

Climate Change Forum

Minutes of Meeting 18 September 2023

1. The Chair introduced new members to the Forum and noted apologies.
 - 1.1. Jennifer Bate (Climate Action Shipbourne) was welcomed as the new Voluntary and Community Sector representative.
 - 1.2. Attendees list is provided in the Annex below.
2. Actions from previous meeting: complete.

The CCF had a stall at the Tonbridge Farmer's Market in June.

In response to the question about improved recycling at events, the relevant service is currently looking into adding a section on the application form for Events on Open Spaces that will encourage and ask organisers for actions on recycling and environmental considerations within the organisation and delivery of their events.
3. Public engagement and survey.
 - 3.1. Following the success of the Tonbridge Farmers' Market event, there are plans for further events including Aylesford Farmers' Market (Sunday 15 October), West Malling Farmers' Market (Sunday 22 October) or Shipbourne Market (Thursday mornings). Choice of dates will depend on getting a free stall and CCF availability.

Action: TS (Aylesford), JB (Shipbourne) to see if CCF could have a free stall.

Action: CS to email around CCF for volunteers and/or resources.

Action: CS to look into a list of local Repair Cafes.
 - 3.2. The CCF survey has received a low response rate and will be open until 31 October to enable responses from future events. CS thanked those who had circulated the survey to their groups.

3.3. CS went through emerging results (paper was circulated with agenda).

Improved communications about what the CCF is doing on climate action, as well to share advice and information with residents are an emerging theme. Cllrs KT and SC suggested comms such as leaflets or stickers to remind residents about recycling, and other environmental actions. TS raised the possibility of using 'My TMBC' which will require engagement with the app provider. TS suggested the CCF could produce a communications pack that provided people with campaign materials, like the KCC speed safety pack. CS said this was a good idea but it was important not to reinvent the wheel as there is a lot of free information and advice material available. CS also noted limited capacity for the Council to do these kinds of actions without contributions from CCF partners.

Action: TS to circulate the KCC speed safety pack for reference as an example and ask for contributions of existing climate and environmental action campaign material (that can be used for free).

3.4. Some priorities are not under the direct control of the Council or CCF, such as transport infrastructure improvements. AO said that the CCF should remain active in pressing for changes in the Local Plan as this will shape transport links and provision. However it was noted by KT and SC that section 106 money does not always result in promised improvements, for example, the Mereworth cycling route was cancelled. FL also noted the need to press KCC on improved cycle infrastructure in areas of population, such as Tonbridge, that will make cycling a safe alternative, particularly for short local journeys. JB shared a new report on incorporating climate change in Local Plans.

Action: CS to circulate link to report with Minutes

<https://centreforsustainableenergy.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/18154731/spatial-planning-for-climate-resilience-and-net-zero.pdf>

3.5. Other emerging survey results pointed at things that the CCF could do, including improved comms and resources for residents. KT suggested the water butt discount scheme. AO noted that there had previously been similar schemes for discounted compost bins. FL also raised the confusing advice about energy efficiency measures at home, particularly the conflict between insulation and the potential for damp. AO noted that Clarion currently have a large damp and mould prevention scheme.

Action CS/ GF: Contact Clarion to ask if they can share this advice.

4. Update on discussion with Parishes.

4.1. Cllr Betts, CS and TS met with the Chair of the KALC T&M Area Committee to discuss climate action over the summer and will meet again soon. TS noted that key issues repeatedly raised by Parishes are around water, leaks and sewage overflows, particularly caused by sudden heavy downpours. Water companies have been contacted. TS noted the challenge of insulation in older houses and/or those in conservation areas and that improved advice would be welcome.

4.2. JB also raised the Local Plan and how climate change and the Green Belt Study are being developed, particularly with consideration to neighbouring Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Districts, as these have an impact on Parishes.

4.3. JB raise the issue of UK Power connectivity and the vulnerability of a number of off-gas grid Parishes to constraints on connections in attempting to move away from oil boilers.

Action: CS to follow up with the Planning team.

5. Agenda items and date for next meeting.

5.1. CS noted that there is a long list of potential items that have been suggested.

Action: CS to circulate the 'tracker' long list and CCF to respond with priority items for the next meeting.

6. AOB.

6.1. GF noted that the Council has begun to roll out its carbon literacy training.

6.2. CS raised the possibility of CCF hosting a stall at Healing Planet Earth.

Action: CS to circulate an email with dates to gauge interest.

7. The meeting ended with a summary of actions agreed.

Annex: Attendees to 18 September 2023 meeting

Attendees

Cllr Kim Tanner (KT)
Cllr Steve Crisp (SC)
Cllr Anita Oakley (AO)
Gill Fox (Chair)
Carrie Spencer (CS)
Dr Tom Shelley (TS)
Fran Long (FL)
Jennifer Bates (JB)

Apologies

Cllr Robin Betts
Cllr Mike Taylor
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)
Anthony Bales (AB)
Sophie Worsfold (SW)