

Climate Change Forum

Minutes of Meeting 18 July 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
RB	Share Kensa contact with JB (ground source heat pumps)	complete
RB and JB	Update on climate action at the Parish Partnership Panel	complete
CS	Circulate link to The Centre for Sustainable Energy impact tool https://www.cse.org.uk/impact-community-carbon-calculator/	Complete
CS	Circulate link to WWF and Climate Hero carbon footprint tools https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/ and https://climatehero.me/	complete
SB	Share information sheet and outcome of Place Based Initiative launch	CS to follow up
CS	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.	Complete

3. Roundtable updates from representatives

3.1. Cllr Oakley gave feedback on the CCF stall at the Aylesford Farmer's Market. There was a pledge tree on the stand with a few people signing up, but not many. In discussion it was agreed that it was important to have a visual to draw people in (e.g. the oak tree, or e-bike) and to have a particular focus.

3.2. Cllr Crisp suggested all the plastic from a weekly shop on the stall as a visual. There was general agreement, and FL noted that people can understand and see all that plastic waste more easily than emissions. A focus on avoiding plastic was supported in discussion.

3.3. JB provided an update on the planned workshop event run by Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol. The event will be a practical workshop to focus on the challenge of getting off oil boilers, with the theme 'burning issue'. There will be attendees from E.ON who are administering the HUG2 scheme for retrofitting and decarbonising off-gas grid homes. Attendees from CCF are welcome to learn about energy efficiency and decarbonisation technologies or to share practical experiences, e.g. with heat pumps or solar. The Community Development Grant will go towards pop up banners and improving marketing by the Climate Action Group.

Action: JB to share the flier for circulation – complete.

3.4. JB also updated on the Community Energy Fund application that will go forward to ask for funding assistance to set up the website for retrofit advice and access to retrofit assessors across the two Parishes. CS agreed that this is a great idea as retrofitting older buildings is very complex and it is difficult to find retrofit assessors and reliable advice.

3.5. The Chair also updated the group on the Mid Kent College retrofit skills academy that is doing great work on skills for retrofit for the trades and apprentices.

3.6. GF noted that the TMBC climate change action plan progress report for 2023/24, the action plan for 2024/25 and the carbon audit have been finalised and approved by Members last night.

Action: CS to upload these reports on the climate change webpages and circulate the links after the 5-day call-in.

4. CCF campaign: home insulation

4.1. AB began the discussion on the importance of action on home energy efficiency and insulation, as around a quarter of UK emissions come from heat. AB noted that the energy efficiency advice TMBC webpage has been updated but initiated the discussion of what more the CCF could do to address barriers and help people improve home insulation. There was agreement to this point.

4.2. CS updated on progress on a thermal imaging camera loan scheme, with the intention that the scheme would be administered by TMBC but use of the camera would be led through partners. The camera needs a heat differential, so the aim is to be ready to start using the camera from October. In the meantime, CS will finalise administrative issues (e.g. the booking form, how to contact the council to request the camera, where to pick it up from). During the summer, the scheme could be promoted through CCF partners,

community climate change action groups, Parish and Town Councils, and residents' associations.

4.3. There was agreement that the scheme would help residents identify the weaknesses in their property's insulation and efficiency. This would help with taking next steps needed to improve efficiency, comfort and reduce energy use.

4.4. Cllr Oakley noted that Parish Councils could use on their own buildings, as well as promoting the camera scheme to residents. The Chair agreed, noting that many community buildings have poor insulation and heating, such as Pavilions.

Action: CS to check that SB could promote scheme through KALC.

4.5. TS noted that there have historically been privacy objections. GF explained that the loan scheme would be voluntary, and would be booked out by people or organisations for use on their own buildings.

4.6. There was a positive discussion of the scheme and the timescale for finalising administration of the loans, promoting the scheme to residents, community groups, and Parishes, and ensuring that the camera is booked up with people waiting to use it from the start of the scheme in October.

4.7. Cllr Crisp opened the discussion of what happens once people have used the camera. The Chair noted that the next steps depend on what is identified by the camera. For example, cheap and easy measure like draft excluders for doors or letter boxes could be carried out by the residents themselves. CS noted that for buildings owned by Parish and Town Councils, there are available grants for energy efficiency improvements, and using the evidence from the thermal imaging might support grant applications. AB suggested that information on next steps, and reliable sources of information could be provided along with the camera. There was general agreement, and that the camera should help focus attention and identify heat losses as the first step. CS also noted that TMBC could follow up with loan scheme users, with their consent, to find out what barriers or steps they took after using the camera. This could then inform further actions to support energy efficiency.

5. CCF campaign: gardens for climate action

5.1. CS introduced findings from looking into how to support residents with using their gardens to tackle localised flooding and improve water efficiency. CS went through an example leaflet with four simple, low cost measures, that includes a short description, FAQs, and pictures with a case study and costs. The four actions are: rain gardens; depaving; water butts; and green roofs

(e.g. on sheds). AB agreed that this sort of leaflet was clear and helpful. TS added that not putting unnecessary chemical and home composting were also important messages.

- 5.2. Cllr Oakley asked about the possibility of grey water harvesting (e.g. for flushing toilets). CS noted that this can be difficult to retrofit but would look into it. FL noted that there is a local resident in Tonbridge who may know about grey water and might be willing to come and talk to the CCF.

Action: CS to look into grey water harvesting options.

Action: CS to develop a CCF leaflet and supporting online materials.

6. Future agenda items & next meeting.

- 6.1. The Chair requested items to feedback from the Plaxtol and Shipbourne home energy workshop in September, and an update on the thermal imaging camera loan scheme.
- 6.2. Cllr Crisp raised the issue of health living and local, seasonal produce. The Chair noted the idea of a RAG CO2 label on food. CS noted for the next agenda.
- 6.3. CS to canvas for further agenda items and dates for the next meeting in September (for October meeting).

7. AOB

- 7.1. The Chair raised that the faith sector representative, Rev'd Green, is moving to a new post at end of July and wished him well. The Chair asked CCF members to suggest or reach out to others who might be interested in taking up the position on the CCF.

Action All: suggestions welcome for new faith sector representative in the Borough.

8. The meeting closed.

Annex: Attendees to 18 July 2024 meeting

Attendees

Cllr Robin Betts (Chair)
Cllr Steve Crisp (Cllr Crisp)
Cllr Anita Oakley (Cllr Oakley)
Gill Fox (GF)
Carrie Spencer (CS)
Dr Tom Shelley (TS)
Jennifer Bates (JB)
Anthony Bales (AB)
Fran Long (FL)

Apologies

Cllr Frani Hoskins (FH)
Cllr Paul Hickmott
Cllr Mike Taylor (MT)
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)
Cllr Kim Tanner (KT)
Rev David Green (Faith Sector)
Sarah Barker (KALC)