

Reading Climate Change Partnership

Board Meeting Minutes, Tues 30th Nov 2021

TEAMs meeting online, 2:30-4:30 pm

<u>Attendee</u>		
Tracey Rawling-Church (co-Chair, will Chair today) (TRC)	Ben Burfoot (BB)	Tricia Marcouse (TM)
Tim Dixon (co-chair)	Chris Maddocks (CM)	Cllr Tony Page (TP)
Chris Beales (CB)	Peter Moore (PM)	Shreeya Paudel (SP)
Poppy Harris (PH),	Paul Ducker (PD)	Scott Witchalls (SW)
Paul Harrison (PHa)	Rachel Hazell (RH)	Alison Foster (AF)
Lorraine Farrelly (LF)		

Item	Action - Who
<p>Apologies: Katie Brett, Kalvin Gavrilov</p> <p>Chris (CB) and Environment Agency are stepping down from partnership Board due to resource limitations. CB hopes he will continue to be involved in the delivery of the water theme. On behalf of the Partnership TRC shared her grateful thanks to CB for his expertise and leadership as Water Theme Lead and as former Chair of RCCP and proposed a vote of thanks.</p>	
Minutes of last meeting - approval	
<p>Report from COP 26</p> <p>RCCP had a stand in the Green zone on Sat 6th Nov. 2x2m with a large monitor, a plinth and some stalls. A 3 minute video prepared by Lauren Shute was on shown on loop. Opportunity for conversations with visitors (members of the public and blue zone delegates). Due to the stall being in Glasgow we didn't have a call to action, but have met a Reading based facilitator who has offered her support. We also had a surprise visit from Alok Sharma MP. Thank you to RH and Faye Hargreaves for providing social media support throughout the conference.</p> <p>Report on Reading Climate Festival 2021</p> <p>This was a hybrid event this year, with cultural content as well as talks. Supported by funding from Great Big Green Week. The organisation this year was much easier – thanks to Lauren. There were fewer events than in 2020 – but with more variety – we expanded our audience beyond the 'usual suspects', with a physical event focussed around family and children, and a steel band playing in The Oracle Shopping Centre. Two live events had to be postponed due to low registrations (perhaps due to the</p>	

<p>uncertain times of ongoing covid spikes), and the mural was not possible due to car park contact leaving RBC.</p> <p>Attendee survey responses to be circulated later. Legacy content is now uploaded on the website. Planning for 2022 will start in January.</p> <p>Feedback from 2021 Schools model COP event</p> <p>RCCP provided £3k funding for this event. A good event, considering the covid restriction circumstances, with good intelligent contributions and questions. The level of knowledge and expectation of the students has increased a lot since the last event in 2019. RCCP will take care to support this programme design going forward and continue dialogue with the team to ensure ongoing action in the schools going forward.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> PM to circulate report when available.</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>RCCP Future spending strategy</p> <p>PM presented a briefing note on the financial position of the partnership and thoughts on the reintroduction of the small grants programme RCCP has run in the past. Putting aside the reserve funds - noted in the governance strategy, the partnership has £17k. It was felt this was not enough to run an effective public grants programme and is better focused on the strategic priorities of the board. RCCP should be considered a funder of last resort. It was suggested that RCES could be signposted for local grants going forward – as they are working with RVA in this regard.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> All theme leads to note they can make proposals for any critical priority from the action plan that is in need of funding. All to respond to Lisa Hill, our bid writing volunteer with any of their action plan funding needs.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Ben to investigate final share certificate of Reading Hydro (for further information on returns to RCCP) to answer query from Chris</p> <p>TP noted that RBC is very happy to host events on behalf of the partnership going forward. In other cases where events are being run on behalf of RCCP.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Ops team to consider the challenge of running events and the public liability insurance needed.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Katie and Ben to liaise with Trish to ensure expenses of church hire and insurance for COP26 event are re-imbursed. Also, to consider how a clearer process for future events and related expenses can be developed.</p>	<p>Theme leads</p> <p>BB</p> <p>Ops Team</p> <p>KB, BB</p>
<p>Annual Report, and reporting – discussion to update on progress and review feedback on Annual Report:</p> <p>Water theme – CB would prefer to give an overall ‘RAG’ rating for each theme – not for each specific action. Some progress made, but still lots to do</p> <p>Resources theme – ‘RAG’ rating is useful, but underpinned by some key indicators. Plastic Free Caversham has done some great work. Reading UK Green BID has real potential. Local festivals have potential: i.e. Twilight trail now has a sustainability</p>	

<p>statement, and could be used as a model for other events. Blue Collar street food project working with Trust in Food project at UoR – to explore recycling on the go can be built into their work. Design Nature CiC has applied for lottery funding for Redesigners Reading – to engage young people in circular economy, waste and recycling design projects.</p> <p>Transport theme – Bus Service Improvement Plan submitted, Railway station improvement schemes, A33 bus lanes, active Travel continuing: current public consultation for a cycle lane on the Shinfield Road.</p> <p>Nature theme – food fermentation project – UoR project has found 60% more micro organisms in the soil using lactic acid, instead of general compost. In discussions with Re3 about these results and using these findings more widely. 2 green roofs on bus shelters – results are now being monitored. COP 26 event in Reading was a success with 500 on the march, and the event at full capacity. 2 churches are investigating greening their grounds more. Awaiting a Funding bid for greening some identified RBC land. Need for more active people – 23 down to 8 active members.</p> <p>Communications theme – more useful to summarise progress across audience groups, instead of individual actions. COP Campaign in Nov – thank you to blog post authors. Currently liaising with RVA to get more volunteers to help the theme. <u>ACTION:</u> All to contact Rachel if need more volunteers for their themes. Website improvement for schools, blogs and looking to make content more promotional.</p> <p>Energy theme – decentralised energy project ongoing – potential for a district heat network at Station North. Renewables – Reading Hydro operational. RCES – strengthening – looking at a broader geography – 10-15miles of Reading. EV Strategy for the borough ongoing, and Depot site has much activity, including the first EV refuse collection vehicle. EV buses also being looked at.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Peter to contact theme leads to feedback SEPT comments on Annual Report</p> <p>TP congratulated team and partners on Reading’s recent addition to the Carbon Disclosure Project’s ‘A’ list of cities taking ‘bold climate action’, and UoR for recent Queen’s Anniversary Prize. <u>ACTION:</u> PM to include both in Reading’s City Status Bid and next year’s Annual Report.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Ops Team: to consider how best to update Strategy document and Annual report in light of legislative changes, including Net Zero Strategy and Environment Act 2021.</p>	<p>Theme Leads</p> <p>PM</p> <p>PM</p> <p>Ops team</p>
<p>Urban Room proposal This project will have a community engagement space in Broad Street Mall throughout March 2022 – exhibitions, talks, workshops and discussions, and an online platform via Commonplace. The engagement will be focussed around ‘aspects of the environment that contribute to the quality of life for communities in Reading’</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Collaboration on climate change theme for the urban room with UoR approved by RCCP and Lorraine to contact Tracey, Tim and Peter with next steps.</p>	<p>LF</p>

<p>Royal Berkshire Hospital Carbon Plan</p> <p>Alison Foster – Programme director for RBH hospital redevelopment ‘Building Berkshire together’, and Trust lead on Net Zero Carbon. Green Plan for RBH will be signed off by board in Dec, and resourcing is being sought.</p> <p>AF indicated willingness to take on health theme leadership.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Alison to convene meeting with Paul Harrison and Becky Pollard by way of reinstating the health and wellbeing theme group. Suggested that this group link with Resources (Paul Ducker) and Nature (Trish Marcouse) theme leads too. AF to share final RBH Green Plan with all when complete.</p>	<p>AF</p>
<p>AOB</p> <p>TD confirmed we are working hard to fill Chris Beales vacancy on the board – currently liaising with Thames Water.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> All to please give details of any public speaking activities to Rachel and Katie so we can build up a list and further details for possible blogs etc.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Ops team to consider how best to formalise links with RVA including potential place on board.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Ops team to consider the best way of bringing together the theme leads and others in the next cross-cutting workshop.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> RH to explore possibility of Workplace Platform for improved theme communication and look at newsletter concept in more detail so this can be achieved.</p> <p>Date for the next meetings: Tues 25th Jan 10-12noon, Tues 26th April 10- 12noon</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Ops team</p> <p>Ops team</p> <p>RH</p>