



Notes of a meeting of the Climate Emergency Advisory Group (CEAG) held on Zoom, on Monday 06 September 2021 at 7.00pm

Advisory Group Members Present:

Cllr Liz Alstrom	Nick Hodges
Cllr Declan Baseley	Kerry Linde
Cllr James Bradbury (Vice Chairman)	Alex Lockton
Cllr Clare Cape	Karen Simpson
Cllr Nick Murry	
Cllr John Scragg (Chairman)	

Officers Present:

Mark Smith, Chief Executive
Matt Kirby, Director of Community Services
Heather Rae, Head of Democratic Services
Michael Weeks, Democratic and Civic Officer
Jess Mantell, Democratic Services Officer

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies of absence from Councillor Clare Cape due to illness.

22. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i) A table has been booked for the Christmas community event taking place in the Neeld in December. Thank you to those of you who have already stated their intention to assist with the planning and manning of the promotional stall for group. Please note that at the next meeting there will be a specific agenda item and the opportunity to discuss what members would like to see on the stall.
- ii) Officers were contacted by the Warwickshire and West Midlands Local Council Association (WALC) inviting them to take part in their climate themed annual convention. WALC spotted the groups history and current work via the Town Council website. This invitation included the opportunity to run two 1 hour interactive sessions, talking to other officers and councillors regarding the Town Councils journey since declaring a climate emergency and some of the work we have since undertaken, highlighting our work within the CSE carbon reduction matrix, carbon footprinting and the climate conversations. Matt Kirby and Alex

Lockton will be representing the Council at the event, with the segment 'We've declared a climate emergency, what do we do next'.

- iii) Jess Mantell, the new Democratic Services Officer was introduced to the group members

24. NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 26 July 2021 were approved as a correct record and all agreed will be signed at a later date.

25. CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS WEBINARS

Matt Kirby reminded the group of the forthcoming dates for the next 3 climate conversations in the series, and those responsible for their delivery.

- a) 15 September - Solar PV (Alex Lockton)
- b) 29 September - Water Conversation in the home (Karen Simpson)
- c) 13 October - Transport for homeowners and getting to work (Nick Murry & Nick Hodges)

Those organising their respective conversation were asked to ensure they had all relevant content ready a week before their allotted date, and to inform officers of any planned guest's speakers.

Kerry Linde confirmed that she would be able to help facilitate the chat on the night as per the previous conversations in the series.

All group members were reminded by Michael Weeks to ensure they circulate the dates, timings and topics around their networks.

26. CARBON REDUCTION MATRIX

Alex Lockton informed the group that the application for the arts council MEND grant was unsuccessful, but this wouldn't stop the proposals for the museum from going forward.

Matt Kirby confirmed that he was seeking Councils approval to continue with the next package of work proposed by Alex Lockton. These would include working on energy monitoring, the procurement policy and procuring carbon reduction mitigation works for the Councils estate. Any financial investment would require approval from the Council.

27. ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY UPDATE

Matt Kirby confirmed that officers are currently working through a feasibility report on a number of points raised by the recent Councillor motion concerning the Ecological Emergency, which will be present to Full Council on the 22nd of September. It was noted that the proposal included the recommendation to merge the Ecological Emergency objectives into the work of CEAG. As part of the report being presented to Full Council extra resource will be requested to ensure that the objective of both the climate and ecological emergencies can be achieved.

28. CONVENANT OF MAYORS RESOLUTION

Councillor James Bradbury introduced the Covenant of Mayors to the group. The action to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors formed part of the original Councillor motion when the Climate Emergency was declared in March 2019 but was deferred to the CEAG group for later discussion.

Alex Lockton commented that the group was in a better place now to commit to signing the Covenant compared to when the motion originally was declared.

The group agreed to recommend to the S&R committee that the Town Council should agree to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors.

29. **VACANCIES**

Michael Weeks confirmed that until the Ecological Emergency report was considered at Full Council, the two public vacancies would remain unadvertised. This is to ensure we can recruit the necessary knowledge base if the group becomes the Climate & Ecological Emergency Advisory Group.

30. **CAPITAL BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

Matt Kirby presented a report to the group regarding Capital Budget Considerations for 22/23 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) as requested by the Finance Sub Committee.

Karen Simpson asked if there was a way of showing how much Carbon Reduction there was through Town Council spend as part of budget proposals.

Councillor Nick Murry suggested several proposals including investment in Eco vehicles, a transportation budget split between CEAG and the Neighbourhood Plan and a Climate Emergency Fund for the Community and a loan system for local businesses that could be accessed to assist with carbon reduction / eco friendly projects. Councillor Murry suggested that a budget of £100K per year be allocated to this fund. To provide further background Councillor Murry agreed to email his requests over to Matt Kirby so they could be reviewed further.

The group agreed that all the proposals within the CEAG report - were 'Must Have' items.

Several group members spoke about the possibility of match funding whether its for projects in partnership with Wiltshire Council or a pot that community groups could engage with to provide them with match funding which has the ability to increase access to other funding streams.

Nick Hodges asked to see a narrative behind the monetary figures which could tell the community the story to help bring the people along with the Town Council.

Alex Lockton confirmed that with the budget proposed it should help reduce Carbon by 66% with the Town Council.

31. **DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The group members agreed that following the recruitment process post Full Council, the next available meeting should be in person due to the number new Councillors and public members, although this noted may not be possible until the meeting in November.

The next meeting of the Climate Emergency Advisory Group will be on 18 October 2021 at 7pm on the Zoom virtual platform.

The meeting finished at 7.35pm

These notes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Town Council as a true record of the meeting.

Signature

Date

DRAFT