

**Basingstoke Transition Network**  
**Meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022, 7.00 pm by Zoom**

Present: Miranda Chubb (MC), Martin Biermann (MB), Colin Andrews (CA), Mary Andrews (MA), Paul Beevers (PB), Lucy Jones (LJ), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Martin Heath (MH), Stacy Hart (SH), Beth Rice (BR), Bob Clifford (BC), Jean Wilde (JW), Sheila Peacock (SP);

Apologies: Paul Harvey (PH).

1. **Minutes of meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022** – were accepted.

2. **Matters arising**

- Item 11 of 7<sup>th</sup> December meeting – U&C replied to MH/MC's letter suggesting a further meeting – MC will try to find a date in March or April. **Action – MC.**

- Maria Miller – MH met her on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan and put arguments for the serious shortcomings of the COP26 agreements. She appears genuinely interested in pressing the Borough Council leaders. She is strongly opposed to the imposed 18,000-house target. She strongly recommended our contacting Cllr. Aji Peter (minute 5(c) of last meeting). MH thought the meeting had been worthwhile.

3. **Borough Council interactions**

(a) We haven't found out what council officers' views on the Local Plan Update are;

(b) Cllr. Ruffell has a members-only meeting with Natural Basingstoke about the ecological emergency, on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb: PB as member and LJ as prospective member intend to attend;

(c) EPH committee is meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb and 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and according to its work plan (online) it is considering a "housing green conversion motion" on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb and the Local Plan Update on 3<sup>rd</sup> March; CEP has an "Update on the Climate Emergency" on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Agreed that as many of us as possible attend and speak at these three occasions – await detailed agendas to see where to pose questions. **Action – All.**

(d) Borough Council Investment Strategy – the Chief Executive has agreed to a meeting but the proposed time is not suitable for several of us so MC will contact him to try to rearrange it. MM, MC, MH, CA, BC, SH all interested in attending. **Action – MC.** The Labour and B&D Independent groups have both spoken positively, particularly about influencing the Hampshire County Council pension scheme. **Action – All** to write to their ward councillors promoting realignment of investments with climate/ecological emergency strategy. Winchester Extinction Rebellion is pushing Hampshire County Council, along with HCAN, on this issue; we are expected to co-ordinate with them.

(e) Awaiting Arun Mummalaneni's contacting Cllr. Aji Peter (note under item 2 above);

(f) Full Council meetings are on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and 24<sup>th</sup> Mar – we can pose questions to try to put Council leaders on the spot over climate emergency. **Action – all** (once agendas are out).

4. **Green Week 2022**

MM reported that Sam Taylor has two more staff members, and we agreed that we encourage him to use them to put Green Week on during National Green Week 24<sup>th</sup> Sept-2nd Oct to take advantage of social-media momentum; or bring it forward to Earth Day in June. We need to increase BTN's side in the organising committee (**Action – All** to consider); also **Action – All** to contact acquaintances who might provide activities. Brookvale Sustainability Day is on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

5. **"Town Hall" meeting and hustings**

*Agreed:*

(a) Town Hall meeting should be held before runup to 5<sup>th</sup> May election to allow a focused discussion with key Council leaders: the aim is to provide information and pose questions to Council leaders. Housing and “greening” existing housing stock are probably of sufficient interest to draw participants. MH can speak on retrofitting, providing background for questions to councillors. Small group to make arrangements: JW, MH, BC, CA, MM, maybe MB: MH will organise meeting. We plan that the meeting will be “hybrid” – so need to find an equipped place, possibly Christ Church Chineham. **Action – MH; group members; JW – to ask Christ Church.**

(b) Hustings – unlikely we have energy to do this as well as Town Hall between now and elections, so generally agreed we set up a list of questions (MB provided three as draft), and possibly hold a public Zoom meeting at which we dissect any replies. It wasn’t agreed who would co-ordinate hustings action – Direct Action group? The draft questions are:

1. What do you see as the most pressing climate / biodiversity issue/s facing Basingstoke and Deane at present.
2. If you had the authority of the Council Leader, what would you do to urgently address any any such problems you perceive.
3. In the absence of being Council Leader, in which way would you seek to apply pressure to the local decision-makers.

(c) For these occasions we should exploit the local press: Gazette, Observer – both will use press releases and good letters; and local TV (Paul Friend has an idea for a local TV channel on YouTube – action on BC to contact him?).

## 6. Publicity and branding

Subgroup hasn’t met yet, but LJ asks for useful words or phrases to describe BTN - **Action - All.** BC said that Digital House Marketing in Tadley offers free consultations.

## 7. HCAN Sat 29<sup>th</sup> January

MM, MH, JW, MB and BC attended. HCAN is trying to make itself into a more formal group so that it can approach HCC about investment strategy. It has formed a young group for social media. The Bus Service Improvement plan was discussed with approval but there is concern that central government will not fund it properly. HCAN discussed the choice of description “climate crisis” versus “climate emergency”: WinACC has just changed the second “C” in its acronym from “Change” to “Crisis”. Next HCAN is in Basingstoke on 30<sup>th</sup> April, face-to-face – **Action – MM** – to find a suitable place.

## 8. Tree planting arranged by “Possible”

BTN’s publicity helped ensure a good attendance (68 on Sat, 45 on Sun). MH is to write an item for the Gazette, and asks for photos. BR posted a video on Instagram and got >1000 hits. CA spoke to a geologist who pointed out that withdrawing water from the chalk aquifer causes a permanent reduction in its porosity. “Possible” is keen to continue working with BTN.

## 9. Instagram account

MH at Possible’s recommendation has set up an Instagram account for BTN: BR offered to help with it – MH will give her the password. **Action – MH.**

## 10. Saunders Field

PB spoke at CEP on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec; and he and SP spoke to the consultant working on the Leisure Park redevelopment and presented his plan. We are concerned that the Borough and County Councils have agreed to use Saunders Field as a relief pond for flooding

episodes in Buckskin, causing pollution. PB is doing a presentation on the ecological emergency to Basingstoke LibDems.

**11. "takeclimateaction.uk" website (organised by Friends of the Earth)**

Agreed we register BTN on this website (which is arranged by area) – a simple form must be filled in agreeing to abide by standards including data protection, safeguarding and political impartiality - see <https://takeclimateaction.uk/resources/policies-and-guidance> – MC and CA will register us. **Action – MC, CA.**

**12. Green Hearts climate action month**

BR's youth club will be working on this and she asked about things young people can do to help in the climate/ecological emergency, e.g. bug hotels; and to share photographs.

**13. River Loddon**

LJ judged the children's poetry competition and read many inspiring and uplifting pieces showing that children care about the river. We are reminded that action to highlight and try to prevent its pollution should attract good attention; also the Duke of Wellington and the Mayor (Cllr. Cubitt) should be on our side.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 7.00 pm by Zoom.