

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP  
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS  
ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price (Chair)*

**Councillors**

*Zafar Ali  
David Cockburn-Price  
Ash Sutcliffe*

**Co-optees**

*Angela Moran  
David Penney  
Stephen Sykes  
Jane Wood*

**Officers in attendance:**

*Victor Equere            Climate Programme Manager  
Jessica Robinson      Committee Administrator*

**Also in Attendance:**

*Janine Lund            Lancashire County Council*

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Church, Iftikhar Bokhari, Sylvia Godfrey and Phillip Spurr.)*

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**1. MINUTES**

**AGREED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the date of the next meeting being changed from 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**2. REUSE360HUB SCHEME**

The Working Group received a presentation from Janine Lund of Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the REUSE360HUB Scheme and other reuse projects (<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/reduce-reuse-recycle/reuse/reuse-hub-and-community-projects/>).

LCC used a simple ranking system/hierarchy when dealing with waste across the County. Prevention was the preferred method, followed closely by reuse with disposal the least preferred. LCC was committed to making the most effective use of resources to ensure the least environmental impact.

LCC ran three reuse projects, REUSE360 shops, the REUSE360HUB and Community Reuse. With regards to REUSE360 shops, there were three in the County and were situated at Burnley and Preston Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and Garstang Community Recycling and Reuse Centre. All shops were open five days a week, including weekends, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and were operated by site staff and volunteers.

It was asked if an assessment to site a REUSE360 shop had been carried out at Barnoldswick HWRC. There had been one but, logistically, it was not feasible to have a shop on the site owing to its size. The three other sites each had the footprint to accommodate a shop and could provide storage and car parking. There was, however, a bric-a-brac dealer who took reusable items from the site in Barnoldswick. Furthermore, LCC would always first encourage anybody to donate reusable items to charity shops and/or family and friends. Using a LCC facility should always be someone's second or third thought.

With regards to the REUSE360HUB, it was a free sustainable household support scheme, which worked on a referral basis, for the people living in the County who needed it most. Referrals were made through the members only website. Members were often social care professionals. The website had over 900 members, over 5% of whom were Pendle based. The website had helped over 2,100 people last year and the project prioritised social value over tonnage.

The REUSE360HUB also hosted pop-up events which provided an opportunity for collaborative work. It was mentioned that Eco-Barnoldswick was very keen to liaise with LCC, as they were in the process of setting up a repair café in the town and were hoping to do that in conjunction with Barnoldswick HWRC. Janine said she would be happy for her contact details to be shared with the organisation for the idea to be discussed further.

With regards to Community Reuse, LCC supported the work of local charities and not-for profit organisations by supplying them with reusable items it received at its recycling centres. Each centre had its own bespoke reuse plan. Barnoldswick HWRC, for example, had been collecting garden tools for Barnoldswick in Bloom. It was felt this was something the Men's Sheds in Colne and Trawden could benefit from. Both organisations could make an online application for support at <https://clickquestion.lancashire.gov.uk/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=913980>.

Between October and December 2023, 15,000 items had been reused across all projects and in the same period in 2024, the numbers had almost doubled to just under 30,000. The tonnage reused across all projects between October and December 2023 was 29 tonnes and had increased to 35 tonnes in the same period in 2024. It was hoped that this upward trend would continue as all projects seemed to be going from strength to strength.

There could be potential for some of the £20million over 10 years Plan for Neighbourhoods' funding to be used to establish a reuse shop or repair café in Nelson and it was felt that the advice Janine could offer would be invaluable to such an endeavour. It was asked if Janine could link with colleagues on the Nelson Plan for Neighbourhoods' and possibly attend a future Board meeting. This was something Janine would be happy to do.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the content of the presentation be noted.
- (2) That thanks be given to Janine Lund for attending this meeting.

- (3) That Janine Lund's contact details be shared with the Members of this Working Group who represented Eco-Barnoldswick.

### **3. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

The Working Group received a presentation on ekosgen's progress on the development of Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) Climate Change Strategy to meet its targets of being carbon neutral by 2030 and net zero by 2050. PBC Directors and Officers had had the opportunity to make input in the strategy's development and now this Working Group's input was being sought.

The presentation set out PBC's proposed vision and mission statement for the Working Group to review and agree its wording. The presentation further set out the proposed objectives of the strategic framework for climate change action in Pendle and the cross-cutting thematic priorities again for the Working Group to review and agree their wording.

PBC was seeking to enact real climate change action through energy efficiency and consumption, renewable energy generation, low carbon transport, climate adaptation and mitigation and natural capital and green solutions.

It was hoped the final version of the strategy could be published by 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and so the Working Group's comments would need to be received not later than 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Given it was the first time the Working Group had had sight of the presentation they did not feel they would have sufficient opportunity to reflect on its content during this meeting. It was, therefore, suggested that the strategy's wording be extracted from the presentation and circulated to the Working Group as a Word document for the Members to make their comments and/or suggest amendments using the Tracked Changes function.

The Working Group's initial thoughts, however, were that the strategy was very generic and did not feel Pendle focussed, as there was no reference to peat uplands or challenges of insulating Pendle's high proportion of solid stone wall buildings, for example. They further felt it was lacking a sense of urgency. It was also felt that the mission statement should specify who the strategic partners, community groups and other stakeholders were that PBC would be working with.

The Chair advised that following the last meeting she had written to PBC's Executive with a 'wishlist' of required climate actions to improve PBC's Climate Action Score Card score, drafted by the Climate Programme Manager, which included the incorporation of this Working Group's Net Zero commitment in the Corporate Plan but had not had a response to date.

Councillor Zafar Ali, Portfolio Holder Environment and Climate Change, responded that the Executive would pick up on some of the issues at a future meeting but that it would not be until after the May 2025 elections owing to purdah.

### **AGREED**

- (1) That the content of the presentation be noted.
- (2) That the Climate Change Strategy's wording be extracted from the presentation and circulated to the Working Group as a Word document following the meeting.

- (3) That the Working Group provide their comments on and/or suggest amendments to the strategy, not later than 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

#### **4. UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE PROGRAMME MANAGER**

The Working Group received a presentation from the Climate Programme Manager on his current work programme. The presentation covered; an update on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding Scheme, an update on grant applications, Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) carbon footprint reduction awareness campaign, an update on Building Stock Decarbonisation and an update on other projects currently in progress.

With regards to the LEVI Funding Scheme, the first mapping meeting had been held and there would be a follow-up meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at which suitable car parks in which EV chargers could be installed would be mapped. There was a high weighting on public need within Pendle and in Barnoldswick, Barrowford, Brierfield, Colne, Earby, Nelson and Trawden, particularly. Nine variables would be considered when selecting viable areas / sites, including terraced housing and deprivation.

With regards to grant applications, the value of the bid for the Salix Phase 4 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant to decarbonise West Craven and Wavelengths Leisure Centres had been reduced from £2,170,552 to £1,715,838, on the advice of PBC's Director of Resources, owing to some boilers at the Centres not being at end of life. It was felt there was a very good chance (85%) of securing the grant based on recent conversations with Salix. It was hoped PBC would be receiving £30,000 of North-West Net Zero Hub (NWNZH) Spark Grant funding to fund Green Skills Qualifications for over thirty members of staff to grow its green work force and drive its decarbonisation plans. A decision on this funding was expected by the end of March 2025. PBC was also preparing to resubmit an application for £200,000 of National Lottery Fund funding as new grant criteria was being launched by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. If successful, this funding would be used to provide bespoke energy saving advice for people living in Fuel Poverty through the recruitment of an Energy Advisor.

With regards to PBC's carbon footprint reduction awareness campaign, this would be rolled out during March 2025 on PBC's bin lorries. A similar campaign had been run by Reading Borough Council. Four designs for the artwork had been approved and all promoted different messages. The messages were unplugging appliances when not in use, using LED bulbs, washing clothes in colder water and adjusting thermostats. All designs included the wording "I'm powered by Bio Fuel so my emissions are reduced by up to 90%". It was advised that caution be exercised when claiming emissions could be reduced by such a high percentage as it could easily be challenged as a technical carbon accounting mechanism. The Assistant Director Operational Services would be made aware of the potential for this.

It was asked if the carbon footprint reduction awareness campaign could also be rolled out on social media and not just reserved for bin lorries. Such a roll-out was already planned and PBC's Communications Team would assist with it.

With regards to Building Stock Decarbonisation, PBC's total emissions were 1,264.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>/year. The three Leisure Centres, Pendle Leisure Centre, Wavelengths and West Craven, contributed a massive 81% tCO<sub>2</sub>/year with a cumulative emission of 1,021 tCO<sub>2</sub>/year. Emissions from Nelson Town Hall (71.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>/year) and then Number One Market Street (56.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>/year) were the next highest. Solar panels with 311KWp were being fitted at Wavelengths using Swimming Pool Support Fund funding to make the Centre 26% less dependent on grid electricity. Wavelengths

and West Craven could receive PSDS funding to install insulation and air source pumps which would result in a carbon offset of 415.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>/year.

The Heat Decarbonisation Reports for the remaining PBC buildings had been sent to NWNZH for review and for suitable funding opportunities to be recommended. The completeness of the list of PBC's properties on one of the presentation slides was challenged, it did not include Trawden Recreational Pavillion, for example, and there were many other buildings that were in PBC's ownership that also had not been included.

Other projects currently in progress included setting up a dedicated Climate webpage on [www.pendle.gov.uk](http://www.pendle.gov.uk) like Blackburn with Darwen Borough, Blackpool and Rossendale Borough Councils had. This would help to improve PBC's Climate Action Score Card score. Concerns were expressed that the webpage would likely not be very interesting or engaging owing to PBC's website not supporting videos or pictures. Making the webpage very interactive was currently being discussed with PBC's Communications Team.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the content of the presentation be noted.
- (2) That a copy of the presentation be circulated to all Members of this Working Group following the meeting.

## **5. "UNPROVEN" CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGY**

The Working Group had been asked to read a BBC News article prior to this meeting ([https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8jpi3z3n2o?link\\_id=7&can\\_id=fe717fa18038b0a9182b9992b93e4e7e&source=email-morning-briefing-thursday-6-february&email\\_referrer=email\\_2610281&email\\_subject=morning-briefing-friday-7-february](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8jpi3z3n2o?link_id=7&can_id=fe717fa18038b0a9182b9992b93e4e7e&source=email-morning-briefing-thursday-6-february&email_referrer=email_2610281&email_subject=morning-briefing-friday-7-february)) and to also visit the following website (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discovering-geology/climate-change/carbon-capture-and-storage/>) to inform the discussion on "unproven" carbon capture and storage technology.

The Working Group agreed that the science of carbon capture and storage was compellingly robust, but that the scale was lacking. Currently, the only plants were small scale ones, with the largest one being in Iceland, and millions of plants would be needed for significant reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to be achieved. The Working Group felt that the billions being spent on this technology would be more environmentally and economically beneficial if it was used to invest in cheaper renewable energies such as hydroelectricity and geothermal energy. They also felt that the aim should first be to reduce consumption and, therefore, the demand for energy.

## **6. WRITING TO OUR M.P / THE GOVERNMENT**

Upland farming in Pendle was discussed by the Working Group. The Working Group acknowledged that upland farming was not sustainable and that there was a need for farming practices to change in response to the climate emergency, but agreed farmers needed support both financially and practically from the Government. It was reported that the Government had recently closed its mid tier Countryside Stewardship schemes and that the higher tier would not open until an unspecified date in Summer 2025 which was not particularly helpful to Pendle's farmers, who were struggling to make a living from their farming now.

The following further topics / issues were put forward at this meeting:

- Cutting of grants for charging points in deprived urban areas where there was a high proportion of terraced properties with no off-road parking
- Promoting the use of reusable cloth nappies

The Chair would write to the MP about all of the above following this meeting but would share a draft with the Working Group prior to issuing the correspondence.

The following topics / issues had already been raised with Jonathan Hinder MP and whilst he had acknowledged the contact, his detailed responses were awaited and perhaps the topics / issues would need to be raised again:

- Concerns over the revised NPPF and its inadvertent effects on Pendle, especially low viability leading to Brownfield land lying empty, with Greenfield sites only being developed
- Concerns over the under supply of suitable housing for older people in Pendle and the lack of variety of home built by developers
- Rewriting the new National Design code, so detached houses become the exception, not the rule
- A request that the reoccupation of long-term empty houses is counted towards a Local Authority's annual housing target
- Creating the infrastructure for a balanced approach to renewable and sustainable energy, encompassing not just solar and wind power, but also other technologies, such as geothermal and hydropower
- Banning the use of peat in compost completely in all circumstances
- Supporting a ban on the practice of burning and drying out our peatlands by landowners who use their moors for grouse shooting and by landowners who wish to develop their peat moorland by cutting numerous tracks through it to facilitate large scale windpower developments
- Introducing a nationwide bottle and can deposit scheme
- Introducing some form of additional taxation on fast food outlets to help Councils deal with the huge amounts of waste their customers discard
- Deploying a greater number of community payback schemes to help deal with littering and fly tipping
- Commissioning a series of public information films to be shown on television, and via social media, to demonstrate the harm to the environment garnered by people who throw rubbish from their vehicles
- Banning plastic grass in domestic contexts

The MP had been invited to this meeting, as well as previous and future meetings of this Working Group to advise on his stance on climate matters but had not yet accepted any of the invitations. Beyond offering broad support across all the topics raised, none of these emails from the Chair had been taken up with Government ministers, so there was no formal response from the Government. The Chair said she would continue lobbying the MP particularly given that it was a means by which Climate Action Score Card scores could be improved. She had previously asked for her correspondence to be forwarded to relevant ministers.

It was suggested that the topics / issues be raised with DEFRA and other ministers directly, but with the MP being copied into all correspondence. This was something the Chair could try to do but she would first be interested to know how Pendle Borough Council's Chief Executive raised issues with ministers when there had been a resolution of the Council.

**AGREED**

- (1) That correspondence be sent from the Chair of this Working Group to Jonathan Hinder MP regarding the following topics:
  - Support for upland Farmers in Pendle
  - Cutting of grants for charging points in deprived urban areas where there was a high proportion of terraced properties with no off-road parking
  - Promoting the use of reusable cloth nappies
  - All the issues / topics raised previously
- (2) That the new correspondence referred to in (1) be shared with the Working Group prior to it being issued to Jonathan Hinder MP.
- (3) That Jonathan Hinder MP again be invited to a future meeting of this Working Group.

## 7. ITEMS FOR NOTING

- **Herbicide Use.**

County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe had requested that relevant Officers at Lancashire County Council (LCC) considered the cessation of weed spraying in suburban areas across Lancashire. The following response was received:

“The use of Glyphosate remains the most effective treatment available, but LCC do continue to review and trial any new methods or treatments as they come to market.

You also enquire about the possibility of not treating at all, however we do have a statutory duty to remove weeds for the highway which could materially damage the fabric of the highway or cause a safety issue to users of the highway. This is under the ***Control of weeds to prevent damage to the highway and to prevent the establishment of Weeds Act 1959 and the wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.***

The following is set out in the LCC Highway Management plan in respect of how LCC treats weeds (You can find the full document here: [Highway management plan - Lancashire County Council](#)).

### **Operational Standards for Weed Control**

Within the framework of the statutory provisions the council will take action to safeguard the condition of the highway where weed growth is seen to be physically damaging the fabric of the highway or presents a hazard or where weed growth is having a detrimental effect on the safety of the highway.

We will comply with the:

- statutory provisions of the Weeds Act to control the spread of Curled Dock, Broad Leafed Dock, Creeping Thistle and Ragwort and the specific requirements of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in relation to the control of Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed.
- UK Government advice in relation to 'Prevent harmful weeds and invasive non-native plants spreading'.

### **Definition of Activity**



- Physical and chemical weed control methods will be used on highways where they are practical and cost effective. Where practical, weed control will be integrated into a co-ordinated programme with the District Council's highway sweeping to remove living and treated weeds from carriageways, footways and cycle routes.
- All weed spraying shall be carried out in accordance with the Control of Pesticides Regulations. Only approved pesticides listed 'on the Pesticides Register of UK Authorised Products produced by the Health and Safety Executive.
- For highway hard impermeable surface weed killing operations a translocated non[1]residual contact herbicide should be used. New weed growth occurs in spring and autumn, so for effective weed control, we will apply two applications to adopted areas which will be supported by responsive treatments as considered necessary. On permeable areas of the highway verge, including planted beds, we may consider use of new residual herbicides."

County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe said that should this Working Group wish to recommend amendments in terms of delivery, this could be discussed with the responsible Officer at LCC and he could facilitate that discussion.

- **Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LLNRS).**  
A report was submitted at the meeting of the Executive held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to inform Members of the pre-consultation draft LLNRS and to seek approval for it proceeding to public consultation. A copy of the report could be found at <https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3396/executive>. The Executive resolved to endorse the pre-consultation draft LNRS as they deemed it an appropriate document for the ecological needs of Pendle and an acceptable form to proceed to formal public consultation.
- **Pendle Borough Council's Parking Strategy and EV Charging Points in Car Parks.**  
The scoping of Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) Parking Strategy was in the process of being agreed and a Consultant would be appointed to undertake the work.

PBC Officers were working closely with Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) scheme. LCC had been furnished with details of PBC's car parks, and the case made for them to consider quick wins and use the existing infrastructure to enable residents living within a five minute walk of car parks to charge their cars during the evening.

LCC would consider this as an option for Pendle, as it avoided doing more costly work in streets and to lampposts which were either back of pavement or non-existent. The outcome of LCC's fact finding exercise was awaited and PBC Officers would continue to work closely with them.

- **Recycling Rates in Pendle.**  
A document containing some District recycling data provided by Lancashire County Council in February 2025 had been submitted by the Assistant Director Operational Services, for the Working Group's information. Pendle's recycling performance was quite strong when compared with its nearest neighbours. Pendle's most damaging factor was its residual waste tonnages. Its non-recycling stream (grey bin and bulky stream) greatly affected its recycling rate. The data also showed how Pendle, which was ranked 274, compared with the top ten ranked Councils nationally.



It was noted that Blackpool Council was performing particularly well, and it was felt there might be lessons to be learnt from them.

The Working Group recognised the excellent work the Assistant Director Operational Services and his Teams were doing and asked that thanks be given to them.

Pendle Borough Council (PBC) had recently appointed a Recycling Officer who would be helping it to introduce new schemes, such as the weekly food waste collections, which would be provided from the week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026, and to improve its recycling performance.

PBC was currently running the 'Check Before You Chuck!' social media campaign to motivate and educate its residents to start recycling to increase its recycling rates. In addition to this, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently made a resolution to promote positive anti-littering messaging in innovative ways using various social media platforms.

### **AGREED**

- (1) That the items be noted.
- (2) That a further discussion with the responsible Officer at Lancashire County Council on its glyphosate use be facilitated by County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe.
- (3) That thanks be given to the Assistant Director Operational Services for the excellent work he and his Teams were doing to improve recycling rates in Pendle.

### **8. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

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

- Climate Engagement Programme Update (ongoing)
- Community Energy / Community Heat Networks / Rossendale Visit
- Geothermal Energy – opportunities being scrutinised by our Climate Emergency Officer
- Guest Speaker(s) from Environment Agency and/or Ribble Rivers Trust (Jack Spees of Ribble Rivers Trust would be speaking at the next meeting)
- Guest Speaker from Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) new Active Travel Team (invitation issued)
- Guest Speaker from LCC's Transport Team (invitation issued)
- Integrated train, bus networks, perhaps with more freight on our railways
- Presentation on 2030hub (presentation would be delivered at the next meeting)
- RecycleIT
- Sponsoring a Tree Nursery in Pendle
- Street Trees

### **AGREED**

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

### **9. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

That future meetings of this Working Group be held on the following dates:

Climate Emergency Working Group (12.03.2025)

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_