

# Climate Change Advisory Committee

Notes of a Virtual Meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**.

## **Present:**

Cllr. Buchanan (Chair);  
Cllr. Feacey (Vice-Chair);

Cllrs. Anckorn, Blanford, Campkin, Ledger.

## **Also Present:**

Cllr. Wright.

Head of Policy & Performance, Climate Change Manager, Project Manager Carbon Neutrality, Senior Climate Action Officer, Housing Development & Regeneration Manager, Property Building Services Manager, Member Services Officer.

## **1. Declaration of Interest**

- 1.1 Cllr. Feacey made a Voluntary Announcement, as he was on the Management Committee of UK LPG, the Managing Director of Energyshift, Chairman of the Ashford international development company and Chairman of the Ashford Volunteer Centre.
- 1.2 Cllr. Campkin made a Voluntary Announcement as a Councillor for KCC.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.
- 2.2 The Vice-Chair asked about the Sustainable Warmth Scheme and the Climate Change Manager advised that she would share the information she had received back from the Comms team with Cllr. Feacey.
- 2.3 An update relating to water savings on allotments would be given at the March meeting.

## **3. Water butt project - South East Waster Collaboration**

- 3.1 The Senior Climate Action Officer introduced this item and gave a presentation to the Committee that covered the following subjects and points:
  - Project background

- Project details
- Outcomes
- Why a partnership approach
- Costs
- Measurement of Project

3.2 The item was opened up for discussion and the following points were made:

- The Committee thanked the Senior Climate Action Officer and Climate Change Manager for their efforts in bringing the project to fruition.
- The Water butts would be standard size of 100L and the cost of each water butt was £37.99, including the stand and installation kit.
- In terms of supply and demand, SE Water would invoice ABC monthly after requests were received. If there were no take-up, there would be further comms regarding the social tariff and the positive impact.
- The communications information would include the fact that the water is not for human consumption.
- The Chairman applauded the scheme and highlighted that it was prudent to promote going into spring and then autumn.
- It was confirmed that all tenants would be advised to seek permission to install the water butts from their landlords. The Housing Team had highlighted that some properties were unsuitable for them. Information around how to install the water butts would also be provided, to minimise the risk of damp or other problems. It was noted that the Housing team already offered water butts to tenants in suitable properties when any guttering repair or replacements works took place as a matter of course.

**Resolved:**

**That the Presentation be received and noted.**

## **4. Heat Networks - The Ashford opportunity**

- 4.1 The Climate Change Manager gave a presentation to the Committee about Heat Networks and low carbon heating for Ashford. The presentation included slides that covered the following subjects and points:

- Water heated at Energy Centre and distribution
- Heat can be used from a variety of sources
- Benefits of Heat Networks
- Ashford opportunities
- BEIS Funding stages

4.2 The Chair opened up the item for discussion and the following points were made:

- Funding had not yet been secured and therefore the project was still at the discussions stage.
- In response to a question asking about the feasibility to retrofit heat networks to properties, it was confirmed that ground source pumps could be used in such instances as boilers could be removed and replaced with the pumps.
- The Vice-Chairman confirmed that a low carbon solution would be sought for Newtown Works.
- A Member asked were there sufficient resources/staff to undertake the work correlating to the 2025 target for all new build houses to include alternative heat systems (not gas boilers). The Climate Change Manager explained that 2025 was Central Governments ambition, and Building Regulations changes would run alongside that. Comms were vital to relay the correct message to the public.
- Current estimates were that residential properties could secure heating, hot water and potentially cooling from a network at £30-40 per month. This was anticipated to be metered, which would monitor usage. The electricity charge would be surplus.

**Resolved:**

**That the Presentation be received and noted.**

## **5. Climate Action delivery update**

5.1 The Climate Change Manager, Project Manager Carbon Neutrality and Housing Development & Regeneration Manager gave a presentation to the Committee about the current work being undertaken within the Climate strategy. The presentation covered the following areas:

- Making the transition to Net Zero
- Delivering low carbon services

- Campaigns and Comms
- Website landing page
- Big Green Week – June 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>
- Housing Update

5.2 The Chair opened up the item for discussion and the following points were made:

- The Stour Centre solar array would be carports, designed to go over the car parking spaces and a Member suggested planting be incorporated, to produce a bio-diversity gain. Carports were deemed beneficial on multiple levels, and provided a higher output.
- The Social Housing Development Fund announcement was behind schedule, but it was not anticipated to impact the ongoing work of retrofitting council properties. The funding would enable the work to be undertaken twice as fast, and within the current deadline.
- In response to a question concerning sufficient resources to carry out the projects, the Housing Development & Regeneration Manager explained that the business cases for grants and funding would justify the need for extra resource to be able to deliver the result. The long-term aim was also to embed the effort into all staff's role as a common goal.
- The Housing Development & Regeneration Manager would circulate the photograph of the car park array to the Committee.
- The Vice-Chairman highlighted the encouraging news that some single use plastics would be banned from October 2023.
- It was confirmed that the water from the carports could be harvested to use for watering the parks. Energy would also be utilised towards lighting within the car park areas.

**Resolved:**

**That the update be received and noted.**

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