

Basingstoke Transition Network  
Meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, 7.00 pm, by Zoom

Present: Martin Heath (MH), Paul Beevers (PB), Paul Harvey (PH), Mary Andrews (MA), Colin Andrews (CA), Miranda Chubb (MC), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Martin Biermann (MB), Sheila Peacock (SP);

Apologies: Arun Mummalaneni (AM), Lucy Jones (LJ), Sarah Warriss-Simmons (SW-S), Gillian Brown (GB), Bob Clifford (BC).

1. Welcome to Mary Andrews, attending for the first time;
2. Minutes of last meeting – were approved without modification;

### 3. Matters arising

Item 2 of last meeting - Still no copy of Cllr. Eachus' reply to us at 17<sup>th</sup> December Council meeting: MB will write to the Mayor (**Action – MB**).

Item 4(a) – a list of useful Council contacts was suggested and MB will collate it and circulate it (Tomblin, Tilbury, G.James, McCabe, Mahaffey, Ruffell, and officers Lambert, Taylor and Lucy Martins; the name of another (LibDem) Councillor who is sympathetic was mentioned);

Item 5 – MH reported that King's Furlong school had gained support to draw up a grant proposal and had put one in and was awaiting the outcome, but Cranborne school was unsuccessful. Agreed we would put this item on to a future meeting agenda with aim of identifying and interesting further schools in applying;

Item 7 – SP wrote to Paul Ciniglio but has had no reply – will chase. **Action – SP.**

Item 8 – Gill Phipps wrote a review of the Council's annual Air Pollution report 2020 (covering 2019 results); SP embellished it and put it on to the website but there has been no further action from BCAC.

Item 10 – MM contacted Bradley Morrison with a view to interesting him in the Hampshire Green Transport Network and will chase him for a reply. **Action – MM.**

### 4. Greening Campaign

(From item 2 subitem 12c of last meeting) – Lucy Martins asked for BTN's help on involving Basingstoke town in the Greening Campaign since she had good engagement from parish and town councils elsewhere in the Borough. We also note her imminent retirement. We agreed to send her a goodwill message and to ask for a "Greening Pack" (to be given to MM) and a list of those communities already involved in the campaign.

**Action – SP.**

5. **Treasurer** – CA has been added to signatories of bank account and is now awaiting access to electronic banking.

### 6. Hustings

AM's friend has not been in touch. CA has friends with access to Zoom Webinar and will ask them about practicalities of hosting an online hustings event. **Action – CA.**

### 7. Council Climate Change committee

PH will write a short report on the activities of this committee and circulate it to us – **Action – PH.**

### 8. Outreach and publicity

MH thanked MC for her contributions to the Facebook page, which has gained more followers as a consequence. SP gave MC and AM access to editing the website and MC has made a number of additions, for which SP thanks her.

#### **9. Meeting with Russell O’Keefe, Council new Chief Executive, Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1-1.45 pm**

MM, MH, PB, MC and MB intend to attend.

- The most important thing is to get his views,
- We are also keen to tell him our priorities for the Local Plan, and will send him a copy of our submission. **Action – SP.**
- We particularly emphasise the importance of designing Manydown to be carbon neutral;
- Emphasise the importance of the Council’s role in planning for climate change;
- Importance of biodiversity and green infrastructure, with particular emphasis on southwest Basingstoke development;
- Ask for further meetings with him and emphasise that we intend to help the Council deliver its climate change targets.

#### **10. Meeting with Urban & Civic, Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4-5 pm**

MB, MH, PB, MM, CA and MC (if free) intend to attend.

- We are still seeking an explanation of the “Manydown Standard” referred to but not defined in documentation;
- We note the takeover of U&C by the Wellcome Trust and want to know what the implications for Manydown are and also the relationship between the several bodies called “Urban & Civic” involved in the project;
- Ask for Passivhaus standard housing and if they decline, ask why not (Councillors on Manydown Overview Committee asked same);

Agreed we send U&C and members of MOC a link to the video of Welsh carbon-neutral development with MC’s introductory bullet points (thank you to MC). PH will send a prepared email containing the link to SP with address list of MOC for ease of dissemination. **Action – PH, SP.** PH says that this video has already been circulated to Climate Change committee.

#### **11. Bramley Solar Farm**

The developers, Enso Energy, via consultants Alpaca, asked for BTN’s public support of a planned solar farm occupying 85 Ha of agricultural land between Bramley and Silchester. Agreed PB would reply on behalf of BTN, which should be done this week to be copied to the Council Planning Committee. **Action – PB.**

**Note** – PH declared a conflict of interest since he sits on the Planning Committee, and refrained from comment during the discussion.

Points made during discussion:

- BTN’s position is qualified approval: a large area of land is affected and, while conversion from intensive agricultural use (with chemicals) to fallow under solar panels for the 25-year lifetime of the project might be beneficial, it might not be the best use of the land for protecting biodiversity and/or meeting future food farming needs;
- Our preference at present is for solar farms on roofs of buildings, and we must keep nagging for this;

- The development must include replacement of any lost biodiversity and protection of ancient woodland including edge planting;
- Our response must be evidence-based.

#### 12. DEFRA National Habitat Network Map

PB circulated a link to this by email on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan but the email was large (> 8 Mb) so not everyone received it. He will recirculate it. He suggested that the Basingstoke section of the map should be in the Local Plan. **Action – PB.**

#### 13. Upcoming Council meetings

(a) Cabinet Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 6.30 pm has Climate Change policy at the end of its agenda. MC will try to get a 2-min slot to press the points she made in her 20-page submission to the consultation. MH also intends to attend, and emphasise the lack of key measureable and deliverable targets in the document. **Action – MC, MH.**

(b) Manydown Overview Committee, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30 pm – MC hopes to attend this too.

#### 14. HCAN meeting Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> January

MM and MC attended. There were about 50 people present from various Transition-type groups, and it was a useful networking event; but those present weren't able to help with the solar farm dilemma (item 11 above). MC put some information from it on to Facebook.

#### 15. Basingstoke Rotary

MB had been contacted by Basingstoke Rotary which is offering grants to projects related to climate change. Paul Frankum as a member of Basingstoke Rotary would like to attend a BTN meeting. Agreed he may. **Action – MB.**

#### 16. Brookvale Sustainability Day

MM hopes that Brookvale Sustainability Day might take place in Brookvale Village Hall in September, and proposes the subjects, Zero Carbon living, Retrofitting homes to reduce energy use, and Rewilding. These met with general approval.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.