

Basingstoke Transition Network  
Meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, 7.00 pm, by Zoom teleconferencing

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

1. **Minutes of last meeting** – agreed with MB's corrections;

2. **Matters arising** – none from last meeting but from the 7<sup>th</sup> April meeting: Minute 10, MB reported that he had spoken to Cllr. Tilbury but had not covered all the ground we had suggested, although Cllr. Tilbury had expressed concern at lack of meetings on Local Plan; and MM reported under Minute 5(a) that he had not yet written to the communities portfolio holder because of Coronavirus-related preoccupations but still intended to do so, with bullet points to the Gazette.

3. **Treasurer** – RS is planning to leave Basingstoke in early July and wishes to stand down as treasurer. No-one was immediately willing to take on the role, and we agreed to email the wider list asking for committee members in general. **Action – SP.** RS was thanked for his service.

#### 4. **Local Plan**

(a) MH, MB and MM to attend a videoconference with Cllrs. Ruffell and Eachus and Council officials responsible for planning, Sam Taylor, Joanne Brombley, Mark Lambert, Matt Melville and Robyn Kelly on our submission to the Local Plan, at 11 am on 15<sup>th</sup> June. MH will send in the six suggestions for Council action from our Local Plan submission as the foundation of an agenda. **Action – MH.** PB suggested that the emphasis be on policy-setting (e.g. a policy to encourage "home zones" where pedestrians have priority over cars), and that the subject of education and community involvement be included. More generally, he suggested that the culture of complaining (via apps such as NextDoor, for instance) rather than taking action at community level should be addressed. BC asked whether more could be done to encourage joining-up of neighbourhood and community plans, particularly in the town where there isn't the infrastructure of parish councils to facilitate this. Community and neighbourhood plans vary in quality depending on the quality of the volunteers involved. The Council has apparently been working with the organisation "locality.org.uk".

(b) Gazette – the Gazette published our press release on our Local Plan submission almost verbatim, and has since printed two half-page articles based on interviews with MH and MB, and might publish another based on MB's input on waste and recycling.

#### 5. **Black Dam motorway services proposal**

A local action group asked BTN to make a submission opposing the plan on grounds of increased air pollution. **Action – MH** to write a short submission based on our air-pollution results and pointing out that employees commuting to the service station will probably do so by car and add to the pollution. (Application 17/03487/FUL)

#### 6. **HCAN 15<sup>th</sup> May meeting**

MB, BC and MM attended all or part of this meeting. Minutes have been circulated to participants (**Action – SP** to circulate to BTN committee). HCAN agreed to continue operating under the umbrella of WinACC. The major points were on transport campaigns aimed at the County council to take measures on active transport, given the Government's financial incentive to e.g. widen pavements (Council committee is meeting tomorrow). HCAN next meeting is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, in Brockenhurst or online.

### 7. **“After the Virus”**

We did not have time to consider Heather Rainbow’s suggestions, unfortunately, and will return to this at our next meeting. Meanwhile, personal letters to the Gazette on our “hobby horses” are encouraged. **Action – All.**

### 8. **Cafe Scientifique**

BC is working on a one-stop website for CafeSci to work with a number of community groups including Sceptics in the Pub and university outreach programmes. He drew our attention to a London Lecture on 11<sup>th</sup> June by UEA scientist on “Interactions of climate change with the carbon cycle”.

### 9. **Request for Council service plan**

PB has twice requested a copy of the Service Plan for the implementation of the 2020 Council Plan and had no reply: he is considering sending a Freedom of Information request. MB said that the Council is in breach of its terms of service by not replying. He promised to look for a copy of the terms of service to send to PB. **Action – MB, PB.**

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Next meeting – **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 7.00 pm.**