

**Basingstoke Transition Network**  
**Meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00 pm,**  
**Norden House, Basing View, Basingstoke RG21 4HG**

Present: Rob Score (RS), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Arun Mummalaneni (AM), Bob Clifford (BC), Sheila Peacock (SP);

Apologies: Martin Biermann (MB), Martin Heath (MH).

1. **Minutes of last meeting** were approved; there were no matters arising not covered elsewhere;

2. **Green Week review and feedback to Council**

MB conveyed his views: Good things – brochure and sewage works visit. Disappointments – Malls stalls, BDBC participation (profile), Basingstoke residents. Brookvale Saturday was as ever enthusiastic (3 external speakers), and better attendance this year, but still preaching to the converted. BC reported that the Cafe Scientifique on Mon 30<sup>th</sup> had gone well and the speaker had sold three copies of his book; MM reported that the Tea Bar had not displayed flyers for CafeSci during the previous week (he had visited twice and put them on to tables); RS reported that the electric car event was useful; MM went to the Repair Cafe, where he left an electronic item for repairing for next visit, and to the Herriard digester tour and the garden waste composting centre, both of which were interesting. He reported that we should press the Council for a food waste collection to feed the Herriard digester, which at present receives food waste shipped in from other areas, although the digestate is used on local fields. He reported that the Green Week booklet was misleading about the need to book with Lucy Martins to attend the composting facility (3<sup>rd</sup> October), and the postcode for the Inspero community garden gave a misleading location and needed correlating directions.

We were grateful as ever to Fyffes for providing bananas for the stall in The Malls on Sat 21st. We were disappointed that there were fewer stalls and fewer passers-by (the latter possibly because of the extraordinarily good weather). The biggest problem was the lack of table space caused by our finding out too late that tables from Chute House were not suitable. We need two large tables, three if we have an air pollution demo - Makerspace covered by BTN PLI?. Many more of the leaflets and sample magazines would have been distributed to browsers if we had had more space. Six people expressed (to MM meet & greet) interest in BTN/other groups, but they did not turn up at the Brookvale Sustainability Day or the CafeSci. A similar number signed up for emails: MH added them to BTN's list.

We will pass this minute to Lucy Martins, BDBC for consideration for next year. **Action – SP.**

3. **Cllr. Rhatigan and Borough Council climate emergency** – we ask MH for an update on this (**Action – MH**) and SP to check dates of Council committee meetings that we should attend. Full Council meets on 17<sup>th</sup> October and Manydown Overview Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> but agendas are not yet available. **Action – SP.**

4. **County Council climate emergency**

MM reported that Hampshire County Council (HCC) has produced a careful analysis of carbon emission and energy use to be debated in detail by all the members for their action plan within the county, and pinpointed transport in Winchester as the most fruitful place to focus action to reduce emissions. It has noted the lack of zero-carbon-emission electricity generation in the county and

pointed out that a 16x increase is needed to offset the reduction in fossil fuel use required. It notes that an Alexander Dennis electric bus uses only six times the electricity of a Nissan Leaf. It acknowledges that projects that do not lead to net reductions in carbon emission should not be pursued, including car scrappage and most of the planned road improvements including motorway widening. Also there is suggestion that HCC could become the PTE for all Hampshire to run all the buses! MM reported that he had attended a HCAN meeting last week in Winchester on how concerned citizens can address Councils over climate emergency motions and action. The speaker is available to speak to a meeting in Basingstoke. We discussed the problem of getting an audience for such a talk and holding "Climate Cafes" regularly to allow people to discuss climate change in an informal atmosphere. We didn't reach any conclusions but hope to return to this at a future meeting. **Action – all – to think about these ideas.**

5. **HCAN Winchester meeting Sat 26<sup>th</sup> October and London meeting Sat 16<sup>th</sup> November** ("Climate Emergency: From Declaration To Action", at the Institute of Education – HCAN is co-sponsoring this) – SP and MM hope to attend on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> October and MM on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> November. **Action – SP, MM.**

6. **Money-raising to cover annual cost of insurance**

RS reported that the £165 premium paid for the insurance in September left the BTN account at just over £300 including the money belonging to BCAC. We noted that individuals can donate efficiently by BACS (RS will provide the bank details). **Action – all;** and that we should put out collection boxes at any public occasions we have; also that we should investigate buying insurance per-event, unless we increase our public events beyond the two we have had so far this year (AGM and Green Week stall), e.g. to hold regular Climate Cafes. We agreed to ask BCAC at its next meeting for a contribution to the insurance since it covers BCAC's activities. **Action – SP.** (note this will result simply in some of the BCAC money in the BTN a/c being re-labelled as BTN money).

7. **Scoring sheet for planning applications for proposed developments under Local Plan**

MM presented his latest scoring sheet, and reported that he intends that additional sheets be added as follows:

- Cycling infrastructure tab – to be contributed by Heather Rainbow and incorporated by MM and used by Cycle Basingstoke;
- DEFRA environmental indicators tab – to be incorporated by MM and used by Natural Basingstoke (a copy of DEFRA indicators was circulated by Paul Beevers);
- Housing standards – to be contributed by Cathy and used by BCA DSC;
- Achievement of BTN EDAP items on flowcharts – to be incorporated for scoring by MM and used by BTN.

MM intends that the front scoring sheet be used by each of the groups to score each of the 230 planning applications for 15,000 homes in ten years of the next phase of the Local Plan, with mass submission rating each application demonstrating that the planning process does not reflect the views/needs of local people and that planning items at present dealt with under reserved business should be made public being visible/agreed within the main body of the application.

**Action – MM.**

8. **Cafe Scientifique** – BC reported that he has asked MH to deliver the October CafeSci talk on solar electricity (28<sup>th</sup> October) and he has a speaker for 25<sup>th</sup>

November on fungi. Both meetings are to be held at Basingstoke Makerspace (not the Tea Bar).

**9. Plastic water-bottle re-use** – AM suggested a campaign to increase the number of water refill points in the Borough to promote the re-use of plastic water bottles, which are at present a major single-use-plastic item. We agreed to consider this further at next meeting. **Action – AM.**

**10. Date and place of following meeting** - Tues 5th November, Norden House unless MH tells us otherwise. **Action – MH.**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.