

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership

Steering Group Meeting 11th November 2020 15.30-17.00

Attending

SCAP representatives: Allan Wilson, Chair; Sue Burnell, Recorder; Mark Fermor, Director; Jo Blackman, Lorraine Waumsley, Robert Saunders, Liz Knowles. Jane Cullen, SSCAG; Stephanie Mansell-Jones, Shrewsbury Bid; John Ellis-Tipton, NHS; Phil Holden, Shropshire Hills AONB; Richard Grindle, SWT; Adrian Cooper, SC; Andrew Howe; Simon Jeffrey, Harper Adams; Felicity Mercer, T&WC

DRAFT MINUTES

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APOLOGIES

- a. Jane Yardley, CREST; Dan Wrench, SC; Fergus Hamilton-Collard, Shropshire Chamber of Commerce

3. DECLARATIONS incl. additional AOB items for listing.

- a. Upcoming finance and investment meeting 26 November, 11.00. Mark Fermor will send out invitations.

4. MINUTES

- a. Minutes agreed for meeting held on 14th October 2020. To be published on website
- b. Actioned items from minutes not discussed.

5. TASK FORCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SCAP continues to grow with additional Supporters and Member organisations. More volunteers joining work groups. We are on track to produce our report which is coming together quickly.

If you want to input into the report now is the time to do it. If you have signed up on the website and are not on Slack mail admin@zerocarbonshropshire.org and request access. If colleagues have not yet signed up to support SCAP and get involved, now is the time. Simply sign up on the website and you will be given access to Slack and invited to working group meetings.

We are focusing on increasing our social media and media coverage. SCAP Youth is a new initiative and is taking shape.

SCAP has updated the carbon budget following confirmation that Scatter omits the full consumption footprint.

It is now clear that due to its very high footprint Shropshire will exhaust its carbon budget by 2023. Shropshire therefore needs two carbon goals rather than one:

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership

- 1 Linear reduction in Shropshire carbon footprint annually through to net zero carbon Shropshire by the end of 2030, and
- 2 Capture or offset of emissions that exceed the budget this decade whilst decarbonisation of Shropshire activities and resources continues. This reflects additional emissions that will inevitably add further to global greenhouse gases before such damaging emissions can be reduced to a sustainable net zero balance.

How can Shropshire meet its carbon reduction targets in the light of this change? We need some big ideas on how to tackle the estimated 15MtCO₂e hole in Shropshire's budget this decade. It is proposed that the linear reduction targets are retained as the 'decarbonising' goals for Shropshire as we remove fossil fuels from life, agriculture and business in our county, and the omitted 15MtCO₂e be treated as an additional carbon capture requirement that will need investment to 'offset' the damaging consequences of this expected exceedance of Paris Agreement goals from 2023 onwards.

6. DISCUSSION: What challenges are members facing in developing and implementing zero carbon plans? Any ideas to encourage Shropshire organisations to get engaged? Following discussion, it was decided that the following ideas should be further considered by the Task Force:
 - a. Shropshire Traders badge to show signed the pledge and on a carbon reduction path. Perhaps a starting level for those enterprises that have signed the zero carbon pledge, and a higher level recognition for those who have committed to reporting their carbon footprint each year and achieving reductions.
 - b. Carbon literacy training for businesses with a clear, low cost path for achieving net zero. Support for businesses to progress on the path is essential. SCAP could provide support services including a resource centre and bidding support service to help improve access to grants and funding, with support from Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, FSB, Shrewsbury Bid and other town Bids and Councils. APSE provides free training to councils, parish councils and employees and may have a good role to play.
 - c. SC and T&WC can use their considerable leverage with suppliers to insist on carbon reduction plans and compliance with specified sustainability standards. Many other organisations can also drive change similarly through supply chain performance standards over the coming years and this mechanism should achieve rapid improvements, particularly where this reinforces consumer choices.

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership

- d. Feedback to Government that current green funding initiatives are not having the desired outcome. The applications process is confusing. Timescales are too short. Short term funding does not encourage businesses to invest in and train additional staff. There are however many other sources of funding and SCAP can help publicise. Low carbon skills fund can help with decarbonising work for large organisations such as NHS.

7. PARTNERSHIP NEWS

- a. Western Power and Scottish Power have come on board and are important partners for energy mapping which we are progressing with input from CREST at UCS. It is proposed that energy mapping for the decade to net zero carbon 2030 will support the business case for the DNOs to build the infrastructure for the future net zero carbon 2030 future. Overcoming the severe grid constraints will allow Shropshire to plan for the future energy use and distribution it needs.
- b. Large land estates and other landowners and entrepreneurs are keen to explore renewable development opportunities, shift to regenerative farming and other significant changes to land use which will deliver significant carbon reductions.

8. GOVERNANCE

- a. Shropshire Climate Action Ltd is now incorporated as a company limited by guarantee with Mark Fermor and John Ogle as Directors to enable access to funding and commissioning of work for SCAP. Initial scoping study by CREST is being commissioned immediately with a view to initial outputs and decisions on Shropshire energy mapping being available to be included in the ZCSP recommended actions for 2021. With thanks to Aaron & Partners for doing this work pro bono with a nominal charge of £50 for disbursements. Discussions on building energy research with BECCI of University of Wolverhampton also at advanced stage.

9. AOB

10. Date of next Steering Group meeting 09 December 2020 15.30-17.00.

ACTIONS

- Request to members to share the ZCSP newsletter with staff and their wider network
- Take discussion items forward.