

Climate Change Forum

Minutes of Meeting 23 April 2024

1. The Chair welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

1.1. Attendees list is provided in the Annex below.

2. Actions from previous meeting.

Person responsible	Action	Status / outcome
KT	Get in touch with FL about possible future opportunities for the talk with local groups	Complete
JB	put FL in touch with local WI about a talk	Complete
RB /CS	follow up with Sarah Barker (KALC climate change working group) on working with Parishes on climate change	ongoing
RB	provide short climate change updates at Parish Partnership Panel (PPP)	ongoing
CS	follow up with TMBC comms to discuss (i) consistent message or information each month and (ii) potential new routes to disseminating information.	Potential for one clear, consistent message (e.g. on recycling letters) but Comms not keen on changing the message each month. Potential for using MyTMBC app for push notifications.
KT	contact Clarion to ask about running resident's Best Garden competitions, with water butts as prizes.	complete
CS	check with Planning team whether the April date would be timely for a Local Plan update.	Next Local Plan consultation this Spring

CS	invite KCC to give an update on the team and work with CCF.	Full agenda this time but possible in future.
CS	circulate list of grants, information and training sessions	Complete

3. Roundtable updates from representatives

- 3.1. TBUG emailed an update as representatives sent apologies. There was a fantastic turnout for a Kidical Mass Cycle Ride in Tonbridge on Saturday. The next mass ride is 14 June to campaign for the A26 cycle way, TBUG will create a route around Tonbridge - all welcome, details to follow.
- 3.2. TS updated on the approval of solar PV for the Aylesford Parish Council offices.
- 3.3. Other Parish Councils are also applying for grants for solar PV and other energy efficiency projects. SC confirmed that Hadlow Village Hall Trust are also applying for grants for roof repair and solar panels. MT said that Borough Green Parish Council are installing LEDs. The Bowls Club is also installing solar and a battery in part grant funded.
- 3.4. JB confirmed that Shipbourne Parish Council has applied for a Community Development Grant to assist with the planned community energy event with Plaxtol. This is an important part of community engagement in the feasibility study for the community energy project. Also reaching out to other Parishes.
- 3.5. Shipbourne are looking at solar PV as well as ground source heat pumps, including the new model from Kensa that has a much smaller hardware (around the size of a shoebox).

Action: RB to share Kensa contact with JB.

Action: RB and JB to update at the Parish Partnership Panel.

4. Update from KALC (Sarah Barker)

- 4.1. SB introduced the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) which represents 98% of councils around Kent and her role in starting a climate change working group. SB Chair of Tonbridge and Malling area KALC area committee through which encouraging Parishes to consider carbon footprint and climate action.
- 4.2. SB went through various free online tools that can be used to help understand carbon footprint and measure energy impacts. The Centre for Sustainable Energy impact tool which measures the carbon footprint of Parishes, or other areas, and has been used in Kings Hill. JB had also used the tool in Shipbourne. Anyone can use it to interrogate the carbon footprint

for any local authority and parish, don't need to be within an authority or parish to use the tool.

- 4.3. KALC is encouraging Parish and Town Councils to use the tool to understand carbon footprints across area. SB suggested it could be demonstrated at PPP in May, and also potentially the Tonbridge Community Forum.
- 4.4. JB noted that Community Energy England and Community Energy South show where there are community energy financing organisations and Kent not doing too well relatively. TMBC could lead the way!

Action: CS to circulate link. <https://www.cse.org.uk/impact-community-carbon-calculator/>

- 4.4 SB noted that for individual carbon footprints, there is the WWF calculator and Climate Hero versions. Both are free and quick to use.

Action: CS to circulate links. <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/> and <https://climatehero.me/>

- 4.5 SB also commended case studies and examples from other local authorities on climate action. The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) are working with an organisation called The Place-Based Initiative to strengthen the existing work led by Herefordshire on the Great Collaboration to develop a free advisory service for town, parish and community councils on environmental and climate actions. SB on steering group, so can update on launch scheduled for end May / early June.

Action: SB to share updated information at launch with CS for circulation.

- 4.6 SB noted that other free resources and case studies are available through NALC as well as SLCC. Looking at other town and Parish councils shows the work needed to determine the right steps for an area and carbon literacy training for anyone thinking of developing a climate change action plan.

Action: SB to share information sheet with Parish and Town councils.

- 4.7 KALC newsletter is promoting No Mow May to all Parishes and Town councils in Kent. Not clear how many are signing up on this. This is also being promoted via Kent Plan Bee.

5. Summer events

- 5.1. Garden competition with Clarion. CS updated on progress with Clarion who are enthusiastic about a joint garden competition for the Borough, not limited to Clarion Housing. There are three categories and a comms push for each one planned.
- 5.2. Aylesford Farmer's Market. Confirmed for Sunday 19 May with CCF reps. Comms would support with promotion.
- 5.3. Other. JB mentioned the community energy event being organised in Plaxtol for villages to learn about different technologies for heating once off oil.

Action: CS to put JB in touch with the E.ON representative for the Home Upgrade Grant 2, which is for homes that are not on the gas grid for heating.

6. Local Plan update

- 6.1. MT introduced tackling climate change through Local Plan policies but avoiding overlap with Building Controls. New homes should be climate change ready to avoid even greater future retrofit burden.
- 6.2. RB and SC encouraged by looking at climate change seriously as a major consideration. SC made the point that planning can help with encouraging alternatives to cars and future infrastructure needs that do not rely on private car use.
- 6.3. CS noted that if you would like to receive notifications of Local Plan consultations and timetables you can make that request by emailing localplan@tmhc.gov.uk . The email was shared in the chat.

7. Home insulation

- 7.1. It was agreed to move this to next agenda when Anthony Bales could join and to give time to a discussion of how TMBC and Parishes could support with energy efficiency in homes.

8. Future agenda items & next meeting.

- 8.1. SC raised water butts – to be picked up again next time and through the summer events.
- 8.2. CS to canvas for dates for the next meeting in July.

9. No AOB were raised. The meeting closed.

Annex: Attendees to 23 April 2024 meeting

Attendees

Cllr Robin Betts
Cllr Kim Tanner (KT)
Cllr Steve Crisp (SC)
Cllr Frani Hoskins (FH)
Gill Fox (Chair)
Carrie Spencer (CS)
Dr Tom Shelley (TS)
Jennifer Bates (JB)
Rev David Green (Faith Sector)
Cllr Paul Hickmott
Cllr Mike Taylor (MT)

Apologies

Cllr Anita Oakley (AO)
Katie Traylen (KTr)
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)
Sophie Worsfold (SW)
Fran Long (FL)
Anthony Bales (AB)