

Gosport Climate Change Partnership Steering Group meeting minutes

27th April 2022

Attendees

AA	Andy Ames	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	
AG	Andy Grant	St Vincent College	
BC	Barbara Cooke	Abri	
JS	Jane Staffieri	Gosport Fairtrade Action	
MS	Malcolm Spencer	Gosport & Fareham Friends of the Earth	
TM	Tom Morgan	Gosport and Fareham Multi-Academy Trust	Chair
TP	Tim Pratt	Gosport Borough Council	Non-voting member
TJ	Tamara Jackson	Gosport Borough Council	Minutes
ZS	Zoe Smith	Co-op Group	

Apologies

Glenn Chatwood	HMS Sultan
Louis Crowe	Loud & Proud
Catherine Billam	Sustrans
David and Mandy Rose	The Coastal Collective
Cllr Zoe Huggins	Gosport Borough Council

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 9/2/2022 were accepted as correct.

Actions: none

3. New Partnership members and requests to join Steering Group

TP advised that the Key Education Centre, Repair Café Gosport, Love Outdoors CIC and the Bridgemary Library and Gosport Discovery Centre had joined the Partnership subject to ratification at this meeting, and these new members were approved.

TP advised that Anne Stephenson was stepping back as Gosport Friends of the Earth representative in the Steering Group and that Malcom Spencer would take her place, and this was approved.

TP asked the group if they approved for Catherine Billam to join the Steering Group, and this was approved.

Decisions:

- The Key Education Centre, Repair Café Gosport, Love Outdoors CIC, Bridgemary Library and Gosport Discovery Centre have joined the Partnership.
- Malcom Spencer and Catherine Billam have joined the Steering Group.

Actions:

- TP will confirm current membership of the Partnership.

4. **Any updates from members**

TP informed the group of the Switched On Gosport website and the government-funded free initiatives that are available to residents. Specifically, free insulation, free solar panels, free home energy visits. New funding is about to come into place for the Warmer Homes Consortium with the Green Homes grant and Home Upgrade grant which allow people funding to get large retrofit measures to homes. The new grants will be available in one or two weeks' time. TP advised Steering Group members to pass on this information to individuals or organisations and encourage people to apply. Many lower income and elderly residents were eligible and anyone could apply via the website.

BC suggested a Climate Café around the theme of Switched On Gosport schemes and that she could send out information to families and customers via her organisation.

AG updated that a student representative from the Student Council has presented to their local governing body to raise awareness of some activities that the Student Council would like to explore in relation to the environmental and climate impact of the St Vincent's College. AG will be working with the students and their estates team to look at their resourcing around energy efficiency and schemes such as recycling. This student representative is also due to present to their Diversity Group in respect to this as they have also expressed interest in the Student Council and have asked for a briefing.

AG informed the group that students at St Vincent's College have begun a project on deforestation and climate change which AG is supporting by helping them find out information about the college and its efficiency. This group will continue throughout the year and hopes to see some changes in relation to their findings and suggestions take place at the College.

BC updated the group that there have now been a couple of Climate Cafés which JS from Fairtrade Action and the ZS from Co-op supported. One Climate Café was on litter picking and the upcoming Climate Café will be on rewilding on 6th May which Caroline Smith from the Council and AA from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. BC advised the group to raise awareness if they can for the Climate Cafés.

BC advised that the Abri funding window is open until 20th May with a focus on climate change. BC encouraged AG to look at these funding opportunities for the College. Funding is available for schools, colleges, or any group for which the funding would benefit the community. Community groups can apply for up to £3,000 and enterprise groups may be considered for further funding depending on the climate change proposal made.

TM gave the update that the money from Abri has funded the community garden project which has been very successful and gave thanks.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

5. **Working groups updates**

TM advised that time has been a constraint on the Working Groups and that they be slightly behind their scheduled aims in getting the groups running. More action is needed to recruit into the Partnership and consequently aim to get them more actively involved or target other organisations through the working groups. TP advised that the Steering Group need something more concrete to use to tell Working Groups e.g. clear initial tasks that may be more appealing to those considering becoming involved. Ideally, Working Groups will then discuss what areas they want to discuss going forward. However, the first step is getting more people in the Working Groups so that this can happen.

BC has ideas of the initial tasks for the food group and CB on transport and planning. TP passed on an update from CB that they could be looking at the draft local transport plan that is in consultation until 26th June and identify impacts upon Gosport. One strand of this is to engage with Hampshire with the aim of influencing the draft going forward. A second strand is looking at things that can be done in Gosport feeding off the LTP – what benefits and risks may be mitigated on a local level.

TP invited Steering Group members to give any input they had on defining the tasks and welcomes suggestions from the group on working with the initial tasks once they had been set such as raising awareness and recruiting partner organisations.

BC queried if the local community could get involved in the LTP and TP agreed. BC suggested that the Climate Café would be a good focus group and could provide feedback. TP said he may be able to get someone from Hampshire to attend an event depending on their capacity, or agreed with BC that key information could be passed on for the group to discuss separately. TP advised that he will get in touch with HCC to see if they could start on this.

BC informed the group that HCC are doing useful projects on food waste which would form a good starting point for the food group. BC informed the group of the Smart Living and the Kitchen Heroes initiatives. BC suggested that the Kitchen Heroes with its Community Champion leadership board would be a good initiative to raise awareness for locally and produce targets to get more residents involved. BC advised Community Champions would help upskill local people and help Gosport with food waste as an area. BC proposed a stand (e.g. alongside a GFM pantry) with a Community Champion to inform on how to reduce food waste, composting and get people involved.

TP confirmed that he did not have an update from GC on their Working Group.

TM said his school was struggling in the GFM for single-use plastics and that something needs to change at the school with their catering company. He hopes to get students involved in discussions on finding a way forward.

AG agreed that single-use plastics are also an issue at St Vincent's College, plastic cutlery was removed but students aren't keen on the offered replacements. He communicates with students regularly on things that are happening at the school, and much is yet to be done. However, he wants to also focus on celebrating what has gone well and taking pride in positive changes going forward.

AG has noticed significantly rising costs in projects which are going over budget. This is having an impact on the ability to be as ambitious with some plans going forward. The Skills Accelerator Programme led by the 11 Hampshire-based colleges is going to put in an application for round two of the Skills and Development Fund allowing an extra £1.9m to come into the area developing skills-based activities. Much of this works towards things such as sustainable systems, retrofitting, and hydro-energy. The Colleges of Hampshire are looking at developing curriculum to support a future labour market which will focus more on sustainable energy. Schools are going to be supported in providing this. AG confirms that this is in relation to T Levels and P Levels being introduced. AG hopes once the cluster of colleges has submitted that bid he will be able to feed back on what this could mean for Gosport.

TP expressed that this is positive work and that the need for these skills to be developed and works in line with aims for projects such as retrofitting for Switched On Gosport.

TP suggested that, alongside the schools, the youth working group might be able to branch out and work with other organisations too such as Motiv8. TP hopes that the focus on sustainability could be used with local activities such as Summer Passport where information or activities could be provided that are both engaging and useful in encouraging sustainability.

TM shares that students are creating a video for a national climate change panel. BC confirms the youth panel is being set up and advises that she will try to find out the most up to date information on that. BC says it ties in well with the conversations on plastics where sports clubs and students could collaborate – direct engagement between these groups would be positive.

TP advises he wants to clarify the next steps with working groups. This is getting the initial tasks clearly defined and publicise this to partner organisations and also to identify other organisations to approach.

TM sets deadline for that of May 6th to have a minimum of three bullet points decided.

JS asks if there is anything that can be done as a community to campaign for supermarket to reduce their plastic use. BC suggests that community groups, e.g. the food working group, may be well-suited to discuss and organise on this issue.

AG informs that he is involved in a project with the GFM around healthy eating and they are looking to engage local shops and fast-food providers in a conference to discuss the promotion of healthy options in their environment. He will follow that up for an update and try to get the conference to take place and this could go on the agenda. They found it difficult to engage large organisations as a college alone, but suggests that involving a keynote speaker such as a MP may help gain traction. BC expresses interest and hopes to work together on this as BC is involved in setting up a food charter with involvement from as many partners as possible.

Decisions: none

Actions:

- TP to ask HCC if they are able to get someone to attend a Climate Café or send key information for attendees of the Climate Café to discuss.
- BC to find out up to date information on the National Climate Change youth panel to feed back.
- AG to find out if there is an update on the healthy eating conference with local businesses to feed back.

6. Any other business

BC discusses benefits of a logo and website in helping help people become members. This is with the aim of engaging people by celebrating what is being done by the Steering Group.

TM says will give update on the logo shortly and agrees that it would be useful to talk about being able to share and celebrate successes.

TP advises that currently there is not capacity to create website at GBC but there may be scope in the future. He will feed back on that next meeting.

AA shares information about the event Wilder Portsmouth on 7th May which brings together various organisations such as growers, RSPB, Friends of the Earth and invites people to come along.

TP shares from ZH that there is a blog and podcast called The Owl Hoot which is very informative.

Decisions: None

Actions:

- TP to find out if GBC have scope to create the website and will feed back next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting

TP advises that the group should consider whether in person or virtual works best for the next meeting. They will decide soon.

Decisions: None

Actions:

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