

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership

Steering Group Meeting 12th May 2021

Attending: Tony Green (TG), Robert Saunders (RS) Chris Deaves (CD) (Chair), Mark Fermor (MF), Jo Blackman (JB), Lorraine Waumsley (LW), David Matthews (DM). Richard Grindle (RG), SWT; Adrian Cooper (AC), Shropshire Council; Tim Yair (TY); John Ellis-Tipton (JT), NHS; Stephanie Mansell-Jones (SM), Shrewsbury Bid; Andrew Howe (AH), The Shrewsbury Food Hub.

A G E N D A

ACTING CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

CD is chairing on a temporary basis until we agree the process and appropriate time to elect new person. CD noted the comments received from RS before the meeting on the future election of a chairperson.

DM is taking the minutes for this meeting and will continue on an interim basis. Sue Burnell has stood down as the reporter for this meeting, and continues to lead the Enterprise Engagement group.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sarah Faulkner, Jane Cullen, Rosie Wood, and Allan Wilson.

DECLARATIONS – none received

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2021 were confirmed.

SCAP STEERING GROUP CHAIR UPDATE

The following resignations were noted:

Resignation of SCAP SG Vice Chair, Jane Cullen (Jane stepped down earlier in the year, but this wasn't acknowledged in the Steering Group minutes at the time so is recorded here).

Resignation of SCAP SG Chair, Allan Wilson (Allan has stood down in the period since the last Steering Group Meeting. There is a recording of the meeting Allan held to explain his reasons - if anyone wants this link, they should contact DM).

CD volunteered to continue as an interim chair of the SG until the constitutional matters involved are resolved. There was unanimous agreement from the meeting on this.

GENERATION ZERO CARBON LAUNCH

Owing to exams at this time of year, no-one was available from the Generation Zero Carbon team to attend. Deborah Murphy had kindly provided DM with an update before the meeting:

The launch went very well, with plenty of publicity.

Shropshire libraries are keen to provide support to the group.

The current focus is on promoting competitions to engage young people in Shropshire. These include a poem or rap lyric responding to the theme "The Sixth Mass Extinction" and a work of art on achieving net zero by 2030 entitled "Around the Wrekin".

The group is also looking into the creation of starter packs to help secondary schools, sixth formers and students to set-up their own groups.

Finally, the group has a very clear vision and set of values – they are now looking at which projects they should get involved in, and how they can recruit additional members to support these projects.

SCAP PROJECTS, David Matthews, Programme Manager

DM gave an update on the current projects that SCAP has initiated. The presentation is included with the minutes.

LW described how the Carbon Watchers project is gaining momentum, with groups keen to sign up.

The Working Group on Land and Biodiversity has initiative several projects. RG pointed out that some of these overlap with existing partner initiatives, and it is important that these are coordinated to avoid multiple approaches to landowners on similar topics.

AH raised a query re: food connect. Jenny Roquette is leading SCAP's work on this, and this is linked to projects being supported by Shrewsbury Food Hub.

The Working Group on Governance is continuing, focussed on setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The question was asked as to whether SCAP will be responding to the proposed Ironbridge development. CD will respond to this.

AOB

There have been 27 new sign ups since 1 April 2021, comprising 26 individual supporters and 1 organisational member.

We have a very positive relationship with Philip Dunne as a local MP and Environment Audit Committee chair in Parliament. He is keen to join us on a platform at COP 26 (if our application is successful). Philip is keen to have regular meetings, and we should continue to put a lot of energy into this. MF asked the Steering Group if they have any topics they'd like raised via Philip Dunne. He clearly sees SCAP as representing the wider community, and wants environmental groups to collaborate. We have evolved a very good working model. There was consensus amongst the Steering Group that they are happy with this current approach.

The other MPs all get together regularly. It was agreed we'd contact each MP separately in the first instance. The next meeting with Philip Dunne may be just before the next meeting of this steering group. TG commented that Philip Dunne is much more attuned to our inputs than other MPs. He values the practical information we provide.

AC commented that the Council regularly briefs all Shropshire MPs, so this may be an opportunity to influence them too.

AC informed the meeting that the council has purchased a licence for CommonPlace a community engagement platform. This licence is intended for community (rather than council) use. The platform was used for the consultations on the Big Town Plan in Shrewsbury. It is a very helpful tool. MF stated that SCAP is delighted with the council's support, CommonPlace routinely achieved 7000+ engagements on its public consultations. It provides a great opportunity to get input on our plans from the community (e.g. ZCS plan, carbon watchers, etc). MF will advocate for a paid position to support this.

TY provided some useful data on the Environmental Services Sector in Shropshire. This is currently worth £143m per annum, there are 253 companies, and 6-7000 people employed. This is taken from the Midlands energy hub report. TY will distribute the link.

AC stated that the size of the environmental market means tools such as the Cool Shropshire platform are really important. SMEs will have to know their footprint – all companies will have to deal with this.

AC would be happy to share Shropshire Council projects with the Steering Group too so that we can review touch points. We should allow 15 mins for this on our next agenda.

The Oswestry master plan appears to be following a similar approach to the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan. (DM to ensure that this is mentioned at next Monday's SCAP taskforce meeting).

There's a new Union Connectivity Review. This is a national initiative looking at road and rail connections, etc, between England, Wales, Scotland, etc. The Welsh Assembly Gov't is interested in establishing a more comprehensive EV charging network. TY also mentioned work on new Hydrogen projects in Wales. There are lots of potential opportunities for collaboration.

South Shropshire Climate Action – Jane Cullen has sent out the publicity for this conference to be held on 22nd May.

Date of next Steering Group meeting 09 June, 3.30pm to 5pm.

Attachments

Overview of SCAP Projects

