

Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

Minutes of meeting held 6.00-8.00pm – 5th July 2022

Chair: Cllr Ellie Chowns (EC)

Attendees: Jackie Jones (JJ), Gordon Coppock (GC), Gareth Williams (GW), Julia Cotton (JC) Ian Howie (IH), Emily Partridge (EP) Claire Kingston (CK), Andrew Nixon (AN), Stuart Brisbane (SB), Elly Deacon Smith (EDS), David Ubaka (DU) (Herefordshire Council).

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

Apologies: Anna Darwood (AD), James Marsden (JM) Richard Wells (RW), Charlotte Gregory (CG), Ross Whelan has resigned.

Action – Recruit a replacement

1. Welcome

EC welcomed the Board and welcomed EDS as a new member to the board and replacement for Rachel Coxcoon. The Board formally thanks Ross and Rachel's contribution to this point.

The recruitment subgroup will meet 06.07.2022 to recruit Ross' replacement.

Ian Howie made a statement about his position confirming that he will not step down from the board as previously indicated but will no longer chair the Landuse and Farming subgroup. Please see attached statement.

Possibly broaden the scope of Farm Herefordshire. At the moment it is about delivering the agricultural section of the Nutrient Management plan. Farm Herefordshire are making progress not only on the phosphate problem, but also on carbon. Progress has been made with connecting with Holme Lacy College and it is hoped to be able to carry this forward with Martin Williams.

A warm vote of thanks for Ian's work as subgroup lead.

Action – EC to meet with remaining members of the Farming subgroup after this meeting to discuss going forward.

Declarations of Interests

Action – Outstanding Dols to get back to Sustainability and Climate Change team within a week.

Actions – JC to add EP to What's App Group

HC Activity - One-Pager Update – One page update needs to include work of the team and upcoming work from the team as well. Strictly keep to one page and don't repeat previous.

Include Shared Prosperity fund and Marches Energy Fund.

A 2m bid is being put forward for a cross Marches project called Clean Growth which will continue and expand on the work of BEEP and MarRE to the Marches Energy Fund. *The bid will be in partnership with Shropshire, Telford and is led by Worcester. Although Worcester is the lead body*

money will be spent in this area. Deadline for bid is 8th July 2022. Larger companies which would benefit from a carbon audit to be approached in the future.

3 business cases are being put forward to the Climate Reserve.

- 30 farm audits and support per the proposal put forward by the subgroup
- 30 business audits and support for the 30 for 2030 businesses
- GIS mapping survey for renewable capacity for Herefordshire, including rooftop potential incorporating up to date data from Western Power Distribution on grid capacity to enable the installation of renewables.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th May 2022

- **Matters Arising** - board members chased for outstanding declarations of interest
- **Minutes to be agreed** – approved

3. Hereford City Masterplan

Presentation by Herefordshire Council – David Ubaka (see attached slide deck)

Q&A

- What about the county outside of the city?
It does go beyond the boundary of the city.
Meetings with farmers local to the city to discuss how to create longer greenways adjacent to major routes using the “other side” of the hedgerow on land that is difficult to farm.
Covid recovery grant is being spent on feasibility studies for ‘greenways’. Two of the feasibility studies have been completed. Benefit cost for one was 5 and the other 5.6 which is very good. Other feasibility studies are taking place and these should help make a case for investing in these in the future.
- Note compact city that can be traversed by walk and cycling in 20 mins but there is a disconnect from N to S of river, how can this be rectified?
N to S and E to W are challenging and will be included in study work. Key to this is realignment/reassignment of highway space to walking and cycling infrastructure. The various crossings will be assessed and suggestions made as to how they should be used in the future.
- Offer from JJ to DU to present to HGN as stakeholders
- Themed workshops to be held at Shellstore, more information to follow.
Action – SB to speak to DU about duty of care to students in NMITE when travelling on foot or bike to/from the city to the campus
Action - LD to catch up with DU about blue and green infrastructure strategies.
Action – RV to speak to Becs about themed workshops and notify HCNP board as well as details of commonplace site
Action – AN and JJ to contact DU re Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Herefordshire Green Network.

4. Dedicated Board Communications Resource – Update by JBP Associates

Slide show was shared and presented.

- Hereford Times - regular piece secured in the paper’s One Planet supplement. First issue went out on 30th June.

- Farming carbon workout guide completed and will be promoted via various medial channels including July edition of One Planet.
- Collaboration with Courtyard gathering momentum – Courtyard displays/moss wall.
- Stand in Hereford High Town Market on Saturday 6th August.

30 for 2030 campaign

- 9 participant case studies interviewed/produced
- Architype and Kingspan signing up making 16 in total to date
- Case studies being placed in the media across the County. Dedicated area on website where these studies can be accessed and also available through social media.
- Energy Webinar taking place on 14th July.

Greener Footprints Social Media

- Paid for short video campaigns
- Electronics and fashion had much more engagement than savings at home inc. insulation. Further testing to be done on engagement and topics including food.

Pledge for Planet

- September campaign urging people to take the pledge they can do this in person at numerous locations inc. Courtyard and Halo leisure centre. Still developing and looking to source prizes.

Q&A

Q - What is the process for taking ideas forward?

A - Need to look at benefits to individuals to gain their attention such as fashion and electronics above, understand lifestyle.

Action – JBP to consult Comms subgroup before publishing.

5. Board Priorities – Sub-Groups Update

- **Housing and Buildings Sub-Group**, EP presented – (Presentation attached)
Board members asked to contact JJ if they can recommend any building firms/ heat pump installers for retrofit training. Holme Lacy College possible retrofit training site.

Q&A

Q - Are planning officers considering environment

A - It is policy led and SPD is coming in to strengthen policy and update of core strategy for new policy.

- **Food** – RW had the Nutrition Steering Group meeting at the hospital - very positive; all members absolutely committed to the patient aspects but also the commitment required in support of the climate emergency declaration - just waiting for minutes to be circulated.
- RW meeting with an Exec Sponsor to talk it through.
- The Government's Food Strategy was discussed at the meeting and how it will impact the work - particularly paragraph 2.4, public sector food and catering policy - "Within the consultation we will propose that the public sector reports on progress towards an aspiration that 50% of its food expenditure is on food produced locally or to higher environmental production standards..."

- One of the key actions from the meeting was to do a PR campaign prior to launching a patient/staff survey - an opportunity for capturing current opinions on food and the environment.
- RW and CK will meet again to discuss next steps. They will also be meeting with Chris from JBP to discuss how this story can be shared more widely.
Action – JBP to speak to Great Collaboration regarding action and pledges.
- **Energy** – working on business case for countywide energy mapping. Western Power have confirmed they are willing to share their data on grid capacity issues.
- **Land-Use and Farming** – liaison with farm Herefordshire to be picked up off line.
- **Transport** – School Bike Scheme – hoping to roll this out further. AD to contact several City schools to find out if they would be suitable partners.
Action – RV to discuss with GW 'procure external professionals to provide training for local installers'
Action - RV to discuss with GP community solar on corporate buildings
Action – subgroup leaders to invite EDS to join their subgroups

6. Process agreed to update action plans

Clarification that theme sub-groups own relevant action plans and can add new actions. Agreed that sub-groups can update them but new ones are brought to the board and to trial this for the August update.

Action - SCC to invite updates from subgroups and share relevant doc with them.

Action - HC to update HC owned actions.

7. HC Climate Assembly Next Steps – Ben Boswell presented

AN noted support for nature recovery projects.

Action – BB to send GC link to report and presentation.

8. AOB & Good News Items and Funding Opportunities

JJ - Comms not engaging enough with the committed and engaged supporters. HCNP seems relatively unknown and action unknown. Offer support of HGN to update on work of board.

Action EC to speak at next HGN meeting

Action - all – any audiences we're not reaching, please flag

AN - Successful in bid to Severn Tree Scapes with WCC, full time farm adviser for next 2.5 years for woodland creation and tree planting across most of the eastern third of Herefordshire and into neighbouring counties which will create biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Action - Presentations to be circulated one week before meeting.

SB – Department for Education and Skills (DFES) have launched a Gen Zero Campaign - following Government statement that all schools should be zero carbon the DFES have produced a mock-up of a classroom and school extension. This will be come to Herefordshire to show how this can be done. DEFS will host it for the first 6 months and will let people know it is happening. The mock-

up will then be kept here and we will be working with them to roll it out. This will also be applicable to all public buildings.

9. Date/ Time of future Board Meetings & Agenda Items

- **16th August – 6.00 – 8.00pm**
- **27th September – 6.00 – 8.00 pm** meeting in person and dinner afterwards at own expense.