

Gosport Climate Change Partnership Steering Group meeting minutes

9th February 2022

Attendees

AA	Andy Ames	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	
AG	Andy Grant	St Vincent College	
BC	Barbara Cooke	Abri	Co-chair
CB	Catherine Billam	Sustrans	
JS	Jane Staffieri	Gosport Fairtrade Action	
KA	Kathy Azopardi	Cycle Gosport	Guest
MS	Malcolm Spencer	Gosport & Fareham Friends of the Earth	Deputising for Anne Stephenson
TE	Tyla-Jade Evans	St Vincent College (student)	Part
TM	Tom Morgan	Gosport and Fareham Multi-Academy Trust	Co-chair; part
TP	Tim Pratt	Gosport Borough Council	Non-voting member
ZH	Cllr Zoe Huggins	Gosport Borough Council	
ZS	Zoe Smith	Co-op Group	

Apologies

Anne Stephenson	Gosport & Fareham Friends of the Earth
Glenn Chatwood	HMS Sultan
Louis Crowe	Loud & Proud

1. Welcome & apologies

Apologies were received as noted above.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

2. Minutes of last meeting

No comments or queries were raised.

Decisions:

- The minutes for the meeting of 1/12/22 were accepted as correct.

Actions: none

3. New Partnership members and requests to join Steering Group

TP advised that The Coastal Collective and Pompey Pals had joined the Partnership subject to ratification at this meeting, and these new members were approved.

TP advised that he had asked The Coastal Collective whether they would be willing to provide someone to sit on the Steering Group, since this would provide small business representation that is currently missing. The Coastal Collective had requested sharing the role between David and Mandy Rose, and this was agreed.

TP asked for any ideas for organisations representing faith groups who might be willing to provide a Steering Group member, since this is the only remaining area not covered. Ideally we would be looking for a multi-faith organisation covering all of Gosport, but can compromise on this if necessary.

TP also asked all Steering Group members to help promote the Partnership to any organisations who might be interested, making use of the flyer produced by BC.

TM asked how many organisations were now members and TP agreed to update members when sending out the minutes.

Decisions:

- The Coastal Collective and Pompey Pals have joined the Partnership.
- David and Mandy Rose have joined the Steering Group on a job-share basis.

Actions: none

- TP will confirm current membership of the Partnership.

4. **Any updates from members**

Abri is developing its own climate change strategy and is keen to involve young people in this process. Abri held an initial workshop with Brune Park students and has invited them to take part in and help set up a youth panel with students from across the south of England.

The Gosport Cricket Club has won funding to run climate cafés, to give an opportunity for local organisations to share what they're doing. The first one will be on 4th March and be themed around fair trade and climate change. BC invited anyone with an issue that could make a good centrepiece for a climate café to contact her.

The Gosport Food Partnership has just divided into two subgroups, one of which will be focusing on sustainability and living well. This will overlap significantly with the Climate Change Partnership, and BC will be chairing it for the next year. Initially BC and ZH will be looking at the criteria Sustainable Food Places award, either with a view to applying or as a way to guide the areas to work on. BC offered to send out further information on the award.

BC has established Incredible Edible Gosport and is helping to organise several projects connected to food and climate change, including the spud challenge, a kitchen waste project, and the Forton Medical Centre garden.

KA gave an update on the work of Cycle Gosport and suggested ways in which the Partnership could link in with this. There is scope to encourage developers to deliver well designed infrastructure that encourages cycling. There are potential opportunities to establish pilot schemes using funding from Active Travel England. There is a need for more data gathering, for example counting cyclists and pedestrians. There are potential links to be made with other local bodies such as Active Gosport whose agendas overlap with the Partnership. TP advised that these ideas could be explored in more detail by the transport and planning working group.

KA also suggested some biodiversity issues that the Partnership could work on to help with climate change adaptation and enhancing emissions sinks. These include activities to promote the importance of the Portsmouth Harbour area for wildlife, education work to discourage insensitive clearance (including by developers, councils and community groups), better promotion of positive things that are happening to make them more accessible to people. ZH stated that GBC would also like to see the Partnership helping around education and behaviour change generally, for example supporting community organisations and businesses and promoting better choices. BC suggested a dedicated working group to cover biodiversity issues and it was agreed to follow this up after the meeting.

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) is in discussion with several local authorities on declaring a nature emergency to support their climate emergency work. This would encompass setting strategic goals for nature recovery and committing to embedding it in all strategic plans, tackling the climate and nature emergencies together, developing a strategy and action plan, and working with local communities and organisations. AA will provide a policy paper on this to be shared with the minutes. The HIWWT is also running the Wilder project which addresses some of the educational needs raised by KA.

Gosport Borough Council had adopted a new Climate Change Strategy which will be published shortly. This addresses some of the points around linking the climate change and nature recovery agendas, and also more explicitly links to other organisational strategies such as the Local Plan and increases the focus on engagement, partnership and communication. An updated Action Plan is currently in progress and is expected to be adopted in March. The Strategy will be reviewed annually and GBC would be keen for the Partnership to be involved in providing and gathering feedback to help with this.

Gosport Fairtrade Action will have a number of engagement activities during Fair Trade Fortnight, including the climate café at Gosport Cricket Club and sessions outside supermarkets. These will cover the impacts of climate change on farmers and show samples of fairtrade products.

Decisions: none

Actions:

- TP will ask for volunteers to establish a biodiversity/nature recovery working group.

5. **Developing brand/logo/website**

TP summarised the potential value of a dedicated website, both to publicise the Partnership and as a single point to promoting projects and actions taking place across the Borough. A logo and possibly full brand identity would help to link other materials produced by the Partnership with the website.

For a website, TP suggested that students doing web design courses might be interesting in creating a website for which they could get coursework credit, as this would be a cost effective way to get the site developed while helping to involve young people in the work of the Partnership. AG advised that St Vincent College does not run an appropriate course for this, although there might be students with an interest willing to take it on. However university students may be a better option. It was agreed that we would need to be confident of being able to keep the website maintained if we progress it.

If the Partnership wants to develop a logo, TP suggested two options: a public competition following the approach taken by Portsmouth Climate Action Board, or if preferred GBC would be able to produce a logo given basic parameters. TE suggested involving Graphics students in the logo design. Following discussion, it was agreed to progress developing a logo. Although the benefits of a public competition for engaging the community in the work of the Partnership were recognised, the other options were preferred since they will be quicker and allow the Partnership to focus on its core aims.

Decisions:

- A logo will be developed, either involving Graphics students at St Vincent College, or by GBC.

Actions:

- TP will follow up the preferred options to progress the logo.

6. Working groups updates

It was recognised that all working groups need more members to make progress. TP confirmed that we are encouraging all member organisations to suggest people who would be interested in getting involved in the working groups. Continued promotion of the Partnership to recruit more member organisations will hopefully help.

It was agreed that a lack of clarity around what taking part in working groups would involve could be discouraging people from committing to them. While there will be differences between working groups, it was felt it would be helpful to define a consistent approach as far as possible. This could then be communicated to Partnership members to help recruit people to working groups. Since only two of the working group leads were present, it was agreed to set up a separate meeting of the working groups leads to discuss this further.

There is also a need to identify more clearly who has already expressed an interest and identify where there are gaps, so we can invite organisations in a more targeted way.

Decisions:

- The working group leads will meet to discuss and clarify their approach.

Actions:

- TP will circulate a list of people who have expressed an interest in each working group and the organisations they represent.

7. Any other business

Ways to feed views of young people into the Partnership were discussed. AG offered to run a student council session to explore the areas they consider to be important, based around the themes of the working groups, with a view to TE and AG reporting back to a future Steering Group meeting.

Communication outside meetings was discussed and it was agreed that Steering Group members, and working group leads in particular, should be asked whether they're willing for their email address to be shared with all Partnership member organisations.

Decisions: None

Actions:

- TP will organise sharing of Steering Group member email addresses with Partnership organisations.

8. Date of next meeting

Decisions: None

Actions:

- TP to circulate possible meeting dates and confirm preferred option.