

HARROGATE DISTRICT CLIMATE CHANGE COALITION

DRAFT MEETING NOTES Tuesday 26th May 2020, 5.00pm Online meeting

These notes have not been formally approved

Attendance:

Simon Brown	Highways England
Andy Gouldson	Leeds University
Ellis Hall	CNG
Paul Haslam	North Yorkshire County Councillor
Phil Ireland (Chair)	Harrogate Borough Councillor
Pat Marsh	Harrogate Borough Councillor
Victoria Oldham	Harrogate Borough Councillor
Andrew Paraskos	Harrogate Borough Councillor
Jemima Parker	Zero Carbon Harrogate
Antony Prince	Extreme Creations
Arnold Warneken	Goosemoor Organics
John Ward-Campbell	Harrogate Borough Council staff
Karen Weaver	Harrogate & Ripon Centres for Voluntary Service
Christine Willoughby	Harrogate Borough Councillor
Astrid Wynne	Techbuyer

1. Apologies:

Steve Russell (Harrogate District Hospital)
Wallace Sampson (HBC/Public Services Leadership Board)

2. Meeting notes from 18th February 2020

Noted addition of new members since last meeting

Previous meeting notes approved:

(Phil Ireland proposed
Andrew Paraskos seconded)

3. Covid-19 recovery

PI outlined some key points:

- Council strategy is: survive, recover, thrive
- HBC task group dealing with this, reporting to the council's cabinet
- Funding has been received via Transforming Cities Fund – to create step change in sustainable transport in district
- Opportunity on accelerating change and move towards carbon reduction – coronavirus is making everyone rethink activities

Discussion:

- Suggestions welcome from this group about how to address carbon reduction within recovery. If these are council decisions, they will be considered via usual processes.

- There is no funding allocated specifically to projects each considered on its own merits
- Opportunity to use air quality figures to push the message of the changes seen through lockdown
- Daily greenhouse gas emissions are down 17% due to lockdown (UK wide) – however this will make a 1% difference to the overall carbon budget, showing scale of challenge
- Should make the point that our vision for carbon reduction does not look like lockdown - the low carbon vision is a positive one

4. Sub-group updates and discussions

4a) Energy efficiency and renewables

- Possibly develop a business park scheme on implementing renewable energy projects. Education will be a key part of this, possibly via individual or business park case studies (linked to item 7 online presence/comms)
- Resources to deliver this is extremely challenging. Seeking funding opportunities is critical
- Needs a key piece of work to define the baseline according to business sector. We currently have somewhat of a lack of data on energy use
- Businesses often need back up energy supplies and the local infrastructure needs to be capable of integrating with renewables
- There is an energy cost and quantifiable impact of IT data use
- Wider opportunity in farming – are there solar farm sites or other RE opportunities
- Option for Green Bonds - Leeds is raising a green bond £1m. (Investors should receive 3% interest). Is this replicable in Harrogate?
- From a business point of view, energy efficiency equates to cost savings and this is the way in if decision makers are not particularly green minded
- Planning issue to do with permission for RE on existing sites (though RE may be permitted development to a certain scale)

Action: EH/JWC to look into data question further looking at sources, analysis, engagement, and possible business case studies on RE and energy efficiency

Action: AG to circulate information on Leeds green bonds for consideration

4b) Transport: child miles

- Sub group has formed, looking for significant improvement on infrastructure but focusing on quick wins, in particular tackling child miles
- Next sub-group meeting is this week
- A funding expression of interest is being submitted for school travel research project (see item 7)
- Noted the range of social distancing measures which are being put in place in towns following lockdown to enable walking/cycling.

Action: PH to reconvene sub group this week focusing on the school travel and report back on project ideas

4c) Climate change conference

- Proposal had been to hold a conference in November - but group agreed that this should be postponed to next year in light of covid restrictions and likely unavailability of venue
- May at the time may want to create a smaller website and brand for the conference itself – linked to other engagement (see item 6)
- Will look into some online conference options

Action: AP to chair sub-group meeting this week. Maintain work to put on an in-person or online event including scoping the agenda and duration

5. Other projects:

5a) White Rose Forest

- HBC has set up an internal WRF task group led by Head of Parks and Environmental Services
- Priority for this group is firstly to identify land owned by the council which is suitable and available for tree planting
- Putting this into context: to increase the tree cover on council land by one third over the coming years would require 170ha and 187,000 trees. (This is council land only – district wide this is of course much higher).
- Key consideration is that the right trees must be in the right place.
- Seeing what other public land might be suitable (e.g. Parish Councils, highways) and engaging private landowners and schools
- Over past year the council has contributed to research carried out by the United Bank of Carbon on offsetting and carbon mitigation. On planting, eight schemes have been planned up, covering 12ha of 13,000 trees and hedgerow planting

Action: JWC publicise the recent tree planting activity (e.g. via residents' e-newsletter/press release) and follow up queries on forest management policies and verge planting

5b) Single Use Plastics

- The council adopted a notice of motion to reduce single use plastics and an external partnership met over the course of about 18 months. However partly due to staff changes, the group has not met for a few months, and there is possibly some potential for further engagement
- Plastics use is still a relevant issue hence PM invited to participate in coalition
- PM invited to reconvene a plastics group under the umbrella of the coalition and report back, for example with some SMART targets for future work

Action: PM to convene Plastics sub group to instigate plastics activity

6. Online presence

- General desire to get more comms delivered to interested residents, and to raise general awareness. Online or via other channels e.g. newsletters
- Discussion about setting up a Facebook page to communicate ideas and receive feedback as there is public interest (for example, XR group has set up a Facebook page) – PH to coordinate this

- Discussion about seeking sponsorship opportunities/endorsements – consensus is to be cautious about this to make sure that this maintains standards
- Noted that the coalition is not a council mouthpiece or committee – comms need to independently speaking on behalf of the coalition
- Noted an example “letter of support” initiative (New Zealand)
- Discussion about the time commitment and flow of information and moderation of discussions required especially for social media

Action: PH set up a facebook page in discussion with AP and/or other web presence

Action: JWC compile list of residents and business newsletter stories with HBC comms team and coalition members

Action: JWC consult HBC web manager about tidying up the HBC web page in the meantime to make it as user friendly as possible

Action: AW to share info on the New Zealand letters scheme for consideration

7. **Place-based Carbon Action Network (PCAN) funding bid**

- Zero Carbon Harrogate and Harrogate Borough Council are sponsoring an expression of interest for research funding
- Research will look at travel to school – particularly in light of two tier nature of the district
- Links in to the Child Miles sub-group

Action: JP to submit expression to PCAN of interest and feed back on progress

8. **Any Other Business**

- General point about the need to clearly communicate the coalition’ aims, activities and success stories as they emerge. Also need transparency and public involvement - question raised about inviting member of the press to attend meetings, however it was noted that these are not public meetings.
- Also noted the summary Harrogate Roadmap prepared by Prof. Gouldson and how this can feed into the action plans.
- The council’s own carbon reduction strategy has already been adopted but future revisions will take this study and other policy suggestions into account.
- AG will share the York roadmap when it is ready as there is likely to be an overlap with Harrogate.

Action: JWC write up and circulate a draft coalition action plan based on these discussions focusing on the identified sub-group themes.

Action: AG discuss details for carbon training availability

Action: AG share York roadmap report

9. **Next Meeting: Tuesday 25th August 2020**