

Basingstoke Transition Network
Meeting on Tuesday 7th September 2021, 7.30 pm (following AGM), by Zoom

Present: Martin Biermann (MB; chairing); Colin Andrews (CA), Sheila Peacock (SP), Martin Heath (MH), Miranda Chubb (MC), Bob Clifford (BC), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Jean Wilde, Steve Gargett, Paul Beevers (PB);

Apologies: Sarah Warriss-Simmons, Lucy Jones.

1. Minutes of last meeting – Item 5 should open “MM is chasing Overton and Oakley green groups...” [We didn’t formally approve them but I am taking it that they were approved.]

2. Matters arising

Action points have been carried out or are under way or covered below. For Item 5 MH reported that Basingstoke Energy Services Co-op members had given a popular workshop at Silchester green fair on retro-fitting a house for energy saving.

3. Invitation to workshop meeting with Sam Taylor, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, on Local Plan

We agreed in principle to attend a meeting sometime during the fortnight beginning 11th October, but SP will ask Sam whether an evening slot is available or it must be during the day, and who from the Council and officers will be present (we should like to engage with Cllr. Simon Bound, portfolio holder for the Local Plan, and Cllr Ruffell and Ruth Ormella, lead officer on planning). MC and MH will prepare the 4-5 key points on the Local Plan that we agreed with Cllr Ruffell we would do (Item 8 from July’s meeting). We will also raise the problem of inadequacy of the Infrastructure Plan, including lack of provision of “green” infrastructure and natural resources including clean water and air. Raising public awareness, which Cllr. Ruffell mentioned at our previous meeting, could include the re-instatement of Green Week, for which Council resources are required. **Action – SP, MH, MC.**

4. Meeting with Maria Miller MP on Thursday 16th September at 7.00 pm

We agreed:

- To suggest a face-to-face meeting and ask if it can be held at her office;

- To raise the following issues:

(a) Her attitude to the Local Plan and housing numbers, and how to get to Net Zero carbon by 2030 in the context, and how she and the Council can raise the profile of climate change issues;

(b) COP26 – how is the government going to achieve net zero by 2050;

(c) Children and the environment (suggested by Lucy Jones) and Nature Recovery Networks (suggested by PB) if time.

At least MB, MM, MC, and MH intend to attend; PB is unavailable; and he and SP are not her constituents anyway. **Action – SP** to set up.

5. COP26

MB directed us to HCAN’s latest news including singing occasions, and its next meeting (2nd October) at which it will be making preparations for COP26 (which takes place on 31st Oct-12th Nov). We considered holding a street stall and a CafeSci-type occasion during the conference – **Action – BC** - and to put a position statement on our website and Facebook and send it to the Gazette and Observer. **Action – MH, MC.** MC will find out what other Transition groups are doing. **Action – MC.**

6. Junction 7 development update

PB reported that the Council had rejected his specific complaints about the process, but was re-running the Development Control Committee consideration after the threat of a judicial review by Dummer Parish Council. It will be interesting to see whether the officers' report presented to the committee is different from the one originally presented.

7. Question-and-answer session with Urban & Civic

Urban & Civic has agreed in principle to send a speaker to a semi-public question-and-answer session on Manydown (invitations will be sent to BTN's wider mailing list of about 150 people). We agreed to suggest Thursday 25th November at 7.00 pm. **Action – SP.**

8. AOB

(a) Manydown Overview Committee is meeting on Wed 13th October and MC hopes to speak and encourages the rest of us to do so. **Action – MC, All.**

(b) Maria Miller is holding a meeting in Old Basing Village Hall on "Environmental Protection" on 23rd Sept at 6-8 pm. Apply to her secretary for an invitation:

hendersonjb@parliament.uk

(c) Jean Wilde reported that the vicar of Christ Church, Chineham, is in touch with the vicar in Oakley to formulate plans for COP26 and has been approached by the Borough Council and Maria Miller. Jean attended tonight's meeting to find out what BTN is doing and avoid duplication.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 5th October 2021, by Zoom – we agreed we were not yet ready to resume face-to-face meetings although MB undertook to investigate whether the Village Hotel would renew its offer to host them. **Action – MB.**