

Gosport Climate Change Partnership Steering Group meeting minutes

21st September 2022

Attendees

AG	Andy Grant	St Vincent College	
BC	Barbara Cooke	Abri	
JC	Jackie Charman	Gosport Voluntary Action	
JW	Cllr Julie Westerby	Gosport Borough Council	
MM	Mark Maguire	Portsmouth City Council	Guest
MS	Malcolm Spencer	Gosport & Fareham Friends of the Earth	
TM	Tom Morgan	Gosport and Fareham Multi-Academy Trust	Chair
TP	Tim Pratt	Gosport Borough Council	Non-voting member
ER	Ellis Ridett	University of Southampton	Guest

Apologies

Andy Ames	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Catherine Billam	Sustrans
Glenn Chatwood	HMS Sultan
Jane Staffieri	Gosport Fairtrade Action
Zoe Smith	Co-op Group

1. Welcome & apologies

Apologies were received as noted above.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

2. Minutes of last meeting

No comments or queries were raised.

Decisions:

- The minutes for the meeting of 27/04/2022 were accepted as correct.

Actions: none

3. New Partnership members and requests to join Steering Group

TP advised that Gosport Voluntary Action and Citizens Advice Gosport had joined the Partnership subject to ratification at this meeting, and these new members were approved.

TP welcomed Cllr Westerby and Jacky Charman to the steering group, and their membership was ratified.

TP advised that Zoe Smith was stepping down from the steering group so there is a vacancy for a large business to join. TP asked for suggestions or for Steering Group members to approach possible representatives directly.

Decisions:

- Gosport Voluntary Action and Citizens Advice Gosport have joined the Partnership.
- Cllr Julie Westerby and Jacky Charman have joined the Steering Group.

Actions: none

4. Partnership Logo

TM presented the three options for the proposed logo which had been created by the PCC design team. Small tweaks were suggested to options 2 and 3; MM confirmed that these would be simple to implement and the updated logos could be shared within a week. It was agreed that we should wait to see the revised options and then hold an online vote to select the logo.

Decisions:

- The PCC design team will create updated versions with the following changes:
 - Option 1: no change.
 - Option 2: change the map area shown to include all of Gosport Borough and exclude Portsmouth, while keeping the use of both the blue and green colours.
 - Option 3: reduce the amount of green and include some blue, and incorporate a reference to the sea.
- The Steering Group will then vote online on their preferred option.

Actions:

- TP will share the revised options once received from PCC, and run the online voting.

5. Presentation on renewable energy

TM introduced ER who is working on a PhD at Southampton University, specialising in net-zero transitions. He is also involved with the Isle of Wight Mission Zero Energy Hub. Ellis gave a presentation on how climate change partnerships can be most effective and the potential for renewable energy in Gosport.

ER offered to share the presentation slides and also links to examples of other partnerships that he considers particularly successful. Notes of the presentation are also provided in an appendix below.

Decisions: none

Actions:

- TM will share the presentation slides and links to websites of successful partnerships with Steering Group members when he receives them from ER.

6. Updates from Working Groups

Food

BC advised that the food working group would be holding an initial meeting on 23rd September, primarily to discuss food waste since this is a tangible issue. The group will be looking at promoting Hampshire Kitchen Heroes; currently 24 people in Gosport take part so it should be possible to increase this and get Gosport higher up its league table. It will also consider the challenge of measuring food waste to understand the current situation, and how to boost messages about what's already happening. The aim will be to achieve some quick wins, and then build on this with some larger projects, such as working with schools to create waste reduction programmes, or community composting.

Youth climate action

TM gave an update on the GFM community garden at Brune Park, which has had a very successful first year. There will be a harvest festival at Brune Park to celebrate the food grown in the garden, with volunteers, students and staff taking part.

TM will look for additional resource in GFM to help connect with the people from outside GFM who have expressed an interest in being involved in the working group.

Transport and planning

TP apologised for the lack of progress so far on this working group. Due to workload, Catherine is no longer able to lead the group; however there is still potential for a viable group with a few people having expressed an interest in being involved. TP aims to hold an initial meeting to see whether anyone is interested in running the group.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

7. Updates from members

BC has been in contact with GFM about a possible biodigester. GFM ran a crowdfunding campaign over the summer in support of this but BC doesn't believe it met its target. There is a need to identify more clearly what the benefits would be and how it could tie in with other projects around food waste.

JC gave a summary of Gosport Green Umbrella (GGU), which is intended to help connect anyone working on sustainability issues in Gosport, so that people can share what they're doing and any ideas. This will help address the current lack of visibility of the positive initiatives already happening. A venue has been offered for a possible stakeholder event where everyone connected under the GGU can meet, to facilitate networking.

The GVA AGM will be at 2pm on 29th September in Thorngate Halls, during which Cllr Huggins will launch the Food Partnership.

AG was pleased to say that St Vincent had got funding to upgrade their construction workshop which has allowed them to improve energy efficiency of their equipment. He also confirmed they are working on a decarbonisation funding bid to support their plans to work towards net-zero.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

8. Any other business

JC asked whether GFM could use its reach into the Gosport community to highlight environmental aspects around Christmas, since it can be a time of year when large amounts of waste are generated. TM agreed that this would be a simple and effective action, and will task school committees and other students with creating some “top tips for Christmas” that can be shared on their social media and Google classrooms.

TP provided information about Great Big Green Week (GBGW), in which a lot of groups are taking part this year. There will be a display in the Discovery Centre providing an overview of sustainable activities happening in Gosport, which will be officially opened by the Mayor at 11am on 23rd September.

JC highlighted the need to keep the momentum built up around GBGW and suggested also marking Earth Day each April as well as GNGW each September, so that going forward there are two annual events. This should help keep sustainability issues and local initiatives around them in people’s minds.

AG advised that Tyler-Jade Evans is still at St Vincent and can continue to act as the student link for the Partnership.

AG provided an update on the new 5-year Strategic Plan which has just been launched by the Lighthouse Learning Trust (parent Trust for St Vincent). One of the six key strategic ambitions in the Plan is around championing sustainability. Support for these aims has to be demonstrated for any future project.

Decisions: None

Actions: None

9. Date of next meeting

Decisions: None

Actions:

- TM and TP to suggest dates for next meeting for circulation and agreement

Appendix: notes of presentation by Ellis Ridett

What should a climate change partnership do?

- Provide independent, expert and authoritative advice.
- Convene and inspire.
- Act as a forum for ideas, research findings and best practice.

Challenges facing Gosport:

- Most deprived area in Hampshire.
- Risk of flooding and coastal change.
- Need to reduce emissions by 12.6% per year.
- High levels of out-commuting.

What needs to be done?

- Reduce consumer carbon emissions especially in homes but also relating to transport.
- More renewable generation.
- Reclaim green spaces.
- Retrofitting current building stock.
- Reduce and manage waste.
- Mitigation of flooding.
- Get the community involved.

How should this work in the community

- Forming partnerships.
- Work with businesses and employers to take action within their own organisations.
- Stakeholder and community events.
- Youth involvement (ER highlighted recent research that shows getting children involved can influence the whole household).
- Regular new and progress updates on upcoming and completed project.
- Details on how to get involved.
- Details of members and partners.

The community can be segmented into different groups, with different strategies for engagement:

- Climate worriers.
- Actively engaged.
- Price sensitive (high proportion of people fit into this category).
- Busy convenience.
- Cynics and sceptics.

Ranking of how trusted information sources on climate change are:

- The highest is David Attenborough (81%).
- Friends and family come second with 72% of people trusting them and therefore can get snowball effect.
- Local Council comes in the middle on 62%; the Climate Change Partnership should be able to achieve a higher level of trust due to its wider community reach.

ER highlighted the limited space for electricity demand to grow in this area, as all substations are constrained. There is a lot of generation connection capacity, but upgrading the network is slow and expensive. Managing the power flow through the network is a better option; this can be achieved with micro generation, private wire connections between renewable generators and large users, changing consumer habits to smooth out demand peaks. Consumer habits can be influenced by education or by “forced changes” such as pricing mechanisms.

The Edinburgh Climate Commission was held up as a good example of a climate compact agreement working well between organisations and the city partnership, as both parties agreed to a 1, 3 and 5 year plan.

It is important that partners need to be seen to take action. Groups need to celebrate partnerships, promote events and showcase what’s been happening.

Q&A

JW highlighted that the loss of MOD jobs is a significant factor in the high levels of out-commuting. ER suggested that there is scope for attracting more businesses to Gosport by improving the local environment, for example increased and enhanced green spaces.

TM asked when solar panels and battery storage were likely to available at prices making them widely accessible. ER noted that solar panels have become considerably cheaper over the last few years, and the Smart Export Guarantee can help residents recoup the costs.

BC asked how information about existing initiatives can be more widely shared, and whether there are examples from other Partnerships that have done this. ER advised that a good website (showcasing projects and promoting upcoming events) is important, but stakeholder events are also valuable to reach people who are less comfortable engaging online. ER has recently reviewed city climate commissioned and offered to send some links for successful initiatives.