

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – 23 November 2022 at 3.00pm via Zoom

PRESENT:

Cllr David Berryman ((DB) (Chair)	Nicola Hopkins (NH) - Director of Economic Development and Planning
Cllr Judith Clark (JC)	Jaqui Houlker (JH) – Principal Policy & Performance Officer (Note taker)
	Helen Boyle - Head of Regional Development for the North West and West Midlands at Cadent

APOLOGIES

Received for Cllrs Stephen Atkinson, Robert Thompson, Stewart Fletcher, Sue Bibby and Jonathan Hill.

Marshal Scott, John Heap, Olwen Heap, Mair Hill and Colin Hirst.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 1. Colin Hirst would put an item on the agenda for the next Economic Development Partnership meeting regarding charging points at their premises – on the agenda for October meeting**
- 2. John Heap to explore the installation of 2 EV points on the car park at Barclay Road, Longridge – no problem with the feasibility of this. There is currently a scheme pending for EV points on car parks generally.**
23/11/22 NH confirmed that there is an existing growth bid for charging points in the Borough including Barclay Road - this matter should be raised with the Budget Working Group.
- 3. John Heap to seek expert advice on where best to install solar panels – looking at this in order of ‘quick wins’ – where they will be most effective first e.g., public toilet blocks. A survey is being carried out.**
23/11/22 NH reported that work is underway.
- 4. 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 – apologies given this time – they will attend the next meeting.**
23/11/22 Helen Boyle, Head of Regional Development for the North West and West Midlands at Cadent attended the meeting. See notes – PRESENTATION FROM CADENT below.
- 5. Olwen Heap would follow up tree planting opportunities with Hanson Cement – a small area of land available. The Chair will contact Sam Wrathall to discuss.**

23/11/22 Chair to report back at the next meeting.

- 6. Marshal Scott to ask RRT where the trees had been planted with the £15k given to them – 9 woodlands; 16.3 hectares of land; 14,879 trees. The group would like to invite Jack Spees to attend a meeting in the new year and supply a map of where trees have been planted. They would also like to make a request to Policy & Finance committee for a further £15k grant to RRT.**

23/11/22 Jack Spees to be invited to the next meeting.

- 7. Nicola Hopkins would ask the ‘tree officers’ be look out for areas of land appropriate for tree planting – done.**

23/11/22 NH informed the group that tree officers had not identified any land appropriate for tree planting at the moment. They would however continue to look for available land.

The Chair asked if an update could be provided on the number of trees that have been planted at the end of the financial year.

- 8. Marshal Scott to circulate One Carbon World report once received – done – an item on this agenda.**

23/11/22 See note ONE CARBON WORLD (OCW) REPORT below.

- 9. The note from Colin Hirst on HUG would be circulated – done.**

- 10. John Heap would report the application for bathing water status to Community Services committee for their endorsement – entered into a dialogue with Jack Spees. More information required before a report can be done to committee.**

23/11/22 JH will speak to John Heap requesting an update for the next meeting.

- 11. Cllr Fletcher to contact with St James’ school regarding climate change issues – this is in the pipeline – hoping to invite some children to speak to the Town Council.**

23/11/22 The Chair will contact Whalley Community Hydro to request some funding.

PRESENTATION FROM CADENT

The Chair welcomed Helen Boyle, Head of Regional Development for the North West and West Midlands. Helen introduced herself and gave the following verbal presentation to the group.

- Cadent is the UK’s largest gas distribution network and Helen is responsible for supporting the transition away from natural gas to green gases as well as working with potential hydrogen producers to increase hydrogen production across the regions.
- Working collaboratively with electricity distribution network operators, to support local authorities accelerate net zero ambitions. HyNet is the UK’s leading industrial decarbonisation project, that will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from across the region by a quarter starting in the mid-2020s.

- This will be done by locking away carbon dioxide emitted by heavy industry and by providing locally produced low carbon hydrogen to power industry, transport and heat homes and businesses.
- Hydrogen will be manufactured in the North West at the low carbon hydrogen production plant at Ellesmere Port supplying local industry with hydrogen. As production increases the number /network of industries supplied will also increase.
- Hydrogen will be transported by underground pipelines, and it can be stored in facilities which currently store natural gas to manage energy demand.
- It is planned that homes in the Whitby area of Ellesmere Port will be the UK's first 'Hydrogen Village' to use 100% hydrogen for heating, cooking and hot water by 2025.
- HyDeploy is working with Cadent and other partners to show that blending low carbon hydrogen with fossil gas can be blended safely into existing networks. Carbon can be reduced by about 7%.

Questions and Answers.

- Cllr. JC - Where is the nearest green hydrogen plant? Lancaster area.
- Cllr. DB - Commented that there has recently been an experiment at Clitheroe Cement Works, where hydrogen had been tankered in.
- Cllr. DB – How long has the project been running for? HyNet started with the concept about 7 years ago.

ONE CARBON WORLD (OCW) REPORT

JH informed the group that the updated OCW report was coincidentally received on Monday, apologies were received from OCW for the delay in updating the report, requested in late September. Waste data has now been removed.

However, JH queried the natural gas consumption data which in 2019 was noted as m3 and in 2020 was noted as kWh, both years had similar consumption values. The correct calculation has now been applied by OCW and a further update of the report has been received, which now shows a true like-for-like reflection.

The updated report shows that electricity, natural gas, and vehicle fuels now account for the most significant emissions overall. The revised report will be circulated to the group with these meeting notes.

RIBBLE VALLEY CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (RVCAN) OPEN LETTER TO COUNCILLORS.

There are two points arising from the letter, which are:

1. That Ribble Valley Borough Council declare a Climate Change Emergency, and
2. That the Council organises Citizens Assemblies on the climate emergency in the Ribble Valley.

The group discussed the letter. The Chair will write a letter in response to RVCAN.

JH informed the group that a Residents Survey that includes questions on Climate Change is scheduled to go out in early 2023.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Chair informed the group that he had received a letter from Mr Harry Gee about two wheelie bins that are located in Longridge for collection of coffee pods. The bins are located in a local charity shop; however, they cannot be emptied quickly enough so can no longer be placed in the charity shop.

Mr Gee asks whether the Council can help with this issue. The group decided that this is a matter for Longridge Town Council. Cllr Clark suggested this could be raised at the Parish Council Liaison Group to establish whether there is an aspiration to role this out further.

- NH informed the group that Councillor Hore with Chipping Community Energy Group (CCEG) is working on a Stage 2 feasibility project; looking to bid for funding for a low carbon heating energy scheme. To bid for this money, the CCEG is looking for support from RVBC. A letter will be sent stating that RVBC is fully in favour of supporting the CCEG with this project.

ACTIONS

1. **Group to ask the Budget Working Group if the 2 EV points on the car park at Barclay Road, Longridge are included in the existing growth bid.**
2. **Chair to contact Sam Wrathall at Hanson Cement about a piece of land for tree planting.**
3. **Jack Spees to be invited to the next meeting to supply a map of where trees have been planted. The group would also like to make a request to Policy & Finance committee for a further £15k grant to RRT.**
4. **JH to request an update from John Heap for the next meeting about the application for bathing water status to Community Services committee for their endorsement**
5. **Chair to contact Whalley Community Hydro to request funding for St James School.**
6. **Chair to forward the letter from Mr Harry Gee about the emptying of coffee pod wheelie bins to the Parish Council Liaison Group**
7. **NH to draft a letter to Chipping Community Energy Group endorsing support for the low carbon heating energy scheme they are presently working on.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 18 January 2023 at 3:00pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm.