

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 15TH JULY 2024**

PRESENT –

Councillors

*Zafar Ali
Chris Church
Sarah Cockburn-Price
Kieran McGladdery
Ash Sutcliffe
Yvonne Tennant
Tom Whipp*

Co-optees

*Sylvia Godfrey
David Penney
Jane Wood*

Officers in attendance:

<i>Iftikhar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Gill Dickson</i>	<i>Programme Manager</i>
<i>Jessica Robinson</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

Also in Attendance:

<i>Tom Deacon</i>	<i>In-Situ</i>
<i>Anna Taylor</i>	<i>In-Situ</i>
<i>Dave Webber</i>	<i>Trawden Community Centre, Library and Shop</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Dr Caroline Spencer-Palmer and John Turley).



1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

AGREED

That Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price be appointed Chair of the Working Group for the municipal year 2024/25.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

AGREED

That Councillor Tom Whipp be appointed Vice-Chair of the Working Group for the municipal year 2024/25.

3. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on 18th March 2024 be agreed as a correct record subject to the date of the next meeting being changed from 17th June 2024 to 15th July 2024 and signed by the Chair.

4. CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

A film by In-Situ entitled Climate Fresk (<https://vimeo.com/982791508/3801b6b545?share=copy>) was shared on screen and Tom Deacon and Anna Taylor from the organisation then gave a verbal update and took questions from the Working Group.

Climate Fresks were being utilised to support Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) climate engagement programme and would feed into and inform its Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP). To date there had been two events hosted for members of local community and young people and it was hoped a large scale/mass event could be hosted at the end of the process to empower effective collective action against climate issues across a wider audience.

In-Situ would be producing a report evaluating their engagement programme in early September 2024 and were invited to present it to the Working Group at the next meeting.

How resistance to engagement on climate issues was being managed was enquired about. People were being given the space to talk freely and honestly and were being listened to and heard. An open forum for dialogue was being provided and no-one would be corrected or shut down.

An update on PBC's delivery of carbon literacy training to its staff was requested. Delivery timescales had been impacted by a number of factors including the recent UK Parliamentary General Election. However, In-Situ would be working with students from Nelson and Colne College to support the development of a 'Pendlelised' training programme so that it could be rolled-out to staff and Councillors as soon as was practicable.

An update on plans to hold two schools' meetings, one with Primary Schools and one with Secondary Schools, was also requested. It was now felt that it would be more effective to engage with schools as part of the wider engagement programme and this was planned for September / October 2024. Some Members did not agree with this approach as they felt specialised schools only events were required. Available budgets, which were limited, would need to be considered but if there was a demonstrated need for more targeted work to be undertaken the engagement programme could be reviewed. It was recommended that schools be signposted to the Ashden Foundation (<https://ashden.org/schools-campaign/>) to access their tools and resources, in the meantime.

AGREED

- (1) That thanks be given to Tom Deacon and Anna Taylor for attending this meeting.
- (2) That Tom and Anna be invited to attend the next meeting of this Working Group to present findings of their engagement to date.

- (3) That hosting a low-budget event for schools only outside of the wider engagement programme be considered.

5. CLIMATE PROGRAMME MANAGER UPDATE

The Working Group was advised that the closing date for the receipt of applications for the readvertised Climate Programme Manager post was Sunday, 14th July 2024. It was hoped a successful appointment could soon be made.

AGREED

That the update be noted.

6. COMMUNITY ENERGY UPDATE

The Working Group received a briefing from the Head of Economic Growth on the discussions held to date on community energy opportunities.

A number of opportunities and their suitability for Pendle were currently being considered including; ground source heat pump initiatives; canal water source heat pump initiatives; geothermal; district heating systems; organic rankine cycle systems; and bio-bubble installations. There was now a need for a consultant to be engaged to undertake surveys to gather data and assess viability of the different technologies. This would require funding. The Climate Programme Manager, once appointed, would be tasked with sourcing such funding.

The importance of finding eco-energy solutions that would suit Pendle's high proportion of terraced properties was emphasised. The Council had already delivered a successful Housing Market Renewal scheme in Whitefield which had involved retrofitting terraced properties to a high standard and that experience would be drawn on.

It was asked if Council policy review could also be considered as part of this process and planning policy in particular which was presenting as a barrier to the wider implementation of ground source heat pump schemes. It was not so much planning policy that was creating a barrier but more environmental policy which protected against the impact of noise pollution. Technology was, however, improving and sound insulation boards were being used more and more to attenuate the noise generated by pumps.

AGREED

That the update be noted.

7. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Trawden Community Centre, Library and Shop

The Working Group received a talk from Dave Webber of Trawden Community Centre, Library and Shop (TCCLS) on the environmental initiatives successfully introduced in Trawden.

TCCLS was run by over 100 volunteers and two paid staff members and provided the following services:

- Friendship Group for elderly and vulnerable people.

- Providing funding for organisations in the village.
- Filling stations in the shop to reduce waste and packaging.
- Bike station with electric bike charging.
- Niche recycling capabilities.
- Electric van for making deliveries.

Next steps for TCCLS included:

- Undertaking an official Green Survey to identify other projects.
- Installing a sedum roof on a new fuel store.
- Planting to encourage birds and wildlife.
- Developing the international Men's Sheds concept locally (Trawden Shedders) to address issues of social isolation amongst men in the local area.

More information on TCCLS and Men's Sheds could be found at <https://www.trawdenforest.com/> and <https://menssheds.org.uk/>.

The Reuse 360 shop in Burnley (<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-centres/burnley/>) was put forward as a further example of good practice and some Members felt there was opportunity for a re-use shop to be developed at Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) Household Recycling Centre in Barnoldswick. There were, however, issues that would need to be raised with LCC first, namely the facility's reduced opening hours which had resulted in an increase in fly-tipping in its vicinity.

AGREED

- (1) That thanks be given to Dave Webber for attending this meeting.
- (2) That the examples of good practice be noted.
- (3) That a formal request to Lancashire County Council to increase the opening times at the Household Recycling Centre in Barnoldswick and to also consider the development of a re-use shop at the facility be made by Councillor Ash Sutcliffe, in his capacity of County Councillor.

8. LANCASHIRE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (LancsCAN) FEEDBACK

Sylvia Godfrey and Jane Wood had attended a LancsCAN event on 6th June 2024 which they felt had been very interesting and also had been a great opportunity for networking. There was so much good work already being undertaken across Lancashire but there was scope for more to be achieved by organisations working collaboratively with each other.

The event began with a question and answer session followed by four workshops which covered climate issues such as; carbon accounting; renewable and sustainable energy; food; and decarbonising transport.

Further information on the event could be found at <https://sites.edgehill.ac.uk/lancscan/events/lccaf-2024/>.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points in Car Parks.** EV charge points in car parks would be included in the new parking policy and strategies Pendle Borough Council (PBC) was working on for the five towns in the Borough with car parks, Nelson, Colne, Brierfield, Barnoldswick and Earby. A baseline and background report was being considered by the relevant Area Committees in July. Members were being asked to select a Working Group to help determine requirements for each town. The baseline report and follow up from the Working Groups would form the scope for a Consultant to carry out the necessary surveys to complete the car parking policy and strategies for each of the five towns, including preferred locations and requirements for EV charge points.
- **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).** BNG was being implemented through the Development Management process. Councils had been given £28k of capacity funding. In line with the decision of Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) Executive in March, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit had been engaged to assist PBC with looking at the costs for increasing BNG on Gib Hill and also with ensuring its Development Management processes were robust.

Agreement had been reached with the Executive Portfolio Holders responsible for Planning and the Environment on the Membership of the Working Group that the Executive agreed should be set up. That Group was now being convened.

PBC was working with Lancashire County Council (LCC) and other Councils on the production of the Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy. That was likely to be reported to PBC in December. There was a statutory duty to reply within four weeks which would cause issues with the Committee timetable, so a potential delegation route was being looked at. PBC had asked for six weeks but no decision from LCC had been made on this request.

- **Masterplans Update.** The Masterplans were nearing completion and there was some Member feedback currently being incorporated. The final versions would go to PBC's Executive on 1st August 2024 for adoption.

Each town in the Borough had identified their priorities in relation to how they would want to develop, which included better transportation links, heritage, employment and housing.

When the Masterplans were adopted, they would form the basis of developing projects and would lever funding for future developments to meet the needs of the local communities.

- **Rewilding Britain.** Rewilding Britain had recently announced that it would be funding nine new projects as part of the Spring 2024 round of its Rewilding Innovation Fund. These projects represented a diverse range of rewilding initiatives and would receive seed funding to help break down barriers to rewilding. More information can be found at https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/blog/nine-innovative-rewilding-projects-awarded-funding-boost?utm_source=Rewilding+Britain+newsletter&utm_campaign=d9858d2c70-EMAIL_MAY_NEWSLETTER_2024_05_29&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6591f59cfd-0579270b09-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D.

AGREED

That the items be noted.

10. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

The following were suggested for inclusion on Agendas for future meetings:

- Climate Change Action Plan
- Annual Emissions Report
- Walking School Bus Schemes
- Guest Speaker from Lancashire County Council's Climate Change Team
- Gib Hill Update
- Feedback from Chair and Programme Manager's visit to Rossendale
- Climate Engagement Programme / Climate Fresk Update (In-Situ)
- Carbon Literacy Training Update
- Exploring the potential for establishing a Community Energy Company in Pendle

AGREED

That the listed items of business be included on Agendas for future meetings of this Working Group.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 16th September, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.

Chair _____