Hampshire Climate Action Network 5 October 2024

Saturday 5 October 2024 10.30-12.30

Minutes

National

1. **What's changing, and what are the opportunities for local climate action?**
   - National Planning Policy Framework - a threat if new housing targets mean less nature. Opportunities: stricter standards for new-build; easier to have on-shore wind; an end to "predict and provide" transport planning
   - Big Energy
   - end of coal
   - money for carbon capture and storage - does this make sense?
   - Spending Review - will it cut funding for road building?
   - Public transport: nationalising the railways, and giving transport authorities the power to take over bus services. We need to influence these before they happen.

   ACTION: Phil & Chris & others try to reinvigorate the HCAN Transport Interest group, to discuss how to do this, and how to press HCC to pursue the option of taking over buses.
   (Useful briefing from the Guardian)

2. **COP29**
   Southampton would welcome you to join in a COP march 16th Nov starting from Guildhall Sq. With Rhythms band.
   https://www.facebook.com/events/851475303409735.

   ACTION come, and bring your group's banner.

3. **Talking to MPs**

   Rushmore, Southampton and Winchester have contacted MPs and arranged to talk to them as part of the Climate Coalition's day of action on 12 October. Probably worth doing because even if they are not interested in climate issues, they need to know that their constituents are and so there may be votes in it.

   ACTION: If anyone contacts Damien Hinds please tell PeCAn and ACAN so they can join you.

   Useful tips on how to engage with an MP include:
   - focus on something that matches their interests
   - make it a photo / publicity opportunity
   - combine across local climate groups
   - tell the MP if something specific is coming up in Parliament and brief her/him what we hope s/he will raise.

   ACTION: Ask your MP to support Wera Hobhouse MP's cross-party amendment to the Great British Energy Bill to ensure that Community Energy is included in the Bill. More at
   https://powerforpeople.org.uk/write-to-your-mp-leb?fbclid=IwY2xjawFt-KtleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHf_908OFzjC7V0jR3p5mOkAah54ROoYWdgMJ1Zdqiu-xw3GHBK5Z3HUKfw_aem_T0v2oq5wgt8nmRB0fa4yKg&sfnsn=scwspmo

4. **Devolution:** keep our eyes open for developments. Maybe we will have a solent Mayor?

5. **'Insure Our Survival'** is a campaign to persuade insurance companies not to insure no drilling and digging for oil, gas and coal." National action 28 October in London followed by actions around the UK which can be organised by local groups. More here https://extinctionrebellion.uk/act-now/campaigns/insure-our-survival/ Find the insurers closest to you on this map (Howden seem to be the most common): https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1b8DE2EpaLkMeBBYNRhpAXOC_wniAzaI&ll=51.06572321153161%2C-1.6769172890632955&z=9

6. **March for Clean Water** 3 Nov (not 26 October as previously planned) in London, a one-off event organised by River Action to petition the government for clean water throughout the UK. More at https://marchforcleanwater.org/supporters

7. The latest **Warm Homes Campaign** update from FOE linked to data : https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/resources/warm-homes-map-find-out-about-energy-crisis-your-area and Data on energy efficiency of homes | Policy and insight

8. **National Wealth Fund (for info):** On 9 July, the government announced the establishment of a new National Wealth Fund (NWF). It will be given £7.3 billion in new funding, and bring together two existing public financial institutions : the UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) and British Business Bank (BBB). The. £7.3 billion is in different pots to help the most energy intensive sectors decarbonise: including £1.5 billion to gigafactories for electric vehicles, £2.5 billion to clean steel, and £1 billion for carbon capture. (The Climate Change Committee have said we need £50 billion *every single year* to fund the green transition. Labour says that for every £1 of public investment, the NWF will attract £3 of investment from private companies. More at this explainer blog.

Local groups and ideas

"**Havant** is much the same as before - working with our new administration on a revised climate action plan and battling on to stop the Southern Water plans for recycling effluent Southern Water's Proposals for Effluent Recycling via Havant Thicket Reservoir" (from Sue James)

Alton: welcome to Sarah Gulliford, new Chair, and Martin Wiles, longstanding volunteer and Community Share leader. Many projects are active in Alton including eco-streets, library of things like jigsaws and toys, Cycle Alton, projects on sustainable eating, edible planting. nature spaces, repair cafe, and Young ACAN (about which you can read more here: Young ACAN - October 2024.docx)

Blackwater Valley FoE: attended several local events in the summer to promote FoE campaigns; took an active part in three counter-far-right demonstrations that were targetting an asylum seekers hotel and immigration lawyers' offices in Aldershot; took part in the Earthwatch Water Blitz and now organising an active programme of regular water quality monitoring in the River Blackwater and Basingstoke Canal in partnership with several other interested groups and the University of Surrey; working with Hart DC to establish an Energy Alton style approach to domestic retrofitting with interested parish councils using thermal imaging cameras and trained advisors; assisting Bracknell Council revise its climate change action plan; Hampshire Pension Fund Responsible Investment data updated following communications with Andrew Boutflower of the Hampshire Pension Fund - still £247 million invested in fossil fuels and in companies that have 10% or less of fossil fuels assets or who derive 10% or less of income from fossil fuels. Conclusion:little progress towards disinvestment but lots of greenwash. £361m invested in renewables but these are energy from waste plants so not strictly renewables. Pushing for meetings with the new political leaders of HDC and RBC to

try to get agreement on getting Notice of Motions on HPF and LA disinvestment at Full Council meetings in the hope of creating a 'domino effect'.

PeCAN: “Festival for Trees” in February with free hedging, cut price fruit trees, and free trees for front gardens from the Town Council which is sending out tree wardens to encourage people to take it up. Ongoing activities include e weekly ecco-cafe.

Winchester WinACC organised a workshop for county district and parish councillors to learn about latest emissions stats, look at opportunities created by changes in loc and national policy context, and plan together about how to seize the opportunities to make the biggest impact on the climate. See programme here https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QtWFH-pXFqs7nmZO_nsSFFfiijm6JP4u/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109852800609015849553&rtpof=true&sd=true : and slides about emissions and Winchester Council here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1kbKkgW1WdshMf8cEgDZkBAZGcHxVavCq/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109852800609015849553&rtpof=true&sd=true

Danny shared some ideas for climate change action days:

- Educate: Teach the difference between climate and weather.
- Raise awareness: Host a digital takeover day at a museum to share objects that highlight the climate crisis.
- Celebrate: Celebrate the climate action happening in your community.
- Host a treasure hunt: Create a treasure hunt with a climate theme in a local park, and include eco-friendly prizes.
- Go for a walk: Walk barefoot in nature, or go "Forest Bathing" in local woodland.
- Support a charity: Donate to a charity that works on climate change.
- Reduce consumption: Reduce your use of paper, and buy fewer products.
- Reduce meat consumption: Eat less meat, or try going vegetarian for a day.
- Reduce waste: Recycle, compost, and use reusable products.
- Reduce travel: Walk, bike, or take public transportation instead of driving.
- Offset emissions: Calculate your carbon footprint and purchase climate credits.
- Stay informed: Follow local news and the Global Goals online/on social media.
- Advocate: Contact government to call for investment in real solutions to climate change.

9. Working with business

A discussion about how climate groups can engage with businesses raised these points:

- very small businesses have the same carbon footprint as a household, and neither money or time to focus on the climate
- large businesses are controlled by shareholders who are only concerned about return on investment
- so the best focus is on medium-sized businesses, locally managed
- sponsoring a green business award is one way to engage them, as PeCAN has done

10. Worker co-operatives

Paul O'Neill described how worker cooperatives can be a means to achieve climate and social justice. He would be interested in forming such a cooperative with other like-minded people; a coop with environmental protections baked into the founding constitution of the enterprise.

We agreed with the idea and will circulate HCAN’s mailing list with a briefing from Paul setting out his proposals for action. These might include sorting on fashion; community transport; builders with skills in retrofitting historic builders.

Developments across the HCAN area

11. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy;** due to be published in the New Year. We need to think about how to turn it from an idea into reality. Danny is hoping to persuade someone he knows to lead a nature group. He would be happy to speak to anyone about ideas.
12. **Air Quality:** Danny ee and Phil Gagg to liaise "off-line" about how to improve the Winchester Air Quality Strategy, which might then become an exemplar across the county.
13. **Retrofitting:** Chris reported that the "Make Hampshire homes more sustainable" project people are optimistic of securing funding for a project to provide retrofitting advice through volunteers (as Alton now does) and advice on cutting costs from the Environment Centre in Southampton. ACAN, HCAN and WinACC would be the main partners, along with the Environment Centre. The project has always hoped to make services available more widely than East Hants and Winchester districts, and to work with climate groups in other places who want to be involved. They will get in touch when the outcome of the funding bid is known.
14. **National Lottery Climate Action Fund "Our Shared Future" -** Chris is submitting an Expression of Interest for a bid to support outreach and networking of geographic groups and interest groups with technical support from the retrofit project described above (if funded), Energise South Downs. Local Nature Recovery Strategy etc.

    ACTION: keep your fingers crossed
15. **Hampshire 2050 Partnership / Health & Wellbeing**

    Chris Holloway is one of four voluntary and community sector reps on the 2050 Partnership. The Partnership has 4 main themes, one of which is climate. This year's focus is health and wellbeing.

    HCC Cabinet has a new portfolio-holder for Health & Wellbeing, Cllr Russell Oppenheimer. He will chair the Health and Wellbeing Board.
16. **HCC Expert Forum**

    HCAN sends two reps to this, Phil Gagg and Martin Heath. FoE also has two reps, Les Murrell and Anne Stepheson. The next meeting is on 16 October.

    All reps, deputies and others wanting to contribute, are invited to a Zoom call at 5.00 p on Friday 11 October to consider items we want to raise / points we want to make.

    Danny suggested asking why so little is being done to get solar on school roofs. Len recommended the Schools Energy Co-operative : https://schools-energy-coop.co.uk/
17. **Hampshire Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)** group held its first meeting on 16th July. Email HCAN@winacc.org.uk to know more.

HCAN

18. **HCAN future**

    If the Lottery bid goes onward, HCAN will be resourced to become larger and more established. If Lottery funding is not approved, we need to decide if it's worth continuing and if so, who could join a small steering group?

    Sue James has retired from her role as convener. She is still HCAN's link with FoE, and lead on Facebook.

ACTION: Please can someone volunteer to work with HCAN's chair Chris Holloway to get out the mailings and respond to incoming questions, invitations and news?

Our next meeting is on 18 January from 11.15 to 3.00 **in Winchester. It** will be a General Meeting of all interested in Hampshire-wide climate work, to review the future direction (if any) of HCAN.

ACTION: Please encourage all your members / committee to be there to decide on the way ahead.

Other news

19. **Tree planting - email from the National Trust at Hinton Ampner:**

"...we have a fairly big tree planting project happening over the next few years. I'm a ranger at the Hinton Ampner estate and we are planting 20,000 trees this year and roughly the same next year. We have already ordered our trees/stakes etc and the majority of planting is happening behind deer fencing.

We would love to involve local community groups in the planting, and I saw that you work with partners and advertise events, so I wondered whether it would be possible to work together to advertise any community tree planting days or if you have any existing contacts of groups that are looking to get involved in planting?

My number is 07816 205761 if you want to give me a ring to discuss further.

Many thanks,
Steph"

20. **Thriving Places and the Thriving Places Index:**
https://www.thrivingplacesindex.org/.

Could be useful - you can find each district and county and unitary separately listed. Here's an extract from their website:

"Thriving places support our individual and societal wellbeing. A thriving place provides the conditions for everyone to find good work, feel supported, live healthily, and have their needs met fairly, both now and in the future.

What drives a thriving place is complicated - but the Thriving Places Index brings together all the best research on the drivers of wellbeing, and the most relevant and up to date data to present a compelling and clear picture of how different local authority areas support people's wellbeing.

By looking at a much broader picture of what supports the wellbeing of communities, the TPI's asset-based approach shows what's already going well and highlights that different areas experience different challenges. See an England overview map and compare multiple areas using our interactive map tool."