

Basingstoke Transition Network
Meeting on Tuesday 5th May 2020, 7.00-8.00 pm, by Zoom

Present: Martin Biermann (MB), Martin Heath (MH), Bob Clifford (BC), Paul Beevers (PB), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Rob Score (RS), Sheila Peacock (SP).

1. Apologies – none received
2. Minutes of last meeting – accepted with amendment to no. 10 that MB will contact Cllr. Tilbury in his (Tilbury's) capacity as chair of the Climate Scrutiny Committee.
3. Local Plan
 - (a) We agreed that MH would send the submission that he has written on BTN's behalf, to Cllr. Ruffell and also to the leaders of the bodies on BDBC: Cllr.s Rhatigan, James, Tilbury, McCormick and Reid, and ask Cllr. Ruffell to arrange meetings (by videoconference) with the Climate Change officer and the newly appointed Planning Officer; and to send out the press release to the Gazette and Observer. **Action – MH.** Some points raised in the discussion included: the need for a revision of the National Planning Framework, without which the Local Plan might not change much from its present focus; the need for the Council to hold would-be developers to account on provision for the environment and climate change; the legal status of the EU Precautionary Principle post-Brexit; and the Council's inability to spend on infrastructure if "conventional" economics, namely austerity, is used to recover from the indentation being made by the Coronavirus crisis.
 - (b) Publicity - MM has drafted and just circulated a letter to the Gazette on the current crisis: **Action – All** to comment on it.
 - (c) BTN attribution – we agreed that it was necessary not to assume BTN's authority (headed paper, "on behalf of"), for individual letters to Council, press or others. Items should be agreed, at meetings or by email or by authority delegated at meetings.
 - (d) Expertise - there is a danger of our spreading ourselves too thin and assuming authority on items on which we are not expert. Our expertise is as follows:
MH – energy;
MB – transport;
MM – community;
BC – communications technology;
PB – biodiversity.
We could do with committee members to take responsibility for gaining expertise on waste and recycling. RS was requested to consider taking on this topic.
4. HCAN online meeting Sat 16th May – SP can't go but will circulate invitation.
5. "After the Virus" – behaviour change – unfortunately BC got no reply from "Better Points" - agreed we should come with suggestions to next meeting; **Action – All.**
6. Cafe Scientifique – BC is publicising "Sceptics in the Pub" online meetings on <https://www.meetup.com/cafesci-Basingstoke>. The next is on 14th May on how to achieve zero carbon, and MH offered to post it on Facebook and send a Mailchimp email to our list. **Action – MH.**
7. Next meeting – Tuesday 2nd June 2020, by Zoom – SP will issue invitation.
The meeting finished at 8.05 pm.