films UK 2023 (10 mins) https://vimeo.com/800969681 10 minutes on the need for an Ecocide law.
    - **'To The Bone' Utility Films UK 2023** (5 mins) https://vimeo.com/807907406 A short film about the Pan Estate, Isle of Wight, and its Larder at the Downside Community Centre.

19. **Future** meetings

    Sat 1 July in Winchester, where you can enjoy the Hat Fair afterwards - Chris to book room.

    Sat 21 Oct – location to be confirmed (Brockenhurst hall is not available).

    Sue checked and these dates do not clash with SECA meetings.

Reminder: the host area looks after the bill and refreshments; if the collection does not cover the costs and the host can't pay the difference, they can ask for the rest from the (tiny) HCAN budget.