

Gosport Climate Change Partnership Steering Group meeting minutes

18th January 2022

Attendees

AA	Andy Ames	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	
AG	Andy Grant	St Vincent College	
BC	Barbara Cooke	Abri	
BM	Cllr Bob Maynard	Gosport Borough Council	Guest
JC	Jackie Charman	Gosport Voluntary Action	
JS	Jane Staffieri	Gosport Fairtrade Action	
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

Apologies

Catherine Billam	Sustrans
Claire Cannon-Rogers	Gosport and Fareham Multi-Academy Trust
Glenn Chatwood	HMS Sultan
Cllr Julie Westerby	Gosport Borough Council

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 21/09/2022 were accepted as correct.

Actions: none

3. New Partnership members and requests to join Steering Group

TP advised that there have been no new Partnership members or requests to join the Steering Group since the previous meeting. Membership currently stands at 30 organisations.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

4. Partnership website

TP explained that following the presentation by Ellis Ridett in the previous meeting, which highlighted that a good website is a key feature of successful climate change partnerships, he had started looking into the possibility of getting a website developed with GBC funding. He shared a suggested specification for the site, with relatively simple content initially which could expand as further requirements were identified. The site would cover a list of Partnership members with links to their websites, events and news submitted by Partnership members, information about projects being run by Partnership working groups, a tips and advice page and a contact page.

For the tips and advice page, TP suggested that while similar information aimed at individuals is widespread, information designed to help organisations could be a useful resource. For the events and news pages, TP and TM had discussed this and suggested that they would be populated by sending out regular survey to Partnership members asking for information they wishes to share. This information could also be sent out to all Partnership members in an email newsletter.

TP had obtained an indicative quote for development and technical maintenance of the website (with content maintenance to be the responsibility of the Partnership). Unfortunately the cost was higher than anticipated, so further work is needed to flesh out the proposal before GBC funding can be confirmed. However the principle of developing a website and the suggested content were agreed.

Cheaper options such as using built in web hosting functionality within Office365 (which is used by GBC) were suggested, which TP will investigate. It was noted that potential liability issues need to be taken into account when deciding how to host the website; for example if using Office365 results in the website having a GBC domain then GBC would be responsible for the accuracy of content and would need to approve all changes.

Maintenance of content can be time consuming and it was suggested that we should check for any existing local websites we can work with, either by linking to them instead of adding our own content, or by hosting pages about the Partnership on an existing website.

Decisions:

- A website will be developed subject to funding availability.
- The specification for the website was agreed.

Actions:

- TP will investigate cheaper options for developing a website and/or allocation of funding by GBC.
- TP and TM will set up a process to survey Partnership members for events and positive actions they wish to share, and then share this information in an email newsletter.

5. Solent Cluster

BM shared information from the launch event for the newly established Solent Cluster, which is one of seven decarbonisation clusters that have received substantial government funding to develop decarbonisation technologies such as hydrogen production and carbon capture and storage. These clusters are funded with £240m from the Net Zero Hydrogen fund and it is hoped that large businesses will contribute another £2bn. To receive funding, clusters must be made up of diverse organisations covering academia, public and private businesses, influencers and decision makers, and they must demonstrate cooperation between the organisations, provide social benefits and develop a wider supply chain.

The launch event featured speakers from the founding members of the Cluster: the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, Southampton University, and Exxon Mobil. Exxon Mobil intend to use the Fawley site for blue hydrogen production, but the Cluster would in parallel focus on developing green hydrogen capacity.

BM highlighted the potential for Gosport to benefit from investment support for light industry such as the development of electrolyzers for green hydrogen (which also has the potential to reduce out-commuting), and for educational establishments in Gosport to benefit from funding to provide training in key skills needed to support these decarbonisation technologies (which would also help provide skilled employees in Gosport for industries supported by the Cluster). At present, the mechanisms by which Gosport would benefit are unclear and BM will continue investigating this.

Regarding the timescale over which the Solent Cluster will be operating, and BM advised that it will be a large ongoing project which is in its infancy.

BM requested that anyone is able to find out any further information that might help Gosport to benefit from the Solent Cluster and take a lead in supporting green technologies feed any information back to him as he is building relationships with the Cluster.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

6. Updates from Working Groups

Food

The working group held a meeting at the end of September with a focus on food waste. There were a good range of representatives including a school pupil and it generated some useful connections.

Several local opportunities have now been set up for local people to get involved in tackling food waste. A worm farming train the trainer workshop will be held in February working closely with Bridgemary Library, which aims to create a team of “worm ambassadors” to support communities and organisations in creating a managing wormeries. A composting workshop open to the general public in conjunction with Give Gain Grow will be held at the end of March. A six-week course on growing your own food is currently being set up with support from Abri. Cookery sessions are being set up with Vivid and the Rowner Community Trust, and Abri are funding the Good Grub Club which is running at Brune Park.

BC is keen to continue to support the Gosport Food Partnership and aim for the Sustainable Food Places bronze award, which would require broadening the range of organisations involved and developing a food charter.

Youth climate action

TM and BC are looking into a potential bid to the Community Lottery Fund for a biodigester, which would be on the Brune Park site but available for use by the wider community.

TM gave an update on the GFM community garden at Brune Park, which is continuing to make good progress and involving students from both Brune Park and Bay House. GFM are now looking at creating another community garden at Bay House.

TM will continue to work with AG to get pupils more involved in the working group initiatives.

Transport and planning

TP apologised for the continued lack of progress in getting this group running, but is still keen to do so so that it has a chance to feed into HCC's work on implementing the Gosport Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, which has now started.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

7. Updates from members

TM had invited Claire Cannon-Rogers to talk about a cycling project she's running at Brune Park. Unfortunately she was unwell and so this will be covered in a future meeting.

Gosport Fairtrade Action are organising several initiatives as part of Fair Trade Fortnight, which runs from 27th February to 12th March. This will include engaging with the public outside supermarkets to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by farmers in many countries in adapting to climate change.

St Vincent are working with Gosport Men's Shed to create outdoor learning spaces, which will support their sensory garden and allow energy use to be reduced in the summer.

AG reported that following election of a new student council elections, Tyla Jade-Evans has re-joined the council as the environmental lead. AG will meet with the student council shortly and discuss any projects or activities they would like to be involved in, so will feed back anything relevant at the next meeting.

The Lighthouse Learning trust (consisting of St Vincent and another college in Southampton) has developed a sustainability forum, which will work on decarbonising the estate and meeting developing curriculum opportunities around environmental sciences and sustainability.

JC reported that GVA's Community Spirit group (for people over 25 with additional needs) has revitalised their allotment, which has provided learning around food and cooking to people normally excluded from such activities. A second adjacent allotment has also been acquired to support people with visual impairments and Ukrainian refugees.

JC highlighted that GVA has lost some of its funding, which will result in a focus on core activities. Unfortunately this may reduce the amount of time that JC can spend supporting initiatives such as the Food Partnership and Gosport Green Umbrella; however she aims to remain on the Climate Change Partnership Steering Group if possible.

Decisions: none

Actions: none

8. Any other business

The Climate Coalition is organising a “green heart” month during February, encouraging people to create green hearts as a visible symbol of support for action on climate change. BC suggested it would be a good thing for the Partnership to support.

JC sits on the Gosport Cultural Consortium, and is pushing for it to produce a sustainable event guide for community events. TP advised that a similar guide has been produced by Portsmouth City Council which he was impressed by and could be a useful starting point. TP will send this to JC for her to feed into the Cultural Consortium.

Decisions: None

Actions:

- TP to pass sustainable event guide examples to JC.

9. Date of next meeting

TM suggested the end of April or early May, and a poll will be circulated to confirm the exact date.

Decisions: None

Actions:

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