

Climate Change Forum

Minutes of Meeting 26 April 2023

1. The Chair introduced new members to the Forum and noted apologies.
 - 1.1. Attendees list is provided in the Annex below.
 - 1.2. Actions from previous meeting: all complete.
2. Public event planning.
 - 2.1. The Chair opened the discussion by noting disappointment that the planned April event had been postponed due to pre-election rules. The Chair invited further interest and ideas for public engagement from May. AB agreed that the June Tonbridge Farmers' Market remained a good opportunity for a first event. KT raised the question of how many events CCF might arrange. It was agreed that the Farmers' Market in June would be the first event, and that feedback and lessons learned from June would inform further events. Members of the Forum would continue to seek other opportunities for CCF engagement. The goal is to reach Borough-wide across a range of communities.

Action: AB to confirm June date and availability of a pitch.

- 2.2. Event logistics were discussed. TS suggested the range of materials and resources, including QR codes so that residents and visitors to the stand could follow up with key information on grants, including Green Business Grants, Warm Homes, Solar Together, and tools such as Zap Map (that shows the location of EV chargers around Kent). MH added that including a questionnaire would allow residents to feedback on the event, and tell us what they wanted from CCF. FL noted that we should select venues that are accessible by public transport. This could be communicated as part of event promotion.

Action: CS to coordinate with all on logistics, materials and comms.

- 2.3. Engagement with young people, through the Youth Forum, was discussed in terms of both young people attending CCF events and vice versa.

Action CS: Discuss with SW how to develop further CCF- Youth Forum collaboration.

3. Calendar of CC and environment events.
 - 3.1. There was a good discussion of the various national and international climate and environment campaigns over the summer and where CCF was best-placed and had capacity to engage. AB noted the option of closing busy highstreets to traffic on Clean Air Day. MH raised activities such as Bee Walks that could be organised to support national campaigns around biodiversity (e.g. Let it Grow, No Mow May, pollinators days). FL suggested

increasing our use of the website and social media with the CCF logo to promote our activities and support. AB raised the point that public engagement was also about giving people confidence to commit to what they can do. AO discussed previous positive engagement with children through schools to collect and plant seeds and nuts. For these activities, plans need to be in place for planting out and establishment as appropriate.

Action GF and CS: identify key events through the summer and check-in with CCF for support and promotion of activities as feasible.

4. Summary of TMBC CC action so far.
 - 4.1. The Chair emphasised the need to improve communications about achievements on climate and environmental action. The Chair ran through what had already been delivered since 2019.
 - 4.2. There was a positive discussion about achievements along with important areas of further work. FL asked about availability of recycling bins at major events that can generate a lot of waste from attendees. There was agreement among Cllrs that further integration of climate goals and planning policy was an area for future improvement.

Action CS: follow up on recycling provision at events.

5. Agenda items for next meeting.
 - 5.1. To be submitted to CS in due course. It was agreed that the July meeting would be usefully spent discussing feedback from events and how we could respond to the 'ask' on climate and environment from residents.
6. AOB.
 - 6.1. AO asked about a Borough map of allotments, noting that these are run by Parish Councils. Information about how to find and apply for allotments is available through the TMBC website: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/leisure-parks/apply-allotment/1>
 - 6.2. The Chair noted the possibility of site visits by CCF in the coming year, such as to the Household Waste Recycling Plant.
7. The meeting ended with a summary of actions agreed.

Annex: Attendees to 26 April 2023 meeting

Attendees

Cllr Robin Betts (Chair)
Cllr Wendy Palmer (WP)
Cllr Kim Tanner (KT)
Cllr Mark Hood (MH)
Cllr Anita Oakley (AO)
Gill Fox (GF)
Carrie Spencer (CS)
Dr Tom Shelley (TS)
Fran Long (FL)
Anthony Bales (AB)
Sophie Worsfold (SW)
Tim Sharp (TS)

Apologies

Rev David Green (Faith Sector)
Derek Whitehead (Medway Valley Countryside Partnership)
Chris Lydon (Education representative)
Mario Caccamo (East Malling Research)
Tudor Price (Kent Chamber of Commerce)
Guy Nevill (Local Landowners)