

**Basingstoke Transition Network**  
**Meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 7.00 pm, by Zoom**

Present: Arun Mummalaneni (AM), Martin Heath (MH), Martin Biermann (MB), Miranda Chubb (MC), Gillian Brown (GB), Paul Harvey (PH), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Bob Clifford (BC), Sarah Warriss-Simmons (SWS), Lucy Jones (LJ), Paul Beevers (PB), Sheila Peacock (SP)

1. **Minutes of last meeting** – were approved;

2. **Solar on Schools** (substantial matter arising from Minute 1)

MC circulated details of the Solar on Schools scheme. MB said that HCC has not taken this up with the schools it owns, so it depends on local initiatives. MC will contact Chineham schools on behalf of BTN – **Action – MC** (and **SP** to send her a copy of the logo). LJ pointed out that some local schools have Eco-School award at various levels and might be more amenable – she will find out which and let MC know – **Action – LJ**. Cranborne school is having a new swimming pool and the opportunity should be taken to put solar on the roof. MB agreed to write to HCC councillor Mike Westbrook on this – **Action – MB**. GB drew attention to the £1bn fund from government for long term public-sector green projects (via Salix Finance) with deadline in December.

3. **Other matters arising not covered elsewhere**

2(5) PH has given MB the name of the Hampshire County Council (HCC) lead on Manydown, and MB will write. **Action – MB**.

4(a) Council committee meetings – Economic, Planning and Housing (EPH), 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and Communities, Environment and Partnerships (CEP), 16<sup>th</sup> September. The EPH meeting set up a Task and Finish group to consider whether a SPD could be added to the current Local Plan, but ignored many points put to it in writing by PB, particularly that revenue spending not just capital spending is needed on the environment; MH could not attend CEP but wrote to the committee members and other councillors, and in the replay noted that some of his points were repeated by councillors. SP and MB spoke; MB was disillusioned at the brief 2-minute slot with no video (see item 5 below).

4(c) MH is still pursuing the leader of HCC who had expressed the wish to engage further.

6. Green Week – some activities took place in Whitchurch, Overton and Oakley but very low key. MM will contact Lucy Martins at the Borough Council to ask whether she completed the green directory that was proposed.

7. MC had a second article published in “Chineham Chat”; she was asked to forward it to the group so that individuals could send it to their own parish newsletters (BC drew attention to “fromthesmallestseed.co.uk”, a printing works that prints many local newsletters and accepts online submissions for them

(<http://www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk>). MM said he might publish it in the Brookvale Blurb but would need to shorten it to 250 words.

4. **Bank signatories** – Rob Score and MB have completed the signatory transfer form and sent it to the bank; SP has had no response yet.

5. **Meeting about Manydown**

PB and MH had received an email approach from David Ainsworth, development manager for Manydown from Urban & Civic (private-sector partner of the Borough and County Councils in developing the site). PB would like to respond on behalf of Natural Basingstoke separately from BTN; MH might meet him separately; but we agreed that we

write asking for a meeting between him and BTN members (by Zoom). **Action – MH, PB** to forward emails to SP, then **SP** to write to David Ainsworth.

## 6. Questions placed by members of Natural Basingstoke to the Council

SP has posted these six questions on the website. We agree that BTN endorses them – SP to amend the website notice. PB asked BTN to give him opinions on his third query, and we agreed to give him responses by email. **Action – all.**

*Question 3 - Community Empowerment – Paul Beevers*

*Will the relevant Portfolio Holder respond to and refer to Committee this request to propose new measures for encouraging, incentivising, empowering and rewarding communities to have oversight and influence over green space services and learning opportunities and meaningful volunteer participation in service delivery?*

### **Overview**

*Consistent with delivering the restoration of natural services, biodiversity and mitigating climate change there is a need to encourage greater community engagement, reconnection with and responsibility for nature to secure a better understanding of environmental realities and increase support for policy changes. Will Council examine measures and organisational frameworks within an overall community strategy that will encourage communities to become more involved so that residents have a say, including over funding, but develop a greater understanding and relationship with nature and the issues associated with biodiversity and local green space management?*

## 7. Lockdown democracy

We agreed with MB's frustration at councillors at Council and committee meetings not being able to see petitioners nor gauge the extent of support from a crowd in the meeting room. PH described the legal rewriting of the Council's rules to accommodate online meetings. Sending short videos to the Council to be played at committee meetings was suggested. Agreed we write to Committee chairs, the Mayor and the political group leaders asking for petitioners at Council meetings to be visible as well as audible to the councillors. **Action – SP.**

## 8. HCAN meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September

(a) Agreed BTN join the Climate Coalition – **Action – SP.**

(b) Agreed we complete the HCC Greening Campaign's skills survey as an organisation.

**Action – SP.** HCAN agreed to try for a meeting with Terena Plowright, who is running the Greening Campaign, and we await the date of this.

## 9. M3 Junction 7 hub, hospital and Golf Course developments

PB made the point to the Council several years ago that a green corridor be made between the South Downs National Park and the North Downs AONB via land to the west of Basingstoke and ancient woodland in the Alton direction, and an underpass beneath the M3 and A30 was included in the Local Plan; but this has been ignored in the rush to develop a "hub" at J7, the new hospital (just announced this week) and the Golf Course development. PH said that the next EPH meeting is discussing this development (on 5<sup>th</sup> November). (note added by SP - **Action – All** to consider whether to speak at this meeting: we will need to apply (to [democratic.services@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@basingstoke.gov.uk)) before our next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November).

## 10. Upper Swallick development proposal petition

We agreed not to give specific support to the Change.org petition against the proposed development of housing at Upper Swallick. PH pointed out that the revised Local Plan will bring many areas of similar importance into focus for potential housing development, and the government white paper on planning, if enacted, will let national government impose house-building targets on local authorities, with simplistic designation of land as available or not for development. We agreed that we focus on matters of principle in planning rather than opposing individual projects. We also want to avoid a reputation of being against all development and in favour of “nimby-ism”. Note this applies to BCAC as our subsidiary.  
**Action – SP.**

#### 11. Consultations

BTN must put in its responses to two ongoing Council consultations:

(a) Local Plan Update – **deadline Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/issues-and-options>

(b) Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy – **deadline Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/climate-consultation>

Agreed we devote next meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> November) to producing BTN position on both these –  
**Action – All** to consider them and come prepared (and to make individual contributions – follow the above links).

#### 12. AOB

(a) Agreed to promote the government Green Homes grant on BTN website – **Action – SP.**

(b) Cafe Scientifique is meeting by Zoom on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, on “Rewilding”, with a speaker from Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust.

(c) MM asked if we could find out from Sam Taylor what the Borough’s attitude to the County Greening campaign is. **Action – SP.**

(d) Rotary International (charity) nationwide has chose the “environment” as the charity that it will support this year, and is inviting suggestions of volunteer work that it can do or causes for which it could raise money. **Action MB** to send details to **SP** for circulation.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, by Zoom.