

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Held WEDNESDAY 21ST February 2024

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Harvey (Chair), Howes, Needham.

Also: Neil Diment, Cllr Patient (CMBC), Jamie Furrow (Cargodale & Research Fellow at Westminster University) & Antony de Heveningham (Cargodale).

Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Co-ordinator: R Lightbird

HRTC Deputy Clerk: E Green

390. To receive apologies for absence and any substitutions.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bampton Smith and Morse

391. To receive members' interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

In respect of Item 9 – Neil Diment.

392. To report on matters arising from the minutes of meeting held 13th December 2023 not itemised on this agenda.

There were no matters arising.

393. ACTIVE TRAVEL

A presentation was received outlining a proposal for a Bike Hanger from representatives from Cargodale and a Westminster University Research Fellow in Active Travel Interventions. The proposals considered the use of bikes by local residents and home cycle storage. There was consideration of the barriers to using bikes for commuting, one of the main barriers is the storage of bikes. Topography is another barrier and although e-bikes offer a solution to the topography they become even more difficult to store given the nature of housing in the area (i.e. few garages and a high proportion of terraced housing).

Bike hangers are common in London and larger cities, but there isn't one in Yorkshire. Cycle Hoop are one of the leading suppliers of the bike hangers which provide safe storage for up to six bikes usually located at the side of the road meaning a loss of one on road parking space. They are accessed via a key, and in London these are charged. The frames are securely bolted to the ground.

Could there be a pilot to put one hanger in the area? Residents on a street in Mytholmroyd have been surveyed, this area was selected as it is a small cluster of houses with a safe off-road route to travel to Hebden Bridge. It was assumed that people are more likely to live in Mytholmroyd and work in Hebden Bridge. Would residents use it, support it, pay for it? A survey of 5 different households was undertaken, there have been 4 responses from three

households, 2 strongly supported, 2 supported. 2 people raised concerns that they would prefer it not to be outside their own home. There is a need to fully consider the location prior to any installation. Could this be a potential solution across the wider area?

Councillors discussed the proposals. The potential usage was discussed, are there sufficient houses to utilise the scheme? The scheme could also be opened to other nearby houses. The brief is to reduce people commuting rather than recreational cycling. Are we providing the right storage and does this fit the brief to reduce the use of cars, the survey results do not evidence that impact will be made. Leisure use is a large driver of car usage. The pilot needs to provide a precise picture and it is not certain that this is the correct location.

The Climate Emergency officer outlined that the scheme could be monitored, and the bike hanger moved if needed. It was stated at the meeting that CMBC will give support with the permissions required for the installation of the hangers on the highway, however there is currently no legal agreement in place.

Proposals for a wider research project to examine how active travel can be supported were discussed. Has consideration been given to the opportunity to encourage young people to cycle to school?

Having a demonstrated pilot project with ongoing monitoring is a good way of unlocking further funding. Funding may also be available through Active Calderdale.

Is it possible to engage with a few more households over the next week or so to get more information and increase confidence in potential usage. This would guarantee an example of success and there could be enhanced publicity by using this pilot as a case study. There may also be local organisations willing to support the administration.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey
To fund the bike hanger proposal as presented

The motion fell.

It was moved by Cllr Howes
Seconded by Cllr Needham

RESOLVED: To survey further households including properties either side to ensure that good data is achieved once the hanger is installed and to determine if that is a receptive space. And in the meantime, to place the order for the bike hanger with the location for delivery to be confirmed. It must be ensured that it will be welcomed in front of the house of which it is located. It is essential the whole project to have a positive response.

It was moved by Cllr Needham
Seconded by Cllr Howes

RESOLVED: to approve the Hebden Royd research project on condition that the committee have sight of and approve the questions and methodology prior to the project being undertaken. £850 from 23/24 budget and £1500 from 24/25 budget.

394.

CALDERDALE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

A short presentation regarding the Calderdale Climate Action Plan was given. In 2019 CMBC declared a climate emergency and a cabinet working group was established which included membership from the Youth Council, voluntary sector and housing. Since then, it has evolved, and it is now a functioning body in its own right of which CMBC is a partner. It has commissioned an emission reduction pathway and has a target of 2038 to reach net zero, aligned with WYCA. This will mean a 2000% increase in cycling, walking, retrofit, new homes, this has been developed into a climate action plan, which went out to consultation, including schools and wider communities. The consultation gained 600 individual responses and 300 organisational responses. The plan was adopted in November 23 and runs to 2026. A four-year plan will then be published to 2030. Moving into the delivery phase, key to this is the themed groups which look at specific targets. These are Influencing, Active Travel, and Behaviour Change, Community Climate Action, which includes one stop advice hubs, retrofit, and locality-based climate action plans. The plan looks at creating warm resilient buildings, there are 70,000 homes in the area that fall below EPC level C. It has held the UK first citizens assembly on retrofit. Another group looks at Green Economy – green jobs, colleges and schools, how do we think smarter about how people work and move around. And finally Transport and Getting Around, there has been an initial conversation with WYCA and CMBC officers. Are the schemes as intended with outcomes which are not just about land and nature. The plan considers peatland restoration, the great north bog. CMBC also declared an Ecological Emergency in 2021 and have introduced Biodiversity Net Gain. There is an open door on each of the theme groups which meet every three to six weeks.

It was moved by Harvey.

Seconded by Needham and

RESOLVED: To note the information and for Councillors that are interested in participating in any of the themed groups to contact Cllr Patient (CMBC).

395.

BUDGET UPDATE

To receive feedback on the approved budget for 2024/25 (enc)

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Howes

RESOLVED: To note the information

396.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The revised climate action plan was considered.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Howes and

RESOLVED: To adopt the revised Climate Action Plan and to note thanks to the Rachel Lightbird for their work on the plan.

397.

EVENT FEEDBACK & UPDATE

Feedback, updates and associated budget request were received for events related to this committee.

a. Retrofit Event & Future Retrofit Training Events

Four events have been completed; these have been very successful with two peers to peer groups working together. There was a suggestion tabled to provide a two-day course for construction professionals in Retrofit.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Howes and

RESOLVED: That this proposal needed more information and clarity before a decision could be made Cllr Harvey to consider proposals further. Further information should be brought to the next meeting.

b. Coppicing Workshop

Lots of people turned up that hadn't booked, but it was an excellent event resulting in 1/3rd of the hazel being coppiced.

c. Scything refresher

The updated schedules and figures were presented,

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Howes and

RESOLVED: Approve £1180 for all of the Hay Time events.

d. Bird Boxes

A Calderdale based bird expert has surveyed the field. It is not a good place for ground nesting birds, but there are barn owls, so it was suggested to consider an owl box and some other bird boxes near to the path and in orchard, mainly tits. It was suggested that there could be workshops where the boxes are made and there could also be a live camera in the barn owls' box. It was suggested that the maintenance of birdboxes which could be undertaken by the friends group.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED: Allocate up to £1000 for birdbox workshops, material and live camera feeds.

e. Climate Café

The third session will be held on Friday about biodiversity. The idea of schools hosting Climate Cafes within their own school was also discussed.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham

RESOLVED: up to £2400 to facilitate climate café to be taken from the 23/24 budget.

398. PROJECT UPDATE

An update was given on the following projects.

a. High Hirst Wood Meadow/Law Field

The fence will be installed in March. There has been consideration of access, and it is suggested that there is a path alongside the container within allotment with a gate to open into the field.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Howes

RESOLVED: to approve a budget of £2660 (23/24 budget)

b. Environmental Enhancement

A meeting has been organised with CMBC and feedback will be available at the next meeting.

c. Community Groups

Engagement regarding the provision of biodiversity assets is ongoing.

d. Spring Clean

The Spring Clean will be held between the 15 – 31st March. Groups have been invited to participate.

399. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

An update was given regarding the current activities of the allotments.

a. Banksfield Allotments

No update

b. High Hirst Allotments

A request was made for composting boxes and the delivery of a master composting course workshop.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Howes

RESOLVED: To allocate £1560.00 (24/25 Budget)

400. ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING PROVISION

The provision of electric car charging in Hebden Royd was discussed.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED: that the Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Officer should write, on behalf of the Town Council to Calderdale MBC to request that the Taxi Only car charging point in Marketplace Car Park is made available to all users.