



<p><u>Shreeya Paudel (Board Member appointed by Reading Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality) – presentation on Race, Diversity and Climate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP invited Board members to estimate responsibility of the global north for historic emissions? Answer 92%. 8 countries responsible for &gt;85%.</li> <li>• In this context, why is onus on ‘developing’ countries to decarbonise? Both China and India remain within ‘fair share’ of emissions (but China getting close)</li> <li>• Countries which suffer the most have contributed the least to the problem</li> <li>• ‘Climate change may not discriminate but the systems we have created do’ – underlining the importance of diverse voices in conversations around climate, and sometimes uncomfortable conversations to make it accessible for everyone</li> <li>• Eco-racism/environmental injustice – disproportionate impact of environment impact on people of colour. Minority communities are unfairly targeted by policies subjecting them to unhealthy living conditions</li> <li>• Linked to environmental classism – disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on low income people and neighbourhoods</li> <li>• This form of systemic racism means people of colour are more likely to be exposed to greater health risks than their white counterparts</li> <li>• Tackling systemic racism fundamental to achieving environmental and climate justice – diversity of thought is key</li> <li>• [Key research points citing evidence to support earlier points – see slides]</li> <li>• SP cited prominence given to Greta Thunberg in media compared to counterparts of similar age from different ethnic backgrounds</li> <li>• Excluding race and social mobility from sustainability conversations is creating a blind spot – can feel exclusionary</li> <li>• Environmental equality cannot be achieved without diverse voices that represent marginalised groups</li> <li>• Media focuses on over-population in global south but US remains main emitter</li> <li>• SOLUTIONS: more outreach with young people from different backgrounds; making climate activism more accessible: seeking feedback directly from people of colour to understand how they see the problem; creating more educational spaces for these conversations; understanding policies which tackle environmental racism</li> <li>• Social enterprise platform Untold – see <a href="https://www.untoldltd.com/">https://www.untoldltd.com/</a> - SP working alongside RBC focusing on Oxford Rd. Key insight: young people don’t have spaces/greenspaces to access leading to jaded perspective – spaces need to be created and listen with an open mind. Young people have unbridled optimism – need to tap into this and ensure conversation addresses diversity.</li> </ul> <p><u>Q&amp;A</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TD thanked SP for assisting with translating RCAN materials</li> <li>• RH asked what things could we do to make the most different? SP said engage with schools – SP has 3 volunteering days via work and would be happy to give presentations to students/run workshops. Also important to engage at different levels/ages. Hosting debates within schools and integrating activity into PHSE?</li> <li>• PH found presentation thought-provoking – made her realise we are not tackling these issues in sustainability conversations, and many businesses would welcome this. SP/PH to exchange contact details and pursue offline</li> <li>• TM – Global Justice has regular meetings with local MPs – TM to put SP in touch with them. TM has funding for work on the park in Great Knollys St but lacks contacts with the community – would welcome SP’s advice on making contact. TM to put SP in touch with Shaheen re: gardening at the Mosque. TM happy to</li> </ul>	<p>SP/PH</p> <p>SP/TM</p>
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<p>talk to schools – the challenge is getting the invitations. SP said she could be proactive and email schools to offer presentations etc.</p> <p><u>Scott Witchalls (Stantec, Board Member appointed by Reading UK) – presentation on Business Engagement in Climate Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SW sits on Reading UK Board. Has been looking into SME engagement in climate action. Most big corporates have ESG strategies, SMEs are increasingly aware, especially those bidding for public sector contracts – but still a lack of knowledge, uncertainty about costs/benefits, overloaded with info</li> <li>• SW gave a presentation at a Business Magazine Conference (1/3/22) and a business sustainability roundtable (17/3/22) with Ethical Reading, Crowe et al</li> <li>• The latter identified need for education, understanding of impacts/costs of action, idea of a climate/sustainability fair for business</li> <li>• Regular roundtable will continue, climate fair will be set up, support network for SMEs under consideration, simplified guidance, signpost to grant opportunities</li> <li>• Reading UK is developing the Green BID concept for Reading’s existing 2 BIDs, energy audits and green tech (innovation and skills)</li> <li>• Messaging: should not be seen as Council-led or imposed – broader initiative by and for business knowing that Council is supportive; looking for opportunities for presentations at Reading focused business conferences; wider group outreach: via RUKs database, the Chamber of Commerce and IoD</li> </ul> <p><u>Q&amp;A</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PH asked if there was a plan to use the RCAN website as a landing place for business needing guidance? PH can provide case studies for larger businesses and happy to support creating content. PH will reply to TRC’s email on this.</li> <li>• HM has engaged with London First, benefits from having unifying vision/objectives – what shared vision/would be useful for Reading to bring SMEs together? TD pointed to business pledge on RCAN website – Board members asked to encourage organisations to <a href="#">sign the RCAN pledge</a></li> </ul>	<p>PH</p> <p>ALL BOARD MEMBERS</p>
<p><u>Update on Partnership Officer Role</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BB updated the Board that whilst the vacant post of Partnership Co-ordinator had been offered to a strong candidate he received a better offer so post is being readvertised. Deadline of 1000 on 2 May 2022 – Board members encouraged to promote the opportunity via their networks using <a href="#">this link</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL BOARD MEMBERS</p>
<p><u>Quarterly Reporting on Action Plan delivery:</u></p> <p>Rachel Hazell – Communications &amp; Engagement Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Action Waste Week promotions worked well</li> <li>• Urban Room project took place</li> <li>• RH is developing a CRM system to improve management of RCAN contacts – using free version of Hubspot</li> <li>• Working with Katie on social, Wordpress and events</li> <li>• Website updates completed by RH – quote received from Organegrove about template changes – cost c£500, addresses issues raised at theme leads meeting – RH to discuss with TRC/BB</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Heather Marshall – Water Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not yet able to follow up with Chris Beales</li> <li>• HM has made note to reflect SP’s/KG’s advice in TW’s education programme</li> </ul>	<p>RH/TRC/BB</p> <p>HM</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thames Water has been developing water efficiency incentives for developers – tiered payments up to £1,800 per property if ‘water neutral’ standard reached</li> <li>Currently only available for residential but seeking to extend to commercial - well received thus far by developers and other Councils</li> <li>Issue with misconconnections, onerous for customers and councils – W Oxon DC looking at making inspection of connection by Thames a planning condition</li> </ul>	
<p>Chris Maddocks – Transport Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBC has secured £26m for Bus Service Improvement Plan</li> <li>Also £1.3m secured in Active Travel funds for Bath Rd cycle route</li> <li>Recently opened Crescent Rd School Streets – teething problems have settled</li> </ul>	
<p>Paul Ducker - Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Free Caversham v close to achieving plastic-free accreditation – just need more community allies. Public water drinking fountain installation underway</li> <li>3 yrs since RBC passed motion committing to becoming single-use plastic free – motion committed to report on progress/share learning – has this happened?</li> <li>Festival scene more than Reading Festival but opportunity to follow-up to improve sustainability – PM to organise follow-up involving PD</li> <li>Reuse and repair – Design Nature and Circular Economy Club are looking into this – will be a focus of PD’s next resources newsletter</li> <li>Food Waste Action Week a good collaboration between RCCP, Uni, Re3</li> <li>Much happening beyond what’s in the Action Plan – Design Nature, Reading Rep talks on climate activism, Youth Council, Connect Reading business engagement</li> </ul>	<p>PM</p> <p>PD</p>
<p>Ben Burfoot – Energy Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heat Network feasibility for town centre approaching conclusion</li> <li>Retrofit – LAD phase 1B targeting c.20 completions by June</li> <li>Council solar installations being commissioned at Bennet Rd Depot</li> <li>Opportunity for solar at Bus Depot now Network Rail have cleared ‘glare’ issue – BB to discuss with CM</li> </ul>	<p>BB/CM</p>
<p>Ali Foster – Health &amp; Wellbeing Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBH launched Green Plan 14<sup>th</sup> Feb with help of the Mayor</li> <li>Since publication, Board has asked for more ambition to align with other Reading partners aiming for net zero by 2030 – big ticket items being reviewed in next few months – updated version of Green Plan to Board in May 2022</li> <li>Liaising with Public Health, Uni and others on collaboration opportunities (e.g potential for collaboration with Uni on chemical waste, heat decarbonisation)</li> <li>Participated in Urban Room – good quality engagement</li> <li>NHS social value guidance being applied</li> <li>Integrated Care System group bringing together NHS and LAs but lacking LA engagement – seeking more LA representation</li> <li>Linking also with TV Chamber of Commerce and Berkshire Net Zero Taskforce</li> <li>Health Theme review workshop planned for June</li> <li>Reading Business Network meeting on Circular Economy 28 April</li> <li>RBH promoting bus use – AF/CM to liaise on whether scope for BSIP funding to support this</li> <li>RBH working with RISC on wellbeing and greenspace</li> </ul>	<p>AF/CM</p>

<p>Trish Marcouse – Nature Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBC has planted 340 standard trees , RCAN vols have planted 500 new whips, new wildflower bank in Clayfield Copse</li> <li>Lottery funding for 2 parks (Great Knollys St Shinfield Rd Rec) – if anyone has contacts in local communities please advice Trish</li> <li>BBOWT has £25k to spend in Reading - 1 person 2 days per week for 2 years</li> <li>More suggestions for rewilding sites to RBC will come on stream this year</li> <li>Beanpole Day, gardening for climate change posters created, ecotips provided and RCAN leaflets</li> <li>Meadows Day 2 July Clayfield Copse – do any other themes want an RCAN stall?</li> <li>PhD we thought was funded to look into food as soil feed now pulled – TM/AF to consider if Innovation Fund be an alternative source of support?</li> </ul>	<p>ALL BOARD MEMBERS</p> <p>TM/AF</p>
<p><u>Current communications and engagement opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>UK 100 – ‘Local Climate Engagement Project’</i> – 5 training places available for RBC/RCCP – option of buying additional training places, contact PM if of interest</li> <li><i>Urban Room</i> – TD, TM and PD attended and spoke to members of the public - thanks to RH for producing materials. RH to track down poster produced</li> <li><i>Net Zero Placemaking: Story Accelerator</i> – good workshop on how to compile stories – RH to develop story/campaign around the climate stripes for discussion</li> </ul>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>
<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Innovation Partnership: Collaboration Innovation Fund – any ideas for bids please liaise with AF. AF/TM to discuss potential for the food/soil project. TD suggested potential on overheating project.</li> <li>Agreed to invite Get Berkshire Active to give presentation to next meeting – PM to organise and identify overlap/synergy between respective strategies</li> <li>TM – no of participants in green theme activities via Econet increasing – Econet insurance has doubled due to increase in vol days. Econet can’t afford increased insurance. Oxon CC allegedly has insurance cover for voluntary work which is useful to the Council. BB to clarify position.</li> </ul> <p>Next meeting agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation from Get Berkshire Active (PM to liaise)</li> <li>Berkshire Net Zero Task Force (PM to liaise)</li> <li>Possible discussion on climate stripes campaign (RH)</li> </ul> <p>Date of next meetings: 10-12noon; <b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>, 10-12noon <b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.</b></p>	<p>ALL/AF</p> <p>PM</p> <p>BB</p> <p>PM</p> <p>PM</p> <p>RH</p>