

Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

Minutes of meeting held 6.00-8.00pm – 1st March 2022

Chair: Cllr Ellie Chowns (EC)

Attendees: 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), Julia Cotton (JC)

Guests: Chris Lawrence JBP Associates Ltd

Herefordshire Council Support: Roger Allonby (RA), Tim Yair (TY), Phil Crossland (PC), Ben Boswell (BB), Richard Vaughan (RV), Alison Parry (AP)

Apologies: Richard Wells (RW) & 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 19th January 2022 - Agreed

- **Matters Arising/ Actions** – Board Action Log
 - Items that were complete, noted and that a ‘filter’ be added to hide previously completed actions
 - Noted that three members of the Board were having difficulty using Teams site (GW, JJ and EC).
 - Noted IPCC AR6 summary report just published which makes very difficult reading and highlights need for urgency in addressing climate change - see <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>
 - 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 Business Engagement to Reduce Carbon/GHG emissions

Presentations from RA and TY on business GHG/ Carbon emissions and initiatives to reduce emissions. It was noted that datasets have a lag, of up to 5 years for some contributing government datasets. Transport and agriculture stand out as the primary two emitters in Herefordshire with 90% of transport emission on journeys more than 10 miles highlighting need for business to de-carbonise their fleet. Emissions from agriculture also need to consider phosphates in terms of land use as well as need to join this to nature recovery approaches.

Noted the opportunity to further increase local jobs for example for undertaking 'retrofit' to buildings, need to push for more energy resilience via local supply, however, access to national 'Grid' remains biggest barrier to this. It was considered that 'Grants' per se were not required for renewables at the moment, but that support with cash-flow was important which could take the form of a low interest loan scheme.

In terms of engaging local business, using the 'hook' of high energy prices considered a good way to engage business. Also targeting service sector businesses who interact with members of the public, ie hairdressers, NHS and cafes etc. as a good way of sharing information on Greener Footprints and call for action. Main actions from the discussion:

ACTION - Share 'Midlands Connect' transport data (& associated 'carbon calculator') with Board.

ACTION - Sub groups to give consideration to helping inform priorities for the 'Shared Prosperity Fund' (the UK replacement for former EU ERDF funding and part of the government's 'Levelling-up' agenda) and the HC Hereford/ Market Towns Investment Plan regards 'Green economy Jobs'.

ACTION - to consider resurrecting the Business Future Forum as a vehicle for mobilising business on energy efficiency / carbon reduction - BB to speak GW.

4 **Climate Assembly Recommendations – Councillor Chowns**

- Please see link: [Appendix A – Recommendations from Citizen Climate Assembly.pdf \(herefordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

The Board split into three breakout groups; Land use, Farming/ Food, Transport and Buildings to consider the respective recommendations made by the Climate Assembly. Main points:

Landuse, Farming/ Food – Need for farmers to have independent advice regards all the funding streams coming on line to best;

Buildings - Building sub-group to make suggestions on taking forward recommendations relating to retrofit/support/advice/training/certification recs if resourced.

Transport - tbc

5 **Climate and Nature Grants – UPDATE from Ross Whelan**

Presentation shared on review of Grant Scheme launched by HC last year which RW sat as Board rep on Assessment Panel. Noted demand for the grant scheme was high especially from community buildings, with a total of 65 applications received – equating to c£465k grant request. Following rigorous assessment, 34 of these applicants were successful, totalling £158,524 in grant funding being awarded. HC team thanked for their hard work and good humour in assessing the Grants scheme. See:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1314/climate-and-nature-grant-making-a-difference>

Agreement that this was a good exercise and we would look to do others. Consideration should be given to providing support for climate action (e.g. training) and that although few applications were received under the 'Transport' theme that it should still be included in any future grant funding rounds. Discussion then focused on potential funding support to help facilitate sub-groups and it was agreed that this be considered at the next Board meeting.

ACTION: Consider funding for facilitating subgroup meetings to be considered as agenda item at next Board meeting.

6 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 Net Zero and Nature-Rich by 2030, gave a presentation on progress to date with the 'Greener Footprints' Campaign which launched end of January 2022.

With reference to earlier agenda item on business – JBP outlined proposal for engaging with local business via '30 business for 2030' initiative whereby 30 local business sign-up to share their journey for getting to net zero as an inspiration to other local businesses and to generate interest in Greener Footprints campaign. Local business networks contacted to ask for their support in sharing initiative with their members. GW raised concern that Board members needed to be briefed, where possible, in advance of any GF initiatives so able support / provide explanatory information if required. Agreed to follow-up with GW after meeting.

ACTION: All Board member to help promote the 'Greener Footprint's campaign via their respective contacts, links and organisations – encouraging organisations/ individuals to pledge to take action to address climate change. See [Home - Herefordshire Zero Carbon and Nature Rich](#)

7 Board Priorities – Theme Sub-Groups – Progress Update

The Board has established 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 has a nominated lead to facilitate sub-group meetings outside of the main Board meetings and to report back to the Board for decisions and updates. Agreed that for this meeting written updates (where available) would be provided.

ACTION: for Board to review 'Future of Energy' sub group document

7 **AOB & Good News Items**

- HC has made available £1.33m for Climate Action – details on what the 'spend' would comprise to be shared at next meeting.
- Western Power Distribution has made improvements to the grid in Hereford - see [Western Power Distribution - Maps hub](#)
- Social meet up to be held Saturday 12th March courtesy of Cllr Chowns – details to be circulated

Action - Funding to be discussed at next meeting.

8 **Date/ times of next meetings**

- 19th April – 6.00 -8.00pm – Main Item Funding
- 24th May – 6.00 -8.00pm