

## **Basingstoke Transition Network Meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 7.00 pm**

**Attendees:** Shelia Peacock (SP), Martin Biermann (MB), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Martin Health (MH), Bob Clifford (MC), Arun Mummalanei (AM), Paul Beevers (PB) and Miranda Chubb (MC).

**1. Minutes of the last meeting** - agreed with minor amendments only.

**2. Matters arising from the previous meeting** discussed:

- Meeting with Cllr Ruffell went ahead.
- Letter sent out regarding Q&A event and Q&A going ahead on Thursday.
- Maria Miller events. She has a meeting regarding recent funding for making the town more secure which is a registered event targeted at Brookvale and Kings Furlong areas only.
- Manydown press release action done. Many thanks for this and to Shelia for sending it out.
- Junction 7 development, letter to the gazette sent by Paul and published. Martin B tasked with having a meeting with chair of Dummer Parish council. A nearby ancient woodland is in the vicinity of where the hospital is planned to be. Paul advised that Oakdown Farm is where the warehouse is planned to go. The council is aware of where the woodland is, the location of the new hospital has not yet been decided and no planning application for it as of yet.
- Odiham solar farm application - people could write in their own capacity. No update.
- HCAN meeting 5<sup>th</sup> June. MM attended. There was a discussion there on how to tackle COP26, increasing politician's awareness of climate change, sing for the climate, the greatbiggreenweek.com and the setting up of a meeting with Jan Warwick the Climate Portfolio holder. Awaiting dissemination of minutes from HCAN meeting.

**3. Ecological Emergency Motion**

- PB has submitted this to Cllr Ruffell and has not had any response yet.

**4. Green Week**

- MM advised that Brookvale event planned finalised and speakers ready for 25 September.
- The council has not provided any information on any plans for Green Week. Previous working party has not been re-established. Without Lucy it appears that Green Week will not happen this September as no planning has been done within the Council. Whitchurch, Sustainable Overton and Alton may be doing something.
- Café sci - Brookvale speakers may also be prepared to speak at Café Sci. BC advised that there is a speaker who will talk about Forest Bathing.
- **Action: MM to ask what plans Whitchurch/Overton/Alton have for Green Week.**
- **Action: MM to circulate details of the speakers for 25 Sept Brookvale event.**
- **Action: MC to ask Chineham library if they will do a Green Week display.**
- **Action: MC and BC: Publicise the National Great Big Green Week on Facebook and Café Sci.**

**5. Manydown SW Basingstoke**

- MM queried what we can do to instigate action/encourage media attention.
- PB advised that planning for this was done a long time ago. Where there is ancient woodland there should be 50m buffers, but we should not be developing on these sites at all. Council says only a 20m buffer and the Council has gone for this minimum standard.

## 6. Electric Vehicle Charging Points

- AM discussed that there are not enough charging points available for households without their own chargers. We need chargers to be available to provide charging to communities, e.g., at supermarkets, on lampposts etc. AM is driving this project to determine how EV chargers can be provided within the community. SP advised that there is an EV charger next to the town hall in Tadley. Tadley Cllrs might be able to provide info on how this was funded.
- MH wider charging strategy needs to be considered, e.g. charging at offices/train station car parks during the day using solar etc.
- BC advised Prof Avril McDonald will be doing 'shall I buy an electric car now' talk at Café Sci.

## 7. Local Plan

- MB discussed how can we have input into the Local Plan. MM suggested that the Manydown standard is what we want to see in the Local Plan. PB suggesting using Manydown standard as a checklist when reviewing what the council produces.
- MH advised we should be pushing the council to update its evidence base, which is about 10 years out of date. Cllr Ruffell said that he wanted BTN contributions for local plan update, we could request that they use a new evidence base/GHG calculations are corrected.
- MC advised that Centre for [Sustainable Energy \(CSE\)](#) will provide an independent review of local plans & provide expert feedback. MH advised they worked with Test Valley and produced a report for their planning process. CSE should review the Basingstoke local plan.
- MM sent email 3 June regarding the green infrastructure response priorities as part of the local consultation for the local plan which needs acting on. PB advised that they don't have a green infrastructure plan. The west country has done a large amount of work on nature recovery networks. Hampshire is behind compared to other.
- **Action: SP to write to Cllr Ruffell to thank him for meeting with us, ask for details of the new evidence base for the local plan and request that the draft local plan has an expert review by CSE as part of the consultation already planned for this year.**
- **Action: MM MH and MC look at MM's email from 3 June and write some paragraphs and respond with general points (rather than suggesting any specific sites) for the local plan update by 4pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July. MH & MC to respond on the renewable energy one. MM and PB to respond on any of the others if they wish to.**
- **Action: MM to write to Cllr Ruffell to ask for an explanation of the 5 types of green infrastructure sites.**

## 8. Meeting with Cllr Ruffell

- Meeting was helpful. MC circulated notes and amendments from MH agreed. MC noted that Cllr Ruffell did not mention the Basingstoke and Deane Climate change and Air Quality Strategy, or the CCC LA priorities.

There was a discussion on whether or not BTN should put forward what we think the 4 highest priorities are. Cllr Ruffell said he was receptive to feedback but has already set out his four priorities and asked these to be worked on.

- MH meeting with councillors to discuss how to make Basing and Upton Grey Carbon Neutral. There is an opportunity to raise green issues in this ward with the election. MH Basing magazine article going out in Sept. PB advised that councils will be constrained by national planning policy.
- **Action: MC to email link to Cllr Ruffell [33 Actions Local Authorities Can take](#), [Doughnut Decision-Making Tool](#) and [Cornwall Council's Decision Making Wheel](#) (completed)**
- **Action: MC & MH to develop BTN's top 4 priorities for council action to discuss with Cllr Ruffell at future meetings** (not sure if this action was agreed or not?)

#### **9. Thursday's Q&A -**

- If all Cllrs attending are happy that it is recorded then we will record it. MH will go first followed by PB. BC will be acting as co-host. Group happy with MH's discussion points.

**10. AGM** Not discussed.

**11. AOB** None.

Meeting ended at 21.00. Next Meeting Tues 3 August 7 PM.