



Notes of a meeting of the Climate Emergency Advisory Group (CEAG) held on Zoom, on Monday 07 December 2020 at 6pm

Advisory Group Members Present:

Cllr Clare Cape	Nick Hodges
Cllr Teresa Hutton (Chairman)	Kerry Linde
Cllr Nick Murry	Gill Johnson
Cllr Sandie Webb	Alex Lockton (Vice Chairman)
	Karen Simpson
	Kiran Sakhyani

Officers Present:

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

21. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ruth Lloyd and Chris Ruck

22. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Alex Lockton declared that he is now engaged as a consultant by Chippenham Town Council regarding Carbon efficiencies on its buildings, the associated estate and procurement.

23. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

i) The new Director of Community Services for Chippenham Town Council, Matt Kirby was welcomed to the meeting.

ii) Alex Lockton has recently been engaged as a consultant by the Town Council. Alex's remit would be to help make Carbon efficiencies on its buildings, the associated estate and procurement.

iii) After a successful recruitment drive by the Town Council, two new public members of the group were welcomed to the meeting. Kerry Linde and Nick Hodges were thanked by the Chairman for committing to assisting and advising the Town Council.

24. NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 05 October 2020 were approved as a correct record and all agreed will be signed at a later date.

25. FUTURE CHIPPENHAM ACTION PLAN

Alex Lockton for the benefit of the new members of the group gave a brief history of work that had already taken place as the Town Council looks to come up with its own Carbon Reduction Action Plan / Strategy using the Friends of the Earth 50 point action plan as a basis for this.

Following this Alex Lockton presented to the group feedback from a meeting he had with officers of the Town Council on zoom, where the Friends of the Earth 50 Action Plan had been gone through point by point by the officers concerned to identify what the Town Council was either already doing, could do or was identified as the responsibility of others.

Out of the 50 points it was noted that while there may need to be some slight rewording there was 16 points that the Town Council could do in the short, medium to long term. 19 points that it was felt the Town Council were already working on either through officers / policy or through its Neighbourhood Plan strategy. The remaining points it was noted were the responsibility of others such as Wiltshire Council or National Government but wouldn't stop the Town Council from highlighting or lobbying on.

Alex Lockton thanked officers for their commitment because it was identified that on some points, the officers of the Town Council are very keen to engage and gain more knowledge to implement change within the Council or where appropriate promote locally to residents.

Alex Lockton finished off his presentation by highlighting that the work by officers, gives the group a starter on a final carbon reduction plan. It was acknowledged that although the group had no ability to set policy any recommendations within the plan could help guide policy making at the Town Council.

Group members discussed the need to have an education element and narrative to any final plan / promotion of the need for Carbon Reduction. Targets without narrative behind them maybe meaningless to members of the public. To engage the community an identified narrative would make Carbon Reduction a less niche subject. Regarding schools & education it was highlighted the Town Council doesn't set policy but could actively link with schools.

The group agreed that it was important the Carbon Reduction Action Plan was moving forward, and it would be important to take something back to Council, identifying any quick wins and also where additional support may be needed.

26. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL TASKFORCE REPORT AND UPDATE

Councillor Nick Murry gave a brief overview of what Wiltshire Council has so far undertaken to meet its target of net Zero Carbon by 2030. This has included amongst other things committing to invest £5.2m in making its buildings more energy efficient, committed to invest £3.5m in sustainable energy projects and funding a climate change team in the 2020/21 budget.

The team of four headed up by an newly appointed Head of Carbon Reduction is currently preparing a Carbon Reduction Strategy, which is due for review in January / February 2021 so that it can be implemented in time for the new administration post the May elections.

The Wiltshire Council Climate Emergency Task Group was established in June 2019 and meetings started in October 2019. The Remit of the group was to investigate and provide recommendations to Wiltshire Council on the following areas renewable energy generation, planning, transport & air quality, waste, land use and business & industry. The task force would also make recommendations on decarbonising Wiltshire Council and decarbonising the county.

27. ZERO CHIPPENHAM UPDATE

Karen Simpson presented to the group about the work of Zero Chippenham. It was highlighted that the group as been set up to provide practical solutions to the Climate Emergency, focusing on clean energy, clean transport and reforestation within the local community.

The group is made up of several working groups which have undertaken projects locally.

Community Energy

A community solar panel discount scheme was started in Chippenham in October 2019, to enable local residents to purchase solar panels. This project has since been extended to Calne and Royal Wooten Bassett.

A grant of £3500 was awarded to a local secondary school to develop a 194 kw system.

A partnership with a local developer for a community share in a solar farm that will generate enough renewable electricity to supply 13800 typical homes and save 20200 tonnes of CO₂e per year.

Electric Vehicles

Post Covid an electric vehicle event will take place at Castle Combe. This will hopefully engage local residents in the types of electric vehicle you can purchase and improve confidence in them.

Currently undertaking a survey to determine potential demand for electric vehicle charging facilities and from this possible investment in community charging points.

Air Quality

A mobile air pollution monitor had been purchased which can be attached to backpacks. These will be used in a potential school engagement project.

In liaison with Wiltshire Council there is the planned purchase of diffusion tubes which could be used to monitor local pollution, but strict, robust protocols are needed to be followed to ensure the data can then be used.

Trees

In agreement with landowners, scheduled tree planting will take place on unproductive land in December 2020.

In December 2019, 60 free trees were given away at the buttercross as a method to engage with local residents.

Community Engagement

Zero Chippenham want to understand peoples challenges regarding the climate emergency, and then support people to take steps to reduce their carbon usage and protect the environment. This had been done through some of the projects already mentioned but in addition Zero Chippenham pre Covid had attended school fetes and held the highly successful Chippenham Area Board Climate Emergency Workshop.

28. FUTURE AGENDA PLANNING

A review /update on progress of the Carbon reduction action plan, and potential timings when the action plan could be expected to be taken in the first instance to the Strategy and Resources committee.

29. DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The group discussed the proposal to hold the meeting every 6 weeks, and it was agreed that due to the forthcoming Christmas break it would be prudent to hold the next meeting in 6 weeks time, but then revert to meeting every 4 weeks. The group also agreed that meeting times would be trialled with a 7pm start time.

The Chief Executive did highlight that expectations would need to be managed. Officers may not be able to undertake all expected work within the 4 week period.

The meeting finished at 7.31pm

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