

## Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

### Minutes of meeting held 6.00-8.00pm – 18th January 2022

Chair: Cllr Ellie Chowns (EC)

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

Guests: Chris Lawrence and Marcus, JBP Associates Ltd

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

Apologies: Julia Cotton (JC) & Rachel Coxcoon (RC)

#### **1 Welcome**

EC opened the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance 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 14th December 2021 - Agreed**

- Matters Arising/ Actions – Board Action Log
  - o Items that were complete, noted
  - o To 'Thank' Tim Yair for his excellent updated paper on Greenhouse Gas datasets
  - o Noted that some members of the Board were having difficulty using Teams site to be further reviewed at next meeting.
  - o Shared Group email address set-up does not work for some partners. Alternative to be considered. Noted - JC still to set up a WhatsApp Group.
- Procedural Matters for Decision:
  - Minutes Agreed and be published on public Zero-carbon website - Agreed

#### **3 Dedicated Board Communications Resource – Presentation by JBP Associates**

JBP Associates, who have been engaged to assist the Board in its efforts to help get the County to Carbon Zero and Nature-Rich by 2030, gave a presentation on progress to date with the 'Greener Footprints' Campaign. This included work with updating Pledge and HC website, and creation of list of potential actions to be undertaken. Comms Sub-Group had met in December and ideas incorporated with Campaign due to be launched on 27th January.

Discussion again highlighted the need to collaborate with existing campaigns in particular HGN and Great Collaboration website for Parish Councils and ensure actions such as making a Pledge link into and add value to existing initiatives. Board was pleased to note that detailed discussions with Great Collaboration were underway, and that key stakeholders were keen to make sure the respective websites joined forces to add value.

Discussion then focussed on how pledge action would be measured and impacts monitored. It was acknowledged how difficult it was to accurately calculate the impact of a single individual doing a single action. However, the readymade 'Toolkit' provided by the Great Collaboration website including the capacity to measure the carbon impact of actions was welcomed. This would complement the 'qualitative' actions being gathered by the 'Pledge' form and would allow for more targeted marketing to encourage more people to take action. It was also noted that the Comm Sub-group would consider further the Questions to be asked to set a baseline at the start of the 'Greener Footprints' Campaign – most probably though a YouGov survey.

Board asked for 'Carbon Literacy' short videos to be made available on the pledge page to help people to better understand and to inform choices, and to enquire whether those produced for the local Climate Assembly could be used.

**Action:**

- Campaign photo-call with Board 20th January by Hereford Cathedral, and Launch from 27th January.
- Sub-Group to meet again 26th January to consider the Campaign in more detail and YouGov questions.
- Enquiries into whether Climate Assembly materials and Carbon Literacy videos could be used.
- All Board member to help promote the 'Greener Footprint's campaign via their respective contacts, links and organisations.

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

The Climate and Nature grants were launched in October and had a closing date of 15th December. £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.

RW has been representing the Board as part of the Assessment Panel and provided an interim update on progress to date and noted that a further panel is to be held hopefully by the end of the month when all outstanding information from applicant would have been received so the Panel could make its final decisions. A full presentation of successful grant applicants to be provided at the next Board meeting.

**ACTION:** RW to provide update on successful projects and reasons why some failed. AP to provide short review paper of the C & N Grants process with lessons learnt and recommendations for any future C&N grants scheme(s).

**5 Climate Assembly – UPDATE from Councillor Chowns**

The Sessions and discussions to date have been good, with a good diversity of participants and challenging questions being asked. Those that had participated in the Assembly have commented upon how well the various sessions have been organised and the excellent speakers (local, national and international!). A visual artist had been engaged to draw the discussions and it was hoped that these illustrations, along with edited videos of the sessions and the 'educational' videos will be made available after the event. A further update will be provided for the Board which will consider the findings from the Assembly and for consideration to be given to address the Climate Assembly feedback.

Action: EC to provide further feedback from the Climate Assembly

**6 Board Priorities – Theme Sub-Groups – Progress Update**

At the last meeting it was agreed that the Board establish sub-groups for each of the Action Plans to get the County to zero carbon and nature rich by 2030 (see: Home - Herefordshire Zero Carbon and Nature Rich). The purpose of each Sub-Group is 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 was to 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. Feedback to date was as follows:

- **Energy**

Yet to meet but first meeting arranged for 25.01.22. A request was made to the other Sub-Groups to; quantify the energy and carbon reductions of any proposed Action and how an Action might impact on Biodiversity (+/-)

- **Transport**

First meeting to be held 25.01.22. Asked that Board to collectively consider Council's Core Strategy / Local Plan which is currently open to consultation and will close at end of March – as this planning document covered much of the Sub0Group themes. BB will confirm dates. Also that consideration to be given to the Hereford Master Plan currently being developed.

Action: Board consideration given to Core Strategy and for David Ubaka (Delivery Director) to be invited present the 'Hereford Master Plan' at a future Board meeting.

- **Housing & Buildings**

1st meeting due in next two weeks. Comms support asked to promote: <https://hgnetwork.org/gas-boiler-driving-lessons-less-gas-less-carbon-lower-bills/>

- **Food**

1st meeting has taken place. Sub-Group met with the 'Food Alliance' and looked to reconcile aims of Food Alliance, vs Boards aims, vs river action and other individuals. Noted that 'Food' was a large topic area and the need to focus on a smaller number of big issues due to limited resources in county.

Discussion focussed around: how to start lobbying businesses to reduce food waste following lead of M&S 'Too good to go' App; cheap food being an issue because it comes with hidden costs; Personal 'food' choices are hard to change; use of 'Anaerobic Digestion' to dispose of food waste; and the debate around carbon impact of eating meat vs local fruit and veg.

- **Land-Use and Farming**

IH to arrange a date for the first meeting

- **Communications**

Two Sub-Group meetings held and previously covered off earlier in the Agenda (Item 3)

## 7 **AOB & Good News Items**

- Hereford Hospital have put a bid in for £25m funding to be carbon neutral by 2028. Will hear by mid Feb.
- NMITE have secured the two COP26 'ice boxes' from the Ice Boa challenge (Demonstrators of effectiveness of Scottish building regs vs Passiv Haus) they are in Rotherwas I-E (and looked like Xmas market huts). Consideration be given to possibly demonstrating a local timber construction to join the two together and allowing people to test them in high town. HGN would like to use them as part of the 'Open Homes' retrofit awareness event they are running.

- Congratulations to Herefordshire Council which came first overall out of 33 authorities in 'Sustainability West Midlands' competition.
- Next meeting will discuss social meet up, possibly in March.

Action - Business engagement to be discussed at next meeting.

**8 Date/ times of next meetings**

- 1st March - 6.00 -8.00pm – Main item – Business Engagement
- 19th April – 6.00 -8.00pm
- 24th May – 6.00 -8.00pm