

Present: Tony Hoskins (Chair)
Mayor, Councillor Ken Arlett
Councillor Donna Crook,
Rebecca Chandler-Wilde
Patrick Fleming
Dick Fletcher
Jackie Walker

Cath Adams – Planning and Project Manager and Deputy Town Clerk
Kirsty Waterman – Planning Administrator

In attendance: 1 Member of the press
1 member of the public – Councillor Ian Clark

8. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Suzy Bannon and Ruth Lindup. As only 2 councillors were present the meeting was not quorate. The meeting continued and recommendations were made.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Member of the public requested to speak.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2019 were approved.

12. FUNDING OPTIONS

The Committee **RECEIVED** an update.

There are different levels of funding options depending on criteria of the project being considered:

- i. SODC have a flexible statement to assist homeowners and those in private rented accommodation (but not social housing) with residential energy improvement work. Insulation, boiler improvements and energy obligations for example, for residents and their dwellings. Criteria include those living in fuel poverty, a low income or vulnerable to living in a cold home. The process to access such funding will be publicised.
- ii. Councils, Charities and community projects. Renewable energy funding initiatives are in place and can assist communities with funding their projects. All details of such funds to be discussed and looked into further.
- iii. Larger scale funding is being looked into via Salix, a government loan scheme for energy cost saving projects in public buildings, and other means.

13. GOOD PRACTICE RESEARCH

The Committee **RECEIVED** information that 69 Parish Councils have now declared a Climate Emergency. Committee Members are to give Dick Fletcher further information to collate ready to feedback in the next meeting.

14. MEETINGS RE RETROFIT, WATER SOURCE HEAT PUMPS AND WIND TURBINES

i. Retrofit

A meeting was held with SOHA to discuss de carbonising heating and insulating with the Sustainability Manager. The challenge will be with gaining agreement from tenants to carry out the works.

An EPC group will work to establish energy efficiency grading for the circa 5000 housing stock in Henley. The first step will be to establish the scale of the task prior to progressing. (DF)

ii. Water Source Heat Pumps

A meeting was held with the Sustainability Officer at Greenlands campus which is part of the University of Reading. There have been discussions on replacing the oil boiler with a 500kw water source heat pump.

iii. Wind Turbines

Second generation wind turbines are quiet and there now seems to be a thriving second hand market for them. The main issue with delivery of such schemes is the Planning process. Staff familiar with the Madjeski Stadium's wind turbine in Reading have offered support and information for future wind turbine projects.

Two other meetings have been held;

- Connected Kerb are trialling a kerbside electric car charging scheme in Windsor. Committee members met with staff to discuss. The purpose of the trial scheme is to assess success in encouraging residents without easy charging locations to take part. The next step is to establish how to take this forward with the support of SODC.
- A solar panel installer is developing an affordable solar tile to be sold to residents. A meeting is to be held next week to discuss this further.

15. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An event will be arranged for local parishes to attend to be invited by Henley Town Council, to engage, explain and invite participation in Climate Emergency projects. Several Parishes are already informed and have expressed a desire to be involved. Once the date has been set (CA), invitations will be sent out and the agenda developed by Jackie Walker will be distributed.

A Henley in Transition Carbon Cutting workshop for residents is to take place on 26th September 2019 – details of which are to be published in the Henley Standard.

16. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Reading University are happy to work together with Henley Town Council and the Climate Emergency Working Group and a further meeting is to be arranged for the second or third week in September with both the Geography department and Environment departments. Currently Reading University have not set deadlines for project titles which are to be used, to be confirmed.

17. SODC CLIMATE EMERGENCY MEETING

An update will be received once the meeting has taken place on 19 September 2019.

18. ROUTE MAP AND FINANCING OPTIONS

The Chair referred to the attachment on the agenda under item 11. Projects are planned but delivery may take longer, starting with installing solar PV panels to buildings within HTC estate, progressing to the installation of domestic and commercial solar panels. After which clean energy deemed to be lower in value will be installed such as heat pumps and coppicing for example. In 2027 the move will be towards installing higher value clean energy in the form of wind turbines and hydro energy. From 2030 onwards when anticipated government regulations are thought to be in place retrofitting of energy saving measures can commence. Feasibility evaluations will inevitably affect delivery of projects.

A rough calculation at this stage predicts initial capital and installation costs of at least £46,600,000. (Projects such as solar farms and water source heat pumps are still to be financially evaluated.)

19. WORKING GROUP RESOURCE REQUEST

The Working Group **CONSIDERED** staffing resources for the Working Group and requested staff resources and time from Henley Town Council.

The Chair indicated he thought the resources within the Working Group needed reinforcement. He suggested discussions should take place with suitably qualified consultants and will also appeal for other members of the public to join the various project groups

It was agreed to **RECOMMEND** staffing resources for this Working Group to Finance Strategy and Management Committee on 17 September 2019.

20. NEXT MEETING

The next Climate Emergency Working Group meeting was proposed as 9 October 2019 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 19.51

KW/CA

9 September 2019