

Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

Minutes of meeting held 6.00-8.00pm – 19th April 2022

Chair: Cllr Ellie Chowns (EC)

Attendees: Emily Partridge (EP), James Marsden (JM), Ian Howie (IH), Gordon Coppock (GC), Gareth Williams (GW), Jackie Jones (JJ), Richard Wells (RW)

Guests - Chris Lawrence JBP Associates Ltd

Herefordshire Council Support: Ben Boswell (BB), Richard Vaughan (RV), Liz Duberley (LD), Alison Parry (AP)

Apologies: Anna Darwood (AD), Andrew Nixon (AN), Ross Whelan (RW), Julia Cotton (JC), Charlotte Gregory (CG), Stuart Brisbane (SB), & Claire Kingston (CK),

1 Welcome

EC welcomed the Board. Noted that letter of resignation received from Rachel Coxcoon (RC) who was thanked for her service to the Board. Also Phil Crossland has now left Herefordshire Council (HC) and the Board noted their thanks for his support. Welcome to Liz Duberley HC Manager - Built & Natural Environment.

ACTION: New Board member to be recruited from original applicants.

Declaration of Interests (DoI) - It was agreed that each Board member would complete a DoI form based on one used by HC to then be published on the [Zero-carbon website](#) (ZC) and that DoI would remain a standing item for each meeting. No declarations of interest for this meeting were raised.

ACTION: DoI form to be circulated to Board, to be completed by each member and then published on ZC website. DoI to be a standing item.

C&N Board Purpose & Role Refresh - EC reiterated the aim of the Partnership Board is to lead the local response to the climate and ecological emergency through this diverse and representative group. The wider Partnership was considered those that had signed the Greener Footprints pledge. The intention is for a C&N Annual Partnership 'Assembly' – c. November 2022 to mark one year of Board operation. It was recognised that the Board was still in its infancy and there was still much to learn and refine to ensure it fulfilled its potential. It was agreed, that it would be helpful for HC to provide a one-pager for each Board meeting outlining key activities taking place in the Council so the Sub-Groups were kept up to date. It was also agreed that HC would provide named HC contacts for each Sub-Group to provide further information/ HC updates if required.

ACTION - HC to provide a regular one-page update on work areas pertinent to the Board.

ACTION – HC to provide contact details of officers with expertise relevant to each Sub-Group.

2 Minutes of the last meeting held 1st March 2022 - Agreed

- **Matters Arising/ Actions** – Board Action Log

- Noted that three members of the Board were still having difficulty using Teams site (GW, JJ and EC).
- 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 **Funding Opportunities**

- **Climate Assembly Recommendations and use of the Climate Reserve – Ben Boswell**

BB outlined how Herefordshire Council had assigned 1.33m from new homes bonus to a climate reserve to fund some of the recommendations emanating from the Climate Assembly - see link: [Appendix A – Recommendations from Citizen Climate Assembly.pdf \(herefordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/Appendix%20A%20-%20Recommendations%20from%20Citizen%20Climate%20Assembly.pdf). A HC Cabinet report, to be published Thursday 21st April, outlines the proposed projects/ spend of the climate reserve to address the citizen assembly recommendations, as well as those listed in the six Climate Action Plans. Funding aligned to Four themes of land-use, Transport, Buildings and cross-cutting actions are out. Further detail to be shared at next Board meeting and ways in which Sub-Groups can help shape implementation.

ACTION: BB to share report when it is published on Thursday 21st April.

- **Resourcing the Sub-Groups**

Discussion focussed on the need for HC to make available a small amount of funding to help facilitate the Sub-Groups. It was agreed that Sub-Groups could use HC venues for meetings FOC and that HC would pay for hire only if non HC venues available.

ACTION: Requests/ authorisation for funding to help facilitate Sub-Group activity be made via JW.

- **Other recommendations from Sub-Groups for Initiatives requiring funding**

Agreed that wider funding opportunities be a Standing Item on the Agenda to allow sharing of potential opportunities.

ACTION: a short paper on the government's 'Shared Prosperity Fund' and 'Levelling-Up' fund be shared at the next meeting.

4 **Board Priorities – SPOTLIGHTS - Energy and Land-use & Farming Sub-Groups - Progress Update**

- **Energy** - GC presented the Energy Sub-group update;
 1. Anaerobic Digestion as an energy source and some of the issues relating to their use. Controls needed to apply to existing as well as new ADs. Noted that Minerals and Waste planning legislation cover ADs.

2. Need for 'Energy Mapping' to focus on grid constraints to help inform investment decision-making – similar to that which has been undertaken on Shropshire. Enabling data to be shown on GIS system would be most helpful in developing pipeline of projects which could be developed immediately and those where grid improvements would allow larger scale energy generation. GC to work with BB/ RV to consider how best to outline a proposal to secure third party funding to progress this.
3. A request for all Sub-Groups to consider how efforts to reduce carbon within their respective sub-group theme translate into reduced energy demand and for Energy Sub-Group to then consider how this reduced demand could be locally generated (taking into account grid constraints).

Following discussion, there was a general request from the Board for the council to secure improvements to its GIS mapping.

ACTION: GC to share notes/ links on Energy Sub-Group Update.

ACTION: LD to follow up with GIS team regards 'environment' data-sets such as phosphate mapping and the need to ensure interoperability with national GIS systems e.g. MAGIC.

ACTION: RV and BB to follow up with GC re 'Energy Mapping' proposal

ACTION: All Sub-Groups to consider how reducing carbon within their respective theme translates to reduced energy demand.

- **Land-Use and Farming**

Sub-Group shared experiences of an excellent thought provoking farm visit at the Duchy estate (Lower Blakemere). Another is planned at Trecorras Farm, where they use 'non-ploughing' methods. These farms showed that significant reduction in phosphates/ carbon can be achieved by using different farming methods. These visits have resulted in the Sub-Group developing a proposal for funding a project to help Farmers understand their carbon footprint and actions that can be taken (proposal previously circulated with Board agenda). The aim to develop a network of demo farms across county. Although proposal is for initially for 10 farms, the board considered that should it be successful that it could be expanded to cover a larger number of farms eg. 30 farms for 2030 – to cover a cross-section of different farms (by use type, size, location, tenure). Board endorsed the proposal and asked that HC give consideration to providing the seed funding as this was considered a potential 'game-changer' in engaging farmers to address the significant GHG agricultural emissions in the County.

ACTION: Consideration be given by HC to funding the 'farms carbon assessments' as outlined by proposal by Land-Use Group with progress update at next Board meeting.

5 **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.

- **30 for 2030 Business Initiative - Update**

JBP updated progress in engaging with local business via the GF '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. To date some 10 business have already signed up with another 15 in the pipeline. Local business networks have been contacted to ask for their support in sharing initiative with their members and there has already been local press coverage about the initiative. Board members were asked to promote the initiative to suitable local businesses.

- **Communications Campaign – Highlights**

Noted that Ross Whelan will be doing 'Greener Footprint's (GF) Podcasts' and Board members were asked if they would be willing to be interviewed. Another general GF campaign currently being developed is around the themes of 'saving money/ saving the environment' as a way of getting action to reduce energy in light of the recent fuel price increases.

ACTION: All Board members to help promote the GF campaign via their respective contacts, links and organisations – encouraging organisations/ individuals to pledge to take action to address climate change, sign-up for the 30 for 2030 campaign, and consider putting themselves forward for a Podcast. See [Home - Herefordshire Zero Carbon and Nature Rich](#)

ACTION – Circulate JBP presentation

6 **AOB & Good News Items**

- BB outlined launch of a pilot HC 'Reusable Nappies Voucher Scheme' which has been heavily over-subscribed. – see: [Reusable nappies – Herefordshire Council](#);
- REDRESS – Retrofit scheme - JJ highlighted a new 'planning tool' being offered by Severn Wye as part of the scheme which allows home-owners to consider what 'retrofit actions' they could undertake to their home;
- RV outlined that HC has recently signed contract for EV charging points to be installed throughout the County – further details can be provided at future meetings;
- JM delighted to report that he has 37 spikes of rare adders tongue in his meadow as result of changed management practice;
- BB noted that £120k had been allocated towards a school decarbonisation programme – further details to be provided; and
- GC noted that a successful scheme to make energy efficiency improvements to a major employer (Kerry Foods) will help protect local jobs.

7 **Date/ times of next meetings**

- 24th May – 6.00-8.00pm - Herefordshire Local Plan
- 5th July – 6.00 – 8.00pm - Hereford Master Plan