

Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

Minutes of meeting held 5.00-7.00pm - 14th December 2021

Chair: Cllr Ellie Chowns (EC)

Attendees: Richard Wells (RW), Emily Partridge (EP), James Marsden (JM), Ian Howie (IH), Anna Darwood (AD), Ross Whelan (RW), Gordon Coppock (GC), Julia Cotton (JC), Claire Kingston (CK), Gareth Williams (GW), Charlotte Gregory (CG), Jackie Jones (JJ), Andrew Nixon (AN), Stuart Brisbane (SB)

Guests: Tim Yair (Marches Energy Hub) and Chris Lawrence and Serena Ralston, JBP Associates Ltd

Herefordshire Council Support: Phil Crossland (PC), Richard Vaughan (RV), Alison Parry (AP)

Apologies: Rachel Coxcoon (RC)

1 Welcome

EC opened the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance and welcoming Andrew Nixon and Stuart Brisbane who were unable to make the first meeting, and reiterating the aim of the Board is to lead the local response to the climate and ecological emergency through this diverse and representative group.

2 Minutes of the last meeting held 12th November 2021 - Agreed

- **Matters Arising/ Actions** – Board Action Log
 - items that were complete, noted
 - A dedicated 'Teams' site allowing sharing of information amongst Board members had been established. Board members given password to enable access. Those with any issues in accessing site to contact Hoople (Herefordshire Council IT).
 - **ACTION:** Success of using Teams site to be reviewed at next meeting.
- **Procedural Matters for Decision:**
 - Confirmation of Chair Cllr Chowns - **Agreed** - to be reviewed after three further meetings
 - Board Communications – Sharing of email addresses – **Agreed**

- **ACTION:** EC would set-up a shared email group for the Board and JC set up a WhatsApp Group. Board would exchange information amongst each other as deemed appropriate.
- Agreed Minutes to published on public Zero-carbon website - **Agreed**

3 **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Datasets – Presentation by Tim Yair, Midlands Net-Zero Hub**

At the last meeting it was agreed that further consideration be given to which datasets the Board should consider in determining progress and actions to achieving zero carbon and that these should include other greenhouse gases (GHGs). Tim Yair from Midlands Net Zero hub shared a presentation which outlined the various approaches available to measuring carbon and GHGs – from a ‘territorial’ perspective (County) based on national datasets covering just carbon, or an option for including GHGs presented by CO2e and finally an option measuring ‘consumption’.

During discussion it was agreed that including GHGs was essential and that carbon sequestration should also be acknowledged as an important part of the overall assessment. The ‘consumption’ based approach (though potentially costly to produce) was useful for helping to determine carbon reduction actions on an individual basis – whilst the territorial approach including GHG equivalent based on national datasets, was useful for measuring progress and for highlighting where to focus resources on larger scale initiative/ projects. It was also noted that the carbon assessment tool on the Greater Collaboration website and the associated ‘Carbon Literacy’ training sought to merge the two approaches to help focus decision-making to focus actions. It was agreed that showing the information via bar chart would be helpful as this could show a negative for sequestration.

- **Agreed:** Territorial approach including methane should be used moving forwards, whilst the ‘consumption’ approach be used to help focus communication and action with public at an individual basis. Measuring going forward was more important than looking back and that sequestration was an important component of any data-set.

4 **Dedicated Board Communications Resource – Presentation by JBP Associates**

JBP Associates, who have engaged to assist the Board in its efforts to help get the County to Carbon Zero and Nature-Rich by 2030, gave a presentation outlining their initial ideas and approach. They gave an example treatment of one of the campaign ideas of making “*Greener Footprints*” as a way of combining both the carbon and nature elements, and showed how this could be ‘played out’ as an overarching campaign idea. JBP are to call a meeting of the Comms Sub-Group next week to further flesh-out the ideas with a view to a launch in the New Year.

Discussion highlighted the need to collaborate with existing campaigns (eg. HGN and Great Collaboration website for Parish Councils) and ensure actions such as making a Pledge link in and add value to existing initiatives. The various audiences to target were discussed such as older school children through educational seminars, and to consider the youth facility such as 'power house' as a useful tool, businesses via Chamber of Commerce and Business Network, and the general public.

- **Action:** Sub-Group to meet w/c 20th December to consider the Campaign in more detail to enable a launch in the New Year and to continue to meet to help develop campaigns through the year. JBP to act as convenor for the Comms. Sub Group.

5 Board Priorities – Theme Sub-Groups

- **Agree Sub-groups - Themes, Membership, Group Leads, Preferred Ways of Working**

At the last meeting it was agreed that the Board establish sub-groups for each of the six Action Plans to get the County to zero carbon and nature rich by 2030 (see: [Home - Herefordshire Zero Carbon and Nature Rich](#)). It was recognised that the Action Plans were an excellent start that could be further developed with partners through dedicated theme groups which would allow more detailed consideration of actions and to feedback priorities to the Board. Table showing who had signed up for each Sub-Group was shared. It was noted that no one had volunteered for 'Waste'. After discussion it was agreed that 'Farming and Land use' and 'Food' sub-groups to be kept separate but to coordinate any Actions.

- **Terms of Reference for Sub-Groups – AGREED**

Previously circulated draft ToR for the Sub-Group was agreed. The purpose of each Sub-Group will be to consider how to actively collaborate with others in order to:

- Mobilise individuals and organisations countywide to sign up to the Partnership and to engage in the Action Plans;
- Commission projects and initiate activities in support of the Action Plans;
- Monitor progress on the Action Plans including helping to develop up to date carbon and nature assessments for the county; and
- Review and update the Action Plans, by regularly reviewing progress and priorities, and drawing on examples of good practice from Herefordshire and elsewhere

Each Sub-Group will nominate a Lead to facilitate Sub-Group meetings outside of the main Board meetings and to report back to the Board for decisions and updates.

Individuals for each Sub-Group would be put in touch with each other to self-organise, identify a Lead and to meet outside of the main Board and then Report back on priorities. Sub-Groups to be a standing item on Board agenda. Any information / advice requested from Herefordshire Council officers in support of the Sub-Group would need to be specified to enable the most appropriate officers to assist (if able to do so).

- **ACTION – HC officers to ensure Board members are put in touch with each other to enable self-organisation**
- **ACTION – Sub-Groups to meet and undertake actions indicated in ToR and to feedback back to main Board as a standing item on the Agenda.**

6 **Climate and Nature Grants – Update Ross Whelan**

The Climate and Nature grants were launched in October and had a closing date of 15th December for first round. £200k with a max of £15k per application was made available in four categories; Community Buildings, Transport, Nature and Other, to encourage communities to come forward with ideas to help reduce carbon and make the County Nature-rich.

At the last meeting the Board provided three names to assist in the assessment of the Grants. Ross Whelan joined the first Grant Assessment Panel held on 6th December and gave an update on progress and the assessment of early applicants. Noted that Community Buildings was the most popular category, with 8 energy audits being approved to help inform further applications, two full applications had been approved and a further ten were asked for more information before a final decision is to be made. Seven schemes were rejected and a further 12 schemes expected by the closing date. There will be another Panel to assess applications in January, after which further updates on the successful grant applications will be provided to the Board.

7 **Climate Assembly**

EC was pleased to report that the Climate Assembly would be taking place on 16th January and would circulate an email Update to the Board.

- **ACTION:** EC to circulate email Update on the Climate Assembly

8 **Proposed Items/ Themes/ Focus for future meetings**

The following were proposed as topics for consideration at future meetings:

- Business engagement;
 - Policy integration with impacts on Rivers Wye and Lugg linked to ‘Farming and land use’ Theme;
 - Resources available to enable work on Action Plans; and
 - Planning issues regards wind power and link to land use and the HC’s Core Strategy
- **ACTION:** Proposed topics to be considered at future Board meetings – exact dates to be agreed

9 **AOB**

Good News story – GP outlined success in securing funding/ investment via a national project to help a Herefordshire community led self-generation energy project for PV's.

10 **Frequency and Date/ times of future meetings**

- **ACTION:** EC to send out Google Poll to determine best date/ time for next meeting