

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – 5 April 2022 at 10.00am

PRESENT:

Cllr J Clark (Chair)	Marshal Scott – Chief Executive
Cllr S Bibby	John Heap – Director of Community Services
Cllr D Berryman	Colin Hirst – Head of Regeneration and Housing
Cllr S Fletcher	Mair Hill – Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Cllr R Thompson	Michelle Haworth – Principal Policy & Performance Officer
Cllr S Hore	

APOLOGIES

Received from Cllrs S Atkinson and J Hill.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The actions from the meeting not covered on the agenda were considered.

Visit to Hanson Cement – a very interesting visit

Resident Perception Survey – on-going

Policy & Finance – request for officer – on hold pending outcome spending review

HUG bid – Colin had not done this but would do a briefing paper on what was being done

Joint working group with Development Plan WG – held on 29 November 2021

LANCASHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT MEETING – UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair gave feedback on the meeting she had attended and reported that the slides were available.

Of particular interest was the issue of improving water quality and the initiative to have designated river bathing at Edisford. Members discussed this in some detail and referred to Ilkley as an example. They felt that more information was required. Mair Hill referred to the regulations and pointed out that it was not a straightforward procedure.

CHIPPING RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

Cllr Hore reported upon this project. Chipping had been considered an appropriate location as it has no gas supply. The funding for the low carbon energy project had come via LCC from BAES.

The budget had been set at £40,000 and consultants had been selected – AVECO. They had looked at heat demand by surveying 250 homes. Alternative systems had been explored including air sources heat pumps, ground sources heat pumps, biomass boilers and loop systems and the impact they would each have on the village (AONB etc). The final recommendation was for a high temperature ground source heat system.

As oil boilers will disappear in 2026 there is a real need to find alternatives, so Chipping have applied successfully for a 2nd stage grant through the Rural Community Energy Fund for £100k. After an initial assessment the company will look at ambient heat ground source heat pump in small clusters and worked examples for 5 types of dwellings and what a household can achieve is expected by the end of the year.

PENDLE PEAT REGENERATION

Cllr Thompson had circulated a paper from Dominic Hartley for the Lancashire Partnership on Pendle Hill, and the on-going regeneration work to the peat.

Peat needs to be preserved, enhanced and restored as an important carbon sink. He asked that RVBC consider how this can be supported.

Other members highlighted that this issue applies not only to Pendle Hill but to other areas in East Lancashire and Lancashire wide, and we should find out what LCC are doing about carbon capture and what funds are available.

ONE CARBON WORLD

Michelle Haworth reported that she was currently collating data for an update report from One Carbon World. Once this was received a comparison can be done with the previous report to establish progress.

LOCAL ENERGY NW HUB

Michelle Haworth reported upon the offer made by this regional programme to promote investment in energy projects. She was in the process of completing the survey, and asked members for priority ideas.

The following were suggested

- strategic goals for low carbon energy solutions in the revised Core Strategy
- reducing carbon emissions
- alternative domestic energy (oil unavailable)

Cllr Thompson referred to Northumberland's recently adopted Local Plan and the key paragraphs it contains on energy future proofing and climate change.

Colin Hirst reported that there are positive policies in the plan regarding renewable measures but more detail is needed to make it clear about planning permissions (using supplementary planning documents)

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Michelle Haworth had circulated guidance on help for local authorities on this matter. The document was currently being analysed to identify what RVBC could go forward with.

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Michele Haworth circulated an updated version of the Action Plan and drew attention to some progress. Unfortunately, a lot of actions require funding. Marshal informed the group that CMT would choose some actions that could be targeted to concentrate on.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Heap reported that he had regular update meetings with the Regional Development Officer for Cadent who had offered to give members a presentation on their plans for hydrogen blending.

ACTION:

- 1. John Heap to contact both the local authority that covers Ilkley and the group that applied for the status to gain information on the process.**
- 2. Cllr Thompson to arrange a meeting with himself, Dominic Hartley and an appropriate officer to find out more.**
- 3. Michelle Haworth to give an update on Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure at the next meeting.**
- 4. Colin Hirst would prepare a paper on HUG and what is being done instead for the next meeting.**
- 5. John Heap would invite the Regional Development Officer from Cadent to give a presentation to the working group on plans for hydrogen blending for domestic/industrial use.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6 June 2022 at 3pm on ZOOM

The meeting closed at 11.08am.