

Reading Climate Change Partnership

Board Meeting Minutes, Tues 25th Jan 2022

MS TEAMS meeting online, 10-12pm

<u>Attendees</u> Tim Dixon (co-Chair, will Chair today) Tricia Marcouse Chris Maddocks, Rachel Hazell	Shreeya Paudel, Poppy Harris, Paul Ducker, Scott Witchalls,	Alison Foster Becky Pollard - observer Katie Brett Peter Moore
---	--	---

Item	Action – who
Apologies: Tracey Rawling-Church (co-chair), Ben Burfoot, Cllr Tony Page, Calvin Gavrilov, Paul Harrison. Scott Witchalls needs to leave by 11am. The Board welcomed Becky Pollard - Interim Public Health Consultant at RBC and Alison Foster as the new RCCP Health Theme Lead.	
<u>Minutes of last meeting – approved</u> Feedback from ACTION: Ben to investigate final share certificate of Reading Hydro - Reading Hydro is operational and powering the Thames Lido. The Partnership has £4000 of shares. This was in exchange for ~£1000 that was paid by the Council for the grid connection - this was not used in the end and so the Partnership have asked that the shares be reduced to £3000 or the Partnership pay additional £1000 to maintain the £4000 shares. We should not expect a large income from it. BB to locate share certificate. <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.	RH
<u>Theme lead day (16th Feb 1130-130): Structure and Agenda ideas</u> Following first theme leads meeting in 2021 it was agreed to repeat this annually. Discussion to plan agenda for Feb 2022 theme leads meeting The Expectations/obligations/roles of theme leads has now been addressed in the governance review (annexes to Partnership Agreement). <u>ACTION:</u> PM to circulate annexes to Partnership Agreement setting out roles on theme leads before theme lead meeting <u>ACTION:</u> KB to arrange a pre theme lead meeting (with ops team and volunteers) to confirm the structure and agenda for the meeting <u>ACTION:</u> KB/PM to finalise and circulate theme leads meeting agenda	PM KB KB
<u>Thank you to Katie and Update on Partnership Officer Role</u> Katie is leaving her post as Support officer to RCCP after 3 years in the role. TD thanked KB for her hard work, positive energy, drive and practical approach. PM confirmed RBC will now recruit into this role, which is a permanent position. Funds allow us to increase hours to 0.5FTE (up from 0.4FTE). Job Description has been slightly amended to increase emphasis on comms and social media. Role will be advertised in Feb. <u>ACTION:</u> BB to initiate and conclude recruitment process	BB

<p><u>Cllr Rachel Eden – meet the new Mayor (special guest)</u></p> <p>TD gave a warm welcome to Cllr Eden – the new Mayor of Reading. Sustainability is one of Cllr Eden’s priorities for her Mayoral term, alongside giving young people the best start in life. The Mayor’s role is symbolic, and non-partisan. Instead she has the power to influence, standing beside and promoting causes. Cllr Eden wants to be an inclusive mayor and whilst holding a ‘Meat free mayoralty’ she will avoid serving meat products at her events – for sustainability reasons, and to take into account peoples’ health or religious concerns. It will be a nuanced approach to take into account the local situation, and not to cause offence. Cllr Eden would be happy to support RCCP in anyway she can. She is happy to host us, when appropriate in the Mayor’s parlour. Q&A:</p> <p>Schools Eco newsletter – include offer for the Mayor to attend sustainability events in schools – i.e. eco school group meeting. If at a school – to share what resources RCCP can offer – i.e support in refreshing their playgrounds, talks.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> All to encourage contacts which involve young people and environment- to invite Mayor to any suitable sustainability activity at the school. Email: mayor@reading.gov.uk.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> KB to send RE schools eco newsletters – for background info when visiting schools.</p> <p>KB to link RE with Harriet Neville in regards ongoing engagement in schools and school engagement priorities when visiting. Schools to do species ID and log them on biodiversity database (TM to provide more detail).</p> <p><u>Action:</u> to promote biodiversity identifying on her mayoral tweet – for wider community.</p> <p>TM to send RE details.</p> <p>Helping to engage purposefully with the ethnic minority groups in Reading is very needed as we are currently not reaching a large demographic in Reading. <u>Action:</u> SP to follow up RCCP speaker opportunities with ACRE.</p> <p>AF – RBH is launching RBH Green Plan next month - request for RE to visit the RBH to hear about plans. <u>Action:</u> AF to contact RE to arrange a visit to RBH.</p> <p>BP – pleased that Mayor is supporting healthy food approach. Next Director of Public Health report to cover what we eat and how it contributes to climate change. Mayor’s quote for this report? BS to liaise with lead member Cllr Hoskin first and Mayor will support where is suitable.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> KB to follow up the possibility of having a sustainability tip added to the weekly RBH Covid newsletter with the RBC comms team/Leader’s office.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>KB</p> <p>TM</p> <p>TM</p> <p>SP</p> <p>AF</p> <p>KB</p>
<p><u>Quarterly Reporting on Action Plan delivery:</u></p> <p>Ali Foster – Health theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Reading Green Wellbeing Network, Peter, Paul H, Paul D to understand history and opportunity, meeting with Public Health lead next Monday. • Propose workshop with wider stakeholders to broaden out the theme to include connection with other themes. • RBH are a large employer, emitter and co-institution – need to demonstrate community leadership, good practice and share examples of good practice from the wider NHS. Linking to the other themes- to achieve a tangible outcome. • Urban room development. • Communications collaboration – with RBC and RCCP. <p>Chris Maddocks – Transport:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active travel: £1.179m grant secure for cycle route and pedestrian enhancements. along the Shinfield road - implementation starts late spring. • The set-up of Active Travel England, changes to highway code. • Cycle parking hub- location agreed – open within next few months. • School streets: Crescent Road is the next scheme to be rolled out. <p>Paul Ducker - Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd edition of stakeholder newsletter sent out. • Aligning: a lot is going on in the community, businesses and other organisations. There is a desire to put goals and aims at the heart of the strategy so that organisations want to align what they are doing with it. • Sharing knowledge across organisations: what works and what didn't and why. • Challenges: the need to develop a shared narrative beyond sharing action plans. • Planning for succession – if a theme lead wants to move on. <p>Rachel Hazel – Communications & Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Shute (Kickstart Placement) and Faye Hargreaves (volunteer) have now left – so there is currently reduced capacity on social media and website • Doing some work to formalise volunteer positions – to manage expectations – of role and time. • Priorities – website, campaign calendar and getting newsletter up and running, looking at social media. • Funding – 3 bids have been submitted, awaiting feedback. Setting up the dashboard. • Community engagement – focusing on linking to groups to communicate via their established channels. • Education – work on the quarterly schools newsletter. • Climate Festival - to be repeated again this year - prob in Sept. <p>Trish Marcouse – Nature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sites of interest identified – recreation grounds in South Whitley and Basingstoke road. • Offer of 2000 trees from Trees for our cities – requested funder to defer this to winter 2022. <p>Peter Moore - Energy (on behalf of Ben Burfoot):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd phase of District Energy feasibility underway - highlighting potential north of the station to form a network drawing heat from the Thames at Kings Meadow. • Council is developing plans for the Minster Quarter area and an application for ground source heat pumps for the Hexagon theatre has been made to the PSDS fund. • 40 air source heat pumps installed in RBC housing although not ultimately eligible for the government funding. Homes have been identified and are being surveyed with the Council continuing into phases 2 and 3 via the South East Energy Hub. • The Council's zero carbon depot programme is continuing with one EV refuse truck), more to follow in 2022 and solar canopies being ordered. • The Council's leisure centres are preparing for construction and designs now include heat pumps and additional solar to reduce emissions over and above the BREEAM Excellent standard required in Local Plan policy. • The Council were awarded National Homebuilder of the Year for designs applying passivhaus principles and are planning to retrofit Coley High Rise. 	
---	--

<p>Discussion identified need to capture new opportunities and challenges that arise from the fast moving policy environment within our strategy and action plans - danger that action plans don't reflect the reality of current priorities. When should we refresh the plans? Theme leads may need a more fluid approach to adding new actions and opportunities.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> KB to add this onto the theme lead meeting agenda.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> 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>KB</p> <p>PM</p>
<p><u>Current communications and engagement opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>UK 100 – 'Local Climate Engagement Project'</i> – PM updated all on this project run by a consortium of specialists in public participation. Free training, mentoring and peer support on offer via competitive bidding process – RBC will be submitting a bid. • <i>Urban Room proposal</i> – RH updated all on this project. The Urban Room will on the Broad St Mall from 22-26th March 2022: known as 'Climate change week'. The space will be manned by university students 10-5pm. Ideas are being worked up to include interactive top tips and a talk/seminar slot. • <u>ACTION:</u> RH to email all with a summary of her needs for collaboration and support on the Urban Room project. • <i>Net Zero Placemaking: Story Accelerator</i> - Clean+Cool Story Accelerator - Stronger Stories • PD, TRC, TD have been in discussion with Stronger Stories– funded by Innovate UK. Mentoring training course available to RCCP members and local businesses to be able to work with stronger stories. Could develop a playbook to help tell story of net zero in UK, fill in gaps from the quieter voices in a community who play a part in net zero agenda. <p><u>ACTION:</u> TD to update all with more details. All to contact TD if interested in being part of this.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>RH</p> <p>TD ALL</p>
<p>AOB</p> <p>Water Theme leadership: Chris Beales has stepped back, contact made with Thames Water with invitation to step into the role. PM confirmed that we hope to have a BFFC representative at the next meeting.</p> <p>Feedback has been received from the Carbon Disclosure Project on why Reading was added to their 'A' list and where there is scope for improvement. This will be useful in preparing for this year's assessment.</p> <p>Date of next meetings: 10- 12noon Tues 26th April, 10-12noon; Thurs 14th July, 10-12noon Tues 1st Nov.</p>	