

Reading Climate Change Partnership

Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday 19th of January 2023

MS TEAMS meeting online and recorded, 10 AM-12 PM

<u>Attendees</u>			
Tim Dixon (co-Chair and chaired meeting) Tracey Rawling-Church (co-chair) Tricia Marcouse Alison Foster	Heather Marshall Ben Burfoot Peter Moore Sarah Parker Mike Waddelove	Tony Page Matt Williams Paul Ducker Alison Hilton Dylan Parkes	Chris Maddocks Melanie Porter-Turner Scott Witchalls

Item	Action- Who?
<p>1. Welcome, introductions, and apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies: Grace Andrews, Rachel Hazel, Rachel Spencer, Shreeya Paudal, and Nick West-Oram.</p> <p>Welcome to new board members Mike Waddelove and Dylan Parkes.</p> <p>Mel has joined from RBH as she is helping on Net Zero and heading up programme delivery for redevelopment.</p>	
<p>2. Staff Changes</p> <p>SP leaving role of Climate Change Partnership Coordinator with last day 17th of February.</p> <p>TD has retired from the University of Reading and not embedded with what is happening at the University due to this. TD is stepping down as the co-chair from the Reading Climate Change Partnership (RCCP) Board. The role of the University of Reading Representative will be taken over by Dylan Parkes.</p> <p>TD will still be attending the next board meeting scheduled on the 20th of April.</p> <p>The departure of Tim will lead to a co-chair vacancy and if anyone would like more information, please speak to TRC or TD.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of last meeting – approval</p> <p>Minutes were approved by the board and a review of past actions was done.</p>	
<p>4. Presentation from Museums Partnership Reading (MPR) and Our Green Stories by Matt Williams and Alison Hilton</p> <p>MPR is a consortium of Reading’s two leading museums: The Museum of English Rural Life and Reading Museum, a unique university and local authority partnership.</p>	

<p>MPR has been an Art Council England National Portfolio Organisation since 2018 and was recently successfully re-awarded NPO funding for 2023-2026. Since 2018 MPR has developed a wide range of projects and programmes. This included engaging audiences during the pandemic.</p> <p>Key areas of works have been collections, digital, partnerships, placemaking, volunteering, and engagement with children and young people.</p> <p>Our Green Stories is a new strand of MPR activity, it is a creative campaign exploring environmental issues through exploring museum collections.</p> <p>Walking tour between the two museums was successful and there will be a focus on environmental issues you can spot on a new environmental walk.</p> <p>MPR focusing on UN Sustainable Development Goals and 6 of the goals were picked. Launched consultation during Climate Festival.</p> <p>Lots of projects: blogs, February half term programme for families, Our Green Stories gallery trail coming soon, working with schools on a project called Create a Buzz with St. Johns School and Alfred Sutton in partnership with Nature Nurture, commissioned an artist to work on a life below water piece, museum on wheels, Green Screen films with local communities, and making the most of programming around GAIA.</p> <p>More information: https://merl.reading.ac.uk/whats-on/our-green-stories/ https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/blog/our-green-stories#</p>	
<p>5. Review of Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2025-2030 PM</p> <p>Presentation and discussion paper by PM (attached). In May 2023 we will be halfway through our current Reading Climate Emergency Strategy. Key issues discussed: scope and content, structure and format, and process for review. 2020-2025 strategy was pretty good but could be improved in the next iteration.</p> <p>Discussion Key Points</p> <p>BB: Critical point around Local Area Energy Plan and SSEN who have been finding they have significant limits to what can be added to electrify the grid. Current strategy relies on electrification, and it will continue to be based on this.</p> <p>Local Area Energy Planning has started to become more of a standardised process and allows mapping out a trajectory of the future for the energy context. This is being done by authorities who are looking to get to Net Zero.</p> <p>SW: Carbon weighting of actions is key and dashboard for local data is essential.</p> <p>TM: Carbon weighting on actions is difficult. Is it possible to get resources from the University of Reading? Where will data be coming from?</p>	

<p>DP: Lots of research already happening at the University which can help with data. Reservation about the current plan as it is unclear on who is leading on what, ownership, and on outputs. There is a need to identify drivers for the next 5 years of the plan.</p> <p>TP: Skidmore review was helpful and there was an emphasis on local action as well as need for a national framework. The overall delivery depends largely on central government action and wider partnership working. The wider public see climate action as the council's job. As a Council there are very limited resources. Actions identified by the board for the strategy are dependent on council resources. We have good public sector engagement in Reading, but big private companies need to be engaged as these companies can help with their resources.</p> <p>CM: There has been £26 million from central government for busses but that does not include electric busses as this is a different funding stream. While it is great to have funding to make improvements it can't be used for electric busses which is one of the key things that the council wants. This is a specific example of not getting the support from central government. There should be a section to highlight achievements in the new strategy as well.</p> <p>PM: Do the six action themes remain the right ones? HM: Should we look more at an outcome-based approach as to what we want to strategically deliver. It may lend itself better than using themes.</p> <p>DP: Who are we writing the strategy for? Audience identification is key. Comms expertise can be used to create a version of the strategy for the public. There can then be a specific version for the board as well.</p> <p>PM: NESTA/UCL (Net Zero scenario pilot), have offered this pilot to RBC. It is a mini citizens assembly model but doesn't cost as much. More information to come in the next few months. Not designed for very large groups of people.</p> <p>PM: Who would like to be involved in a small subgroup to develop an engagement plan?</p>	<p>Action for Everyone: If you would like to be involved in an engagement sub-group, please let PM and SP know.</p>
<p>6. Finance Update and Resourcing: BB and TRC</p> <p>a. Financial Review BB- Budget report for Q3, please see below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of the solar panels is a joint maintenance arrangement with the other council solar panels. • Software relates to the ReadingCAN website. Email hosting with IONOS and web hosting/maintenance with Orange Grove. • Professional fees are mostly related to the Reading Schools Climate Conference £3,950 • Grants: grants have been given to DraughtBusters for £2,000 but this should be refunded back as other funding has been secured. • Little bit over the budget this year. 	

- Projected income of £25,900 depends on solar panel income and is an assumption based on everything working. Issue around British Gas seeing all individual meters.

	To date	projected	Budget
Salaries	11163	15600	19000
Maintenance	1875	2500	2500
Supplies			
Software	780	1040	
Professional	4150	4150	
Grants	2050	2050	
Other	992	1323	
Total	7972	8563	6000
Income	-2000	-25,900	
	19010	763	
Reserve	28898		
predicted reserve	28135		
Allowance for redundancy	5840	(8 years at current rate without increments or inflation)	

b. Seeking alternative funding arrangements or sources of revenue TRC

- In a position that RCCP can only afford a part time member of staff
- There will be much more focus on delivery in the future
- Need to look at new sources of funding: trust funds, lottery funds, and climate funds.
- Start to look within the board to see if there is scope for CSR resources and secondments.
- Offer Partnership Coordinator at a higher salary with more Comms and Engagement focus as well as extending the hours.

SW: Business funding may be able to feed into the RCCP budget.

PM: Do we crack on with recruitment or pause on recruitment to consider more of a full-time role? TRC: Could we tweak the job role but keep the salary and hours as they are. Could we apply for more hours and salary once the position has been filled? PM: Review of roll could be done in the future.

AF: There will be a gap in recruitment and a lot of activity needs to be done in term of engagement. Do we need an interim replacement?

PM: BB and PM to pick up gap in employment. Climate Steering group to be informed of capacity issues.

Action for Everyone:
Please think about how funding can be secured. If you are interested in being a funding sub-group let TRC know.

SW: Update RCCP board if funding is available.

7. AOB

- TM: RCAN Stand at Waterfest 10th of June 2023- SP has passed on feedback to Lucy Daniels (RBC) at a Climate Festival Meeting to

<p>offer a better pitch to RCAN which Lucy has agreed to offer. It has the support of the board.</p> <p>b. PM: Inviting a SSEN Representative on RCCP Board. Although, we don't have a vacancy, can we offer them a position on the board? Board has agreed to include them on the board.</p> <p>c. PM: Climate projects under the Shared Prosperity Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DraughtBusters: £10,000 forward funded. BB and TM to liaise with each other on process and reporting. • £20,000 on feasibility work on Kennet Meadows. PM and HM to coordinate on this and setup a meeting. <p>d. Table a formal vote of thanks to SP and TD</p> <p>e. SP: RCCP board to think about if they have IT or Web Team Staff Resources to help with ReadingCAN website.</p>	<p>Action: PM/SP to invite SSEN representative to next board meeting.</p> <p>HM and PM to setup a meeting to talk about feasibility funding.</p> <p>BB and TM to setup a meeting to discuss DraughtBusters Funding.</p> <p>Everyone: RCCP board to think about if they have IT or Web Team Staff Resources to help with ReadingCAN website.</p>
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