

# Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

## Minutes - 6.30pm Friday 12th November 2021

**Chair:** Cllr Ellie Chowns (EC)

**Note Taker:** Jane Little (JL)

### **Attendees:**

Rachel Coxcoon (RC), Richard Wells (RW), Emily Partridge (EP), James Marsden (JM), Ian Howie (IH), Anna Darwood (AD), Ross Whelan (RW), Gordon Coppock (GC), Chris Lawrence (CL), Julia Cotton (JC), Claire Kingston (CK), Gareth Williams (GW), Charlotte Gregory (CG), Jackie Jones (JJ)

### **Guests:**

Climate Assembly - Sarah Fishbourne, Impact Consultancy, Climate Communications - Chris Lawrence and Matthew Bacon, JBP Associates Ltd

**Herefordshire Council Support:** Phil Crossland (PC), Ben Boswell (BB), Richard Vaughan (RV)

**Apologies:** Andrew Nixon, Stuart Brisbane,

### **1 Welcome & an Overview from COP26**

EC opened the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance and support.

The aim of the Board is to lead the local response to the climate and ecological emergency through this diverse and representative group

### **2 Roundtable Introductions - a quick who's who and why we're here**

Introductions and brief background were completed by those in attendance.

Bios are currently in development and will be published on the Climate and Nature website: <https://zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk/>

### **3 Background and the Story so far... Scene setting**

***Getting the County to Net-Zero and Nature Rich by 2030***

***The Climate and Nature Steering Group***

***Climate and Nature Action Plans – the 6 Themes – Overview***

***Dedicated Website - ZeroCarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk***

BB shared a presentation (attached) with the group of extensive work to date by both the Council and numerous partners across Herefordshire.

BB expressed a big thank you to all of the hard work and contributions by the outgoing steering group and wider team who played a vital role in developing the board, action plans and new website.

Presentation to be shared with Board - **Action**

BB also briefed on the excitement of the new environment bill being actioned this week through central government.

BB confirmed that Herefordshire Council has commit support this Board.

JM queried the inclusion of methane as key greenhouse gas in the county and whether this was included in the existing dataset. Here JM recommended the use of datasets from the Tyndall Centre.

RV outlined the countywide statistics published on the website were from the CO2 data set published by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy.

BB / RV to review available datasets in discussion with the Midlands Energy Hub and to explore the Tyndall Centre datasets - **Action**

#### 4 **Role of the Board – Roundtable Discussion**

##### ***Terms of Reference (Paper 1)***

Agreed by the board - **Action - ToR to be updated with meeting date and uploaded to the website.**

##### ***Board Aims and Ambitions***

EC confirmed that we need to have specific goals for this board that are clear and achievable.

Basecamp or equivalent to be set up to support Board disseminate and share information - **Action**

Chatham House Rule agreed.

##### ***Board Priorities***

The board commit to establishing a clear work programme with specific scope and boundaries

GC confirmed that sometimes the smaller challenges can often generate high quality results.

Need to have an action plan that incorporates cross county actions. Including working with existing voluntary groups and ensuring best working practises and plans. Looking to build on those good works already in existence.

The Board discussed the existing action plans on the new Zero Carbon and Nature Rich website. It was recognised that this was an excellent start that would be further developed with partners and dedicated theme groups.

RC asked if some of the links within could be verified that they work - **Action**

The Board agreed to establish sub-groups for each theme to work in more detail and to feed back to the Board.

All to register interest in relevant sub groups - **Action survey to be circulated.**

## 5 **Climate and Nature Grants – Opportunities**

RV updated on climate and nature grant schemes that were available and applied for.

EP, GW & RW volunteered to represent the Board on a panel to review applications to the Herefordshire Climate and Nature grant scheme.

## 6 **Climate Assembly**

Sarah Fishbourne, Impact Consultancy, Climate Communications, briefed on the benefits of the Board feeding into the assembly and how Herefordshire could meet

Climate challenges working with, example of stake holder sessions, citizen advisory groups.

BB confirmed he could send out details of the group - **Action**

## 7 **Dedicated Board Communications Resource**

Chris Lawrence, JBP Associates Ltd introduced of how the Board could operate sharing action plan. This was well received and questioned if could have engagement of “Bring it Home”.

It was questioned how to engage with partners and other groups working with wider entities.

### ***Promotional Activity – COP26 and Beyond***

#### ***Board Bios and Video sound-bites***

To be completed at next meeting in sub groups

## 8 **AOB**

Cllr Chowns - offer to arrange and informal get together for the Board to get know each other – **Action**

## 9 Frequency and Date/ times of future meetings

Members discussed options for future meetings to best suit all attendees.

Consensus was that meetings need to take place at 4:30/5pm at the earliest to enable all members to attend and that Fridays are generally to be avoided.

Whilst the Board was keen to meet in person, it was agreed that more meetings should be online than in person to minimise the carbon impact.

Agreement for the next meeting to be convened before Christmas to keep momentum –

**Action**