

Climate Change Advisory Committee

Notes of a Virtual Meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee held on the **28th March 2023**.

Present:

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

Cllrs. Campkin, Mulholland.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Barratt, Wright.

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

Apologies:

Cllrs Anckorn, Ledger

Property Building Services Manager

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.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Integration of Climate Action considerations into working practice

- 3.1 The Climate Change Manager introduced this item and gave a presentation to the Committee that covered the following subjects and points:
 - Transition is a Change Management Process – Capabilities, Structure, Culture and Strategy
 - Climate Impact Assessments

- Procurement
- Carbon Literacy – online training
- Direction of Travel – July 2022 to March 2023
- Work still to consider
- The bigger picture

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

- Members thanked the Climate Change Manager and team for all the hard work they had undertaken, and for spearheading ABC's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and become a greener Council.
- The possibility of leasing vs buying was considered; one example being mechanical weed management equipment that could be rented out to other Councils. The Climate Change Manager agreed that leasing options could be considered as part of a circular economic approach, dependent on each project's merits.
- Tenterden residents had raised queries about the noise levels of the ground source heat pumps at the Leisure Centre. The Housing Development & Regeneration Manager explained that an assessment would have been completed prior to the instalment of the pumps and he would raise this with the Team that were responsible for these works, outside of the meeting.

Resolved:

That the presentation be received and noted.

4. Updates on Decarbonisation and Energy projects

4.1 The Project Manger Carbon Neutrality updated the Committee on the various projects including:

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund - bid submission was successful and ABC awarded just over £5 m from government towards the Social Housing retrofit project. ABC contributing just over £6m so project total now £11.3m (there was an embargo on us announcing this publicly until the press release was signed off)
- Heat Development Network Funding - successful in securing just under £100,000 to carry out a high-level feasibility study exploring the option for a heat network in Newtown, with potential to include the Newtown Works film studio development and adjacent social housing property
- Carlton Road - Work was due to start onsite later this week/early next week and would take roughly 4 months to complete. The benefit to tenants was cheaper electricity

- International House/Julie Rose Stadium - Heat Decarbonisation reports were complete and outlined a number of suggested measures for decarbonising both sites. APSE had been commissioned to carry out some heat decarbonisation studies and the next round of PSDS was likely to be announced in autumn this year
- Stour Centre Solar Array - New drawings had been circulated earlier, showing an expansion of the scheme which now had the potential to produce considerably more electricity. The surplus could, in theory, be fed to another building

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

- The Vice-Chair congratulated the team on the procurement of the SHDF and especially because ABC had probably managed to procure more money than anybody else on this particular project did.
- A Member asked how the team managed to overcome the preceding problem concerning the ability to flow that much electricity into the grid, at Carlton Road. The Housing Development & Regeneration Manager explained that they were advised that the infrastructure couldn't support the overall output, and would then be subject to curtailment. To avoid this they changed the plan so electricity would be fed into the actual units and in addition, consider vehicle-charging points. Any unused electricity would go back into the grid, but the possibility of providing the Stour Centre a discounted rate of electricity was being explored.

Resolved:

That the update be received and noted.

5. Community Engagement – incl. Big Green Week 2023

5.1 The Senior Climate Action Officer gave a presentation to the Committee about the current community initiatives being undertaken. The presentation covered the following areas:

- Environmental Education events – held at Singleton Env. Centre and 8 local schools attended
- Litter picking and Active Travel
- Great Big Green Week (June 10th to 17th) – will include the roadshow, Bioblitz and a Youth forum in the Council Chamber
- Solar Together scheme – now included small businesses, landlords and community buildings

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

- Friends of Bybrook Nature Reserve were to be copied in for correspondence
- The Junk orchestra were hoped to be located in Park Mall and the installation of instruments was made out of recycled items that had been tuned.
- In response to a question, the Senior Climate Action Officer confirmed that ALL schools were invited to the events including those in the Tenterden area. It was up to each school to respond and/or attend.
- A Member commented that it would be good to have more food outlets that were selling organic green produce in the Town Centre for Big Green Week.
- The Senior Climate Action Officer would circulate the figures of how many residents had signed up for SolarGo, and how many had it installed already.

Resolved:

That the presentation be received and noted.

Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact Member Services:

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