

Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

Minutes of meeting held 6.00-8.00pm – 24th May 2022

Chair: Cllr Ellie Chowns (EC)

Attendees: Jackie Jones (JJ), Gordon Coppock (GC), Gareth Williams (GW), Julia Cotton (JC), Richard Wells (RW), Ian Howie (IH), Emily Partridge (EP), Claire Kingston (CK), Charlotte Gregory (CG), James Marsden (JM), Andrew Nixon (AN), Strategic Planning Team - Victoria Eaton (VE) and Siobhan Riddle (SR)

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

Apologies: Anna Darwood, Stuart Brisbane, Ross Whelan Rachel Coxcoon has resigned.

Action – Recruit a replacement

1. EC welcomed the Board.

New Board member to be recruited following resignation of Rachel Coxcoon.

Declarations of Interests

Any possible conflicts of interest to be declared at the start of future meetings.

Action - Declarations of interest form to be circulated and published once all are collated.

HC Activity - One-Pager Update – RV welcomed any feedback from the Board and will answer any queries raised. It was suggested that Board members subscribe to <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news> which will give updates relevant to the Board. News is also available on the councils Facebook and Twitter pages.

Action – RV to add horizon scanning to one page update.

Hereford Travel Survey was extended until 31st May and information from it will be fed into the Hereford City Master plan

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 19th April 2022

- **Matters Arising/ Actions** – Board Action Log
- Funding for the Farm Carbon Toolkit – is under review as a part of climate reserve funding.
- Reminder for all board members to sign up to <https://zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk/>
- Cllr Chowns has visited Ledbury and Kington to discuss Greener Footprints with shop owners and handout information. Mixed responses were received, but some positive feedback. If

anyone is interested in doing something similar please contact Cllr Chowns to arrange dates/time slots.

- **Minutes to be agreed –**
 - **Action** - agreed subject to two minor amendments to be made before publication –
 - **Land Use & Farming** – Visit to Trecorras Farm has not yet taken place.
 - **Communication Campaign** -it should read ‘energy’ not energy/carbon .

3. Herefordshire Local Plan – Policy Inputs

Presentation by Herefordshire Council - Strategic Planning Team Victoria Eaton and Siobhan Riddle.

It was felt that there is a need for robust natural environment evidence base to be available for the Local Plan. The Land Use Consultants <https://landuse.co.uk/> - will formulate evidence to put forward. Landscape Character, Open Space and Ecology data (to a strategic level) also need to be updated. Green & Blue Infrastructure will tie all the evidence together and ensure consistency, help understand what the priorities are and underpin the policies and how they are written. This evidence base work is anticipated to be completed in Autumn 2022.

If the plan is going to propose a level of biodiversity net gain (BNG) above the national requirement robust evidence will be required to help justify the policy. The Consultants will help guide with that.

The Built and Natural Environment Team are working closely with the Forward Plans Team and although some of the data is out of date there is still a lot of good work contained in that data which will be forwarded to LUC to help develop the policy. Could consider different percentages of biodiversity net gain which would have to be balanced against other priorities of the Planning process e.g. affordable housing.

The Nature Strategy is being finalised.

Concerns regarding the gravity and the scale of the challenge around policy integration and particularly integration across nature, climate and water and adaptation. There is a need for strategic thinking around a land use strategy that would join up with opportunity mapping around climate adaptation and mitigation, nature recovery and flood risk mitigation. They are all connected and can be explained spatially. It could be a problem if the maps showing where development can go cut across the opportunity mapping for those other areas.

10% is pretty meaningless – go back to the Lawton Review 12 years go and then forward to Sept., 2020 when the Prime Minister committed the UK to the 35/30 Global challenge. What that says is 30% protected (and managed for nature) by 2030. The UK’s commitment needs to find spatial expression at County level. 10% BNG within the development footprint maybe unambitious when the UK Government commitment is 30%.

Nutrients – Need to talk to Ofwat in order to join up to Welsh Water’s Asset Management Planning process (AMP) in 2025/30 and to the 2 5-year AMP processes after that. Ofwat will be tasked by the Government to look more favourably on nature based solutions on a catchment scale rather than end of pipe investment.

It is important that 'Dark Skies' are preserved and increased, there is an opportunity to consider a Dark Skies policy in the plan.

GC offered support for dark skies work.

Board noted there was no mention of building design and energy in the presentation. These elements will be incorporated into planning policies which will be formulated at a later stage.

To support the Local Plan development input from the Board was invited.

Action – presentation to be shared

Action - LD to add to spec for LUC.

Action - LD & SR to meet with JM to discuss further.

Action - SR and LD to propose how the Board can feed in to the process.

4. **HC Climate Assembly Next Steps – Ben Boswell**

Recommendations have been taken from the Climate Assembly, regional best practice such as the Ashden actions for Local Authorities. Sustainability West Midlands who recently ran a review of action being carried out by local authorities found Herefordshire to be the best performing authority in the Midlands also provided advice on further action that could be carried out. The county wide action plans and services from across the Council also informed the action plan which was signed off by Cabinet.

Proposed actions used the same themes as the Climate Assembly:

- Building,
- Transport,
- Land use and;
- Cross Cutting

Business cases are now being worked up to progress the priority actions.

The summary of action plans is available in the presentation.

Funding of £1.3 million has been added to the Climate Reserve to fund the delivery of the action plan. As the business cases are worked up for the priority projects the budget will be under continuous review and allocated to the next tier of projects in the action plan.

Action – JW to upload slide deck to Teams space which includes the action plan discussed.

Action – RV and BB to loop in chairs of sub groups into scoping exercise

5. **Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund – Update by Cllr Chowns.**

Levelling Up Fund – The council must apply by 6th July and there are three projects that Herefordshire can put forward – one for the South, one for the North and one is a Transport bid which will be over-arching. The respective MPs for North and South bids will be consulted. Consultations have been taking place to gather information on priorities. The Southern proposal is likely to focus on the Ross Enterprise Park. The Northern proposal is trickier as work will be based on the Market Town Investment Plans which were signed off by Cabinet in March this year.

Priority must be given to projects which fit the Government's requirements and are able to start delivering this financial year and can be completed within the next two and a half years. Zero carbon will be embedded in all proposals.

Input from the Board on priorities was welcomed.

The Transport proposal is currently in development, but will include Sustainable Transport investments following the Transport Review which was done more than a year ago, development of the Transport Hub at the station, cycle paths and cycle links from market towns to the city.

There is not as much funding available from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) as previously available from European Funding. £6.6 million will be available from SPF and £0.3 million from Multiply which is for numeracy. Other programmes and any new proposals will be vying for part of this funding.

A county wide Partnership Board will need to be set up that will have input in the proposed plans. Invitations to join the Board are being sent out this week. One member of the HCNP Board will be invited to join and this will link the two Boards.

The BEEP and MarRE renewables and retrofit projects which were supported under ERDF will look to the Shared Prosperity Fund. Cllr Chowns will support proposals for business energy support, carbon footprint reduction and nature gain.

6. **Board Priorities** – Sub-Groups Update

- **Food** – Spotlight (included in slide deck)

There has been a review of the Food Action Plan and decision has been made to focus on hospitals, the improvement of food and making it sustainable. Expand to Care Homes etc., in the future. This will give strong PR opportunities from a Comms perspective.

Universal dissatisfaction with food provision from both staff and patients impacting length of stay for patients. The hospital has set up a Nutrition Steering Group which will next meet on 14th June when Sustainable Food will be on the Agenda.

Proposed localisation of food provision. Working with Sodexo who are currently the provider for the hospital. Sodexo have set targets to reduce food waste and energy to be 100% renewable in the future.

Regular meetings with Hereford Food Alliance who want to impact on staff food at the hospital and they have also provided some useful case studies. Forging good relationship with the hospital Foundation Group Board.

A One Public Estate Sustainability Group and a One Public Estate Carbon Management Groups are being set up to bring together all public sector partnerships and it is hoped they will be able to support the Food Action Plan.

It was noted that local food is not necessarily lower carbon, there is a need to reduce meat and dairy consumption both for human health and for the health of the planet. This statement was contested.

To be carbon neutral by 2030 it was stated there is a need to reduce meat and dairy consumption by 35%. It was suggested that the hospital should ask Sodexo to measure carbon footprint of the meals they produce.

Unfortunately time ran out for updates from other Sub Groups.

- Housing & Buildings
- Energy
- Land-Use and Farming
- Transport

7. **Dedicated Board Communications Resource** – Update by JBP Associates

30 for 2030 Business Initiative – Update

Slide show was shared and presented.

Media profile - utilising every media outlet possible. Courtyard are putting Greener Footprints information in the foyer, showing it before films and it will also feature in booklets they send out. Developing a climate friendly competition in June/July and will be working with partners to encourage people to sign up. Prizes should have a sustainable feature e.g. free home insulation. Would welcome ideas for prizes.

Some paid for social media will be put behind this. Have received some useful case studies from companies already signed up.

Action - JBP to contact Kingspan and two further companies recommended by JJ - Edward Bulmer Paints and Two Farmers Crisps

Prizes could include: a retrofit survey rather than insulation

Board Member updates on Greener Footprints campaign engagement/ Actions

8. **Climate & Nature Grants – Review Paper attached**

To be added to Matters Arising at next meeting.

Action – all to review and feedback

9. **AOB & Good News Items and Funding Opportunities**

Recruiting a new board member

Action - RV to set up a subgroup with James, Andrew, Gareth & Cllr Chowns and first meeting.

Action - JW to see if members of the Climate Assembly can be approached to join.

Action - Food subgroup to discuss game meat.

10. **Date/ Time of future Board Meetings & Agenda Items**

- 5th July - 6.00 - 8.00pm – Hereford City Master Plan
- 16th August – 6.00 – 8.00pm