

Basingstoke Transition Network
Meeting on Tuesday 7th July 2020, 7.00 pm, by Zoom

Present: Martin Biermann (MB) (chair), Martin Heath (MH), Malcom MacInnes (MM), Arun Mummаланeni (AM), Rob Score (RS), Sarah Warriss-Simmons (SWS), Miranda Chubb (MC), Lucy Jones (LJ), Bob Clifford (BC), Sheila Peacock (SP).

Apologies – Paul Beevers (PB) (attempted to join meeting but failed).

1. Welcome to new members

MB welcomed Sarah Warriss-Simmons, Miranda Chubb and Lucy Jones. They introduced themselves: SWS is involved with Sustainable Overton, MC is interested in sustainability, and LJ is a freelance writer on environmental subjects.

2. Minutes of last meeting

- were approved with addition of names of those present at the meeting on the Local Plan on 15th June, and to expand “HCAN” to “Hampshire Climate Action Network”.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

Item 2 – MM advised he is not writing to both the communities portfolio holder and the gazette on the subject of transition local resilience in the Covid epidemic, without this being formally agreed and clearly placed on the minutes. To write without a minuted clear brief will cause a conflict of interest with Brookvale Community Association.

Item 5 – MH wrote to the Council about the Black Dam motorway services planning application, and this was favourably received.

Item 9 – MB sent PB a copy of the Council’s terms of service, and PB has written again on the matter of the Service Plan and is awaiting a reply.

4. Hampshire County Council (HCC) climate emergency strategy meeting 10.30 am Tues 14th July

This meeting is by teleconferencing and it is necessary to contact the County Council democratic services office to book a speaking slot or join the meeting. The agenda papers are due out today or tomorrow (note afterwards: the papers are at <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=6499> and <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s53569/Climate%20Change%20Strategy.pdf>. See agenda item 10 – Climate Change Strategy. See front page <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/councillors> with links on how to speak at a meeting, but basically email members.services@hants.gov.uk.

HCC is also holding an “Expert Stakeholder Event” on Thursday 6th August, to which SWS had received an invitation on behalf of Sustainable Overton, but one has not been sent to BTN. We agreed we should email demanding an invitation: SWS to send SP her invitation so we know whom to email. **Action – SP, SWS.**

5. Local Plan

(a) 15th June meeting – this lasted for 1 ½ hours with several Council officers and two portfolio-holding councillors, and MH, MM, PB and MB, who had a favourable reception.
(b) Supplementary Planning Document – three recent planning applications have shown developers not willing to embody climate change into plans because it is not in the current

Local Plan. An SPD would overcome this problem until the 2023 adoption of an updated Local Plan. Cllr Chris Tomblin spoke with MB and is intending to put a motion to the Borough Council on Thursday 16th July calling for a SPD. There is apparently some disagreement within the Council on whether a SPD could legally allow the Local Plan to take more account of climate change, or would just be a distraction from the new plan. MB will ask Chris Tomblin for a copy of his motion as soon as possible and we will encourage our members to campaign for it and attend and speak at the meeting on 16th. **Action – MB, SP** (Facebook, Mailchimp). We expect the agenda to be published on Tuesday 14th.

(c) Manydown – We wrote to the Chair of the Council Development Control Committee before the original 24th March date for hearing the Manydown planning application, reminding him of the significance of the recent judgement against the Heathrow Third Runway, and got no reply. MH to re-send, asking for the original letter to be minuted since there is no opportunity to speak at tomorrow's meeting. **Action – MH**. MH also wrote to Client Earth trying to get it interested in legal action over Manydown, but got no reply. **Action – SP** to try again.

(d) **Action – SP** to send MM's planning application assessment spreadsheet to SWS, LJ and MC.

(e) MC asked whether she could comment on the draft "Issues and Options" consultation document presented to the EPH committee on 2nd July.
https://democracy.basingstoke.gov.uk/documents/s21623/Revised%20Appendix1_draft%20IO%20Consultation%20document.pdf We expect that this will be put out for public comment soon and we should all take the opportunity to comment through the Council's website.

6. Cafe Scientifique

BC is hoping to re-open Cafe-Sci face-to-face meetings in the Red Lion hotel but doesn't know when this will happen. Meanwhile he is working with the national bodies of CafeSci and Sceptics in the Pub to develop online learning materials and find speakers, particularly on climate change and sustainable development. He is looking out for local speakers on a wide range of topics, trying to increase the diversity of the CafeSci audience in Basingstoke.

7. Whitchurch Transition Network

MC has a friend who is interested in founding a Transition Network in Whitchurch. MB and MH suggested that it could come under BTN's umbrella since we try to represent the entire borough not just the town. So we hope to hear from a nascent Whitchurch Transition group in due course.

8. AOB (a) Upper Swallick "garden community" is not looked upon favourably by the inhabitants of Cliddesden and we suspect that the "community" aspect is not serious.
(b) Lucy Jones and others have had leave from the Council via Cllr. Paula James to "re-wild" some Council land adjacent to Lancaster Road Open Space, and have plans for tree planting and a wildflower meadow. BC asks if they know anyone who could give a CafeSci talk on re-wilding.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 4th August, 7 pm, by Zoom.