

Basingstoke Transition Network  
Meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, 7.00 pm by Zoom

Present: Martin Biermann (MB), chair; Martin Heath (MH), Miranda Chubb (MC), Sarah Warriss-Simmons (SW-C), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Paul Beevers (PB), Bob Clifford (BC), Sheila Peacock (SP);  
Apologies: Lucy Jones.

1. Minutes of meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – accepted with minor corrections: item 8, “contemplating” rather than “intending”; replace “move to Norwich” with “leave Basingstoke”; Spelling of “Merton” in Item 4; and “guide” rather than “control” in item 11. Item 7: MC will send exact title of solar panels on schools initiative **Action – MC.**

2. Matters arising from minutes not covered elsewhere

4(a) general comment by PB that promoting putting solar panels on the M3 Junction 7 distribution hub prevents us from reserving our position on the hub, which might be to oppose it;

4(c) No-one wrote a BTN position paper, but we agreed that we would send the existing paper to Council Group Leaders and to the three relevant officers, Mark Lambert, Joanna Bromley and Sam Taylor.

5. PH hasn't got back to MB with name of Hampshire County Council lead on Manydown; MB will chase him. **Action – MB** to then write to that person.

7, 8 – BC has a possible speaker on “Is it time to buy an electric car” but is waiting for conditions to allow face-to-face meetings before instigating one.

3. Treasurer

SP has instigated with Lloyds Bank the process of having the address for correspondence changed to hers rather than Rob Score's. No-one came forward willing to be treasurer, but we agreed that MB become a signatory on the account. He is willing to carry out electronic banking. **Action – SP, MB.**

4. Climate Emergency Motions

(a) MH, MB, PB, SP and MC intend to attend and have submitted or will submit questions to put to the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC EPH) on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, at which the Climate Emergency SPD accepted by full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> July is to be noted and responded to. MC will repeat the points she made to full Council, that flexible interpretation of the existing Local Plan will allow progress even in absence of a SPD. **Action – MH, MB, PB, SP, MC.**

(b) Hampshire County Council Expert Stakeholders meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> August – MC, MH, PB and MM attended. While it was good that HCC has a strategy, the meeting was disappointing because the strategy lacked rigour and “SMART” targets. It also contained a number of inaccuracies, which those present offered to address. The 2050 target date was not discussed in depth. Since then, Hampshire Climate Action Network issued a letter, which we agreed by email to sign as BTN, calling for the Council to change the target date to 2030. We publicised this on our website and social media. Everyone is encouraged to write to County councillors drawing attention to this letter. **Action – ALL.**

(c) MH emailed the leader of HCC, who replied that he would like to engage further: MH will follow up and let us know. **Action – MH.**

5. Hampshire Climate Action Network meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September by Zoom, a.m. - MH, MB and SP intend to attend. **Action – MH, MB, SP.**

## 6. "What defines 'place'"

PB introduced this subject by sharing a report on Nansledan, where urban design is deliberately not to allow cars to dominate, and contrasted it to the "soul-less" estates in Basingstoke. Other projects include those more than 100 years old, such as estates in Leeds and Rowntree's planned town in York. Some parts of Basingstoke, e.g. Victorian terraced streets and 1970s estates with blocks of garages, do not have direct access between house and car. BDBC is reluctant to reduce car parking space, and the design principle of Manydown includes car access to people's front doors. It will be difficult to overcome the reaction against young families being denied immediate access to cars. The fundamental "need" for people to own their own house and car has to be reduced and the problems of community ownership, especially "freeloaders", addressed. Embedding the town's history into the sense of place might help – in Basingstoke this is based on the farms that predated the expanded town. We need to plan for long-term influence on the planners to move towards the less car-dominated ideal. We agreed that PB write a piece for the website and SP publicise it on Facebook, in time for Green Week starting on 19<sup>th</sup> September. **Action – PB, SP.**

7. AOB (a) MC has had a piece published in "Chineham Chat" and drafted a letter to local schools encouraging solar panel installation – MH will look at this before she sends it.

**Action – MC, MH.** She has also made contact with the event organiser of the local Women's Institute, offering to give an online talk.

(b) PB points out that BDBC is behind the rest of the country in not having a green infrastructure plan. He has written to the Cabinet pointing out that the M3 J7 hub and the golf course development along with Manydown will prevent the formation of a green corridor between the South Downs national park and the North Wessex AONB – he had hoped that tracts of ancient woodland could have been incorporated. He has also proposed the creation of a forest between Basingstoke and Winchester.

(c) PB has written to BDBC complaining that its actions are deterring conservation volunteers in the Borough, many of whom have given up.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

[NOTE added – SP has received an email from Sam Taylor, BDBC Climate Change officer, stating that a Climate Change and Air Quality strategy will be published next week in advance of its discussion at the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> September and asking BTN to publicise it. He also promises consultation with BTN after the committee meeting. SP replied thanking him and promising to publicise the plan. **Proposed Action – ALL** - read it and prepare to speak at Communities, Environment and Partnerships (CEP) committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> **SP** - promote it on Facebook and website.]