

Basingstoke Transition Network
Meeting on Tuesday 1st June 2021, 7.00 pm

Present: Paul Beevers (PB), Martin Biermann (MB), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Miranda Chubb (MC), Colin Andrews (CA), Mary Andrews (MA – for first 20 mins only), Paul Harvey (PH) (arrived late), Sheila Peacock (SP);

Apologies: Martin Heath (MH), Bob Clifford (BC), Sarah Warriss-Simmons (SW-S).

1. **Minutes of last meeting** – accepted without modification;

2. **Matters arising**

item 3(a) – MB made a short list of points about the hustings and would still welcome further comments; the video is now on the website.

Item 6 – it was noted that some parish/community magazines have not re-started since the COVID lockdown..

3. **Meeting with Cllr. Ruffell**

Agreed we write congratulating Cllr. Ruffell in his new role as environment lead and inviting him to join the first 15 minutes of our next meeting (7 pm, Tuesday 6th July) to tell us about his role (**Action – SP**);

4. **Approach by Basingstoke & Deane Labour Party; Q&A session for councillors**

Agreed we need to speak to all parties rather than collaborate with a few of them, and that we write back to Cllr. McCormick saying this, asking him what he has in mind, and inviting him to come with other councillors to a meeting that we are planning at which all councillors will have opportunities to let us know their needs and ask us questions.

Actions: **MB** to write letter of invitation to all councillors to a Q&A session; **SP** to send it along with covering letter to Cllr. McCormick and to all councillors. **NOTE** - we didn't set a date for this Q&A meeting. It probably can't be earlier than the latter half of July, avoiding 15th (Council), 20th (Scrutiny Cttee) and 26th (Audit Cttee). I suggest the evening of Tuesday 27th as first choice, Wednesday 21st as second.

5. **Meeting with Maria Miller MP**

We have not yet had a date for this; agenda to cover Junction 7/hospital development and reinvigoration of Basingstoke Sustainability Forum. We noted that she has asked for a public meeting in Brookvale Hall – **Action – MM** to tell us the subject of this once he finds out.

6. **Junction 7 development**

The local MPs have instigated the calling-in of the plans, and Dummer Parish Council has issued a warning that it is considering applying for a judicial review; the Borough Council's reply is that it is awaiting the outcome of the calling-in. The Change.org petition by Christine Northam has >98k signatures, and support from the Duchess of York, and the Woodland Trust has written criticising the decision. The petition still needs 4000 signatures from Basingstoke postcodes to achieve a 20-minute debate in full Council. PB has written a 47-page official complaint about the decision, stating that the Development Committee was given inaccurate information about the state and age of the trees and the biodiversity of the site. He has also written to the Gazette, which says it will publish his letter. The combination of objections puts pressure on councillors; we agreed that BTN could promote the petition to its wider following via Mailchimp in the hope of getting the 4000 Basingstoke signatures. Our grounds for doing this are (a) to protect the trees and biodiversity of the site; (b) to prevent the precedent of a badly-prepared case leading to a misinformed decision by the Development Control Committee, for future developments.

Action SP to draft a message to BTN followers and **PB/MB** to approve it before sending; and **MC** to put out on Facebook again. Also **MB** to contact the chair of Dummer Parish Council to ask what further support we might give.

The petition is at:

<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-destruction-of-67-oak-and-3-beech-trees-at-oakdown-farm-warehouse-site>

7. Manydown

Further to minute 5 of previous meeting, CA, MM, MC and BC are working on a press release. Agreed we do the following in this order:

- (a) Complete the press release **Action – CA, MM, MC, BC**;
- (b) Send a copy of the BTN Manydown Standard to Ruth Ormella, officer for planning, and Andrew Reynolds, officer for Manydown, and the chair of the MOC and Cllr. Izett, who now has responsibility for the Manydown development **Action – SP**;
- (c) Send the Manydown Standard to the Gazette and other outlets with the press release **Action – SP**.

8. Golf Course development

Since this has been granted outline planning permission we probably can't influence it – a massive letter-writing campaign would be required to change the Reserved Matters application since it has already been submitted. We should reserve our efforts for future developments.

9. Odiham solar farm application

This is in Hart so BDBC is being consulted; letters of support should go to Hart District Council. The deadline was yesterday so they should be written swiftly. MM pointed out lack of explanation of mitigation for the loss of biodiversity caused by covering the land with panels; PB asked whether the area occupied nationally by solar farms was now significant in this respect. **Action**, optionally, **All**.

8. HCAN 5th June

MM, MC and maybe MB will attend. The meeting will be considering actions for COP26 in Glasgow in November; but we will also encourage them to join the Junction 7 campaign. **Action – MM, MC, MB**.

9. Green Week

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/> gives national week as 18th-26th September. PH has asked the Borough officers what plans are in hand for it. MM, MC and CA will meet as a subcommittee to consider activities. **Action – MM, MC, CA**; and **PH** to let us have the officers' reply.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday 6th July 2021, 7.00 pm.