

Climate Change Steering Group

Date and Time - **Thursday 24 February 2022 – 2:30pm**

Venue - **Remote Meeting**

Councillors appointed to the Steering Group:

Councillors K.M. Field (Chair), S.J. Coleman, P.J. Gray, L.M. Langlands, P.N. Osborne and S.M. Prochak, MBE.

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the personal interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. Members are reminded of the need to repeat their declaration immediately prior to the commencement of the item in question.

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 25 NOVEMBER 2020 AND 13 JANUARY 2022 - MATTERS ARISING** (Pages 1 - 14)

4. **PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION** (Pages 15 - 16)

5. **COMMUNICATIONS / ENGAGEMENT PLAN (VERBAL)**

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

7. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - TBC**

(Please bring your diaries with you)

Malcolm Johnston
Chief Executive

Agenda Despatch Date: 23 February 2022

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**Rother District Council's aspiring to deliver
an Efficient, Flexible and Effective Council; Sustainable Economic Prosperity;
Stronger, Safer Communities; and a Quality Physical Environment.**

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CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

25 November 2020



Minutes of the Climate Change Steering Group meeting held remotely on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 10:00am.

Members of the Steering Group Present: Councillors K.M. Field (Chairman), S.J. Coleman, P.J. Gray, L.M. Langlands, P.N. Osborne and S.M. Prochak (MBE).

Other Members present: Councillor T.J.C. Byrne, P.C. Courtel, C.A. Madeley, A.S. Mier (in part), H.J. Norton, D.B. Oliver and H.L. Timpe.

Advisory Officers Present: Chief Executive, Assistant Director Resources, Head of Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration, Head of Environmental Services, Licensing and Community Safety, Head of Housing and Community, Head of Strategy and Planning, Environment and Policy Manager, Planning Policy Manager and Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present: Sue Burton – 1066 Cycling Club, Jason Lavender – High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit, Dominic Manning – Rother Environmental Group, David Pankhurst – Rother Association of Local Councils, Richard Watson – Energise Sussex Coast (in part) and 17 members of the public via the YouTube live broadcast.

CCSG20/06. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(1)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Hart.

CCSG20/07. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

(2)

Declarations of interest were made by Councillors in the Minutes as indicated below:

Courtel	Personal Interest in so far as he paid a small monthly contribution to Greenpeace.
Gray	Personal Interest in so far as she was a member of Bexhill Environment Group.
Langlands	Personal Interest in so far as she was a member of Bexhill Environment Group.
Prochak	Personal Interest in so far as she was a member of Rother Environment Group.
Timpe	Personal Interest in so far as she was a member of Bexhill Environment Group.

(3)

The Environment and Policy Manager updated the Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) on the activities she had undertaken since her appointment in August 2020, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the report and the approach taken to deliver the new Rother Environment Strategy 2020-2030 (ES).

The draft ES was adopted by full Council on 21 September 2020. Additional work was required on the priority areas identified and Appendix 1 to the report detailed both the internal and external functions for Rother District Council (RDC), East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and other external environmental stakeholders / organisations. RDC would proactively engage and attempt to exert influence with any priorities / objectives that were outside of its control.

It was noted that a number of operational staff across the organisation were already delivering some priority areas identified within the ES. It would be important to clarify responsibilities and boundaries and ensure that any work delivered under the ES was not in conflict but positively added to and supported existing efforts. Clear links between the ES and the Council's policies / guidance would be applied, however this would be subject to time and resource demands.

A mapping exercise of the ES had highlighted significant gaps within the Council's current organisation structure to deliver specific priorities, namely active / sustainable transport; green and blue infrastructure; countryside and land management; and energy efficiency / carbon reduction specialist. Five priority areas were being reviewed and therefore Members were reminded that the ES was a "living document" and would be continuously updated, as new evidence emerged.

The consultation exercise had provided some positive feedback and at the last meeting, the CCSG had considered the responses received and incorporated some actions into the ES Action Plan (AP). Members were reminded that the AP would be bolstered by the development of a more comprehensive programme of projects and interventions.

Partnership working was critical and key stakeholders, as well as parish and town councils across the district would be consulted on relevant priority areas within the ES. To improve communication a new webpage had been launched and generic email established specific to the ES.

Members were advised of several ongoing and planned activities for the coming months, namely development of a communication and engagement plan; monitoring and evaluation framework; Corporate Plan, Local Plan and report template reviews; and a review of green spaces management.

The CCSG was asked to consider several recommendations and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- Members were asked to consider the establishment of a Task and Finish Group (T&FG) to review the Council's Ground Maintenance

Contract which was scheduled to expire in 2022, as well as green spaces across the district. The Environment and Policy Manager explained the rationale for establishing a T&FG and suggested some aims and objectives for the T&FG's Terms of Reference. It was also recommended that external expert advice be sought to support and guide a comprehensive review. Three names for the T&FG were suggested, namely Parks, Woodlands, and Green Spaces; Future Parks, Woodlands and Green Spaces; or Valuing Parks, Woodlands and Green Spaces.

- Community Gardens – clarity was sought on whether these areas were considered green spaces. It was confirmed that there was scope to review private / community gardens, resources permitting, as well as include a tree survey.
- Rother was committed to promoting best practice techniques and incentivising employees to adopt new ways of working to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. In future, environmentally sustainable practices would be adopted, where appropriate. A digital suggestion box had been created on MS Teams for staff to submit their innovative ideas and suggestions.
- Important to pursue climate justice and collate the views of those less fortunate and help those who were in poverty, particularly with housing and transport etc.
- A significant challenge would be to resource delivery of the ES. Budget priorities would be considered, and staff roles reviewed to ensure key priorities were achievable and delivered.
- In 2021, an i-Tree eco survey of the urban area of Bexhill could be undertaken within the community. The study would form critical evidence for strategically informing tree management needs of the town, including tree planting and assigning monetary value to trees as public assets. The Environment and Policy Manager was currently advising Bexhill community groups on how such study could be organised.
- A plan of activities for Rother Tree Wardens was under development for commencement in 2021. Interest was being sought from the Tree Wardens to assist with the scheme.

The CCSG was reminded that it would be the responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to consider the establishment of a T&FG to review the Council's Ground Maintenance Contract and green spaces across the district. Members were supportive of recommending to Cabinet that the OSC include this on their Work Programme.

RESOLVED: That the Climate Change Steering Group recommends to Cabinet that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee include on their Work Programme the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to review the Grounds Maintenance Contract which was scheduled to expire in 2022 and to include green spaces across the district.

CCSG20/09. **ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL GRANTS SCHEME - AN ENVIRONMENTAL VIEW**
(4)

One of the activities identified in Rother's Environment Strategy (ES) was to review the Council's funding mechanisms. A review was

completed of the Council's Community Grants Scheme (CGS) in recognition that the Council could directly influence positive environmental change within the district through its funding mechanism.

An analysis was completed which scrutinised grants awarded between the period of 2009 to 2021 and it was noted that 10 grants at a cost of £79,633.50 (7% of the total funding) had been awarded that directly related to environmental projects. It was noted that sport and construction related projects had been awarded the most funding of 49% and 26% respectively.

The Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) was asked to consider several recommendations and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- The CGS was currently funded through the Council's Reserves Budget (RB). As a result of economic pressures, the RB was reducing year-on-year, therefore it would be important to source other funding opportunities.
- Members were reminded that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Steering Group was currently reviewing CIL funding in conjunction with CGS. Therefore, it was considered sensible that an overall (single voice) recommendation be proposed to Cabinet.
- CGS funding was allocated annually in March and September. Dependent on the outcome of the recommendations to Cabinet, the Head of Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration advised that the first round of funding could be delayed, if required.
- Important that all projects were supported by the Council's CGS and not just those that were environmentally friendly.
- Encourage applicants to incorporate environmentally friendly practices / products within their projects.
- Generate additional funding schemes to support environmentally friendly projects across the district e.g. establishment of a Council Lottery etc.
- Sourcing external project funding was completed by individual departments and not by one specific officer. Where appropriate resources would be shared, and advice sought from East Sussex County Council.
- Important to explore / source public sector funding and Government grant opportunities to support environmental / climate change projects / initiatives; match funding might be required.

The CCSG requested that their comments on the CGS be considered by the CIL Steering Group for onward recommendation to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the Climate Change Steering Group initiate dialogue with the Community Infrastructure Levy Steering Group on how the Council's funding was allocated in line with the Environment Strategy/Climate Emergency commitments;
- 2) the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Steering Group consider an environmental steer and the Climate Change Steering Group's

comments when reviewing the Council's Community Grants Scheme in conjunction with the allocation of CIL funding for onward recommendation to Cabinet; and

- 3) the Council explored and sourced public sector funding Government grant opportunities to support environmental / climate change projects / initiatives.

CCSG20/10. **EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION: LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN**
(5)

East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) set out proposed cycling and walking networks and measures within specific areas of the county. It focused on areas of the county where there was potential to increase levels of cycling and walking, with an emphasis on delivering infrastructure improvements. An established plan enabled ESCC to apply for and secure investment from a range of funding sources.

A public consultation period had been launched on 30 October 2020 and was scheduled to close on 11 December 2020. The Council and members of the public would have the opportunity to comment on the proposed cycling and walking networks and share their ideas for future progression.

Consideration was given to how the Council could support ESCC's LCWIP and whether the document be adopted as part of Rother's Environment Strategy. The Environment and Policy Manager highlighted the following issues:

- Time-consuming large-scale project for the whole of the county (originated in 2017).
- 28 documents / appendices consultation (geographical scale).
- Aims and objectives were unclear.
- Further clarity was required on the role of the Local Access Forum.
- Government requested that the LCWIP focused on main areas to get people walking and cycling. It was expected that this would be translated to a fine-grained analysis to identify what these main areas were e.g. by segmenting into school, commuter, public transport, shopping and leisure journeys. This segmentation appears to be missing.
- Missing criteria in Appendix 6 of the documentation e.g. length of the journey (affect infrastructure development), measure analysis of journeys and lack of segmentation / differentiation of users.
- LCWIP prioritised the coastal strip and larger market towns in the county which were already served by public transport; rural areas limited to car usage. From an environmental perspective, the LCWIP was not supporting the rural areas of Rother that often had very limited or non-existent public transport network and therefore left no alternative but to drive a car.
- School journeys – Government target of 55% by 2025 of 5-10 age groups walking to school. Only six references (mainly Battle – information supplied by 1066 Cycling Club) of school journeys within the LCWIP compared to 50 in Adur and Worthing LCWIP.

Cycle / walking routes had been identified on a Bexhill map only, not across the whole district.

During the discussion, the following salient points were noted:

- It was confirmed that the Council's Cycling and Walking Champion would be consulted before the Council's response was submitted.
- Request that priority be given to road maintenance e.g. repairing pot holes across the district.
- Introduce cycle lanes on main routes, where permissible.
- Mixed-use cycling / walking pathways enabled pedestrians and cyclists to make their journeys safer; rights of way were shared equally. It was important that rights of way were respected by both parties. Differences of opinion were expressed regarding safety issues.

It was agreed that the comments of the Environment and Policy Manager and the Climate Change Steering Group be included within the Council's response to the consultation.

RESOLVED: That the comments of the Environment and Policy Manager and the Climate Change Steering Group be included within the Council's response to the consultation.

CCSG20/11. **PAPERLESS PLEDGE**

(6)

The Environment and Policy Manager requested that the Climate Change Steering Group made a pledge to agree that, in future, they would not receive printed agendas / documentation unless there was a specific reason e.g. health, poor eyesight etc. A small contribution towards one of the actions identified within the Environment Strategy.

For equality reasons, it was important that printed agendas / documentation was made available, however it was suggested that a default system be introduced so that Members / officers could opt-in rather than opt-out to receive printed papers.

To aid future meetings, it was suggested that Democratic Services screen shared all recommendations.

The Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) was advised that digital information was not carbon zero and that the Council should be mindful that digital was not necessarily clean from a carbon prospective.

Members were supportive of the pledge to become 'paperless' and requested that officers speak to Democratic Services on how this could be implemented; the CCSG be advised of the outcome.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) a default system be introduced so that Members / officers could opt-in rather than opt-out to receive printed papers;

- 2) at future meetings, Democratic Services consider screen sharing recommendations; and
- 3) officers speak to Democratic Services regarding limiting the number of agendas / documentation for meetings and advise the Climate Change Steering Group of the outcome.

CCSG20/12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(7)

The following any other business items were discussed:

Monitor Environment Strategy Actions: Councillor Coleman suggested the following recommendation for the Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) to consider:

That Members of the CCSG be assigned to each department within the Council to monitor actions in relation to the Environment Strategy 2020-2030. This monitoring could include;

- *meeting with the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder;*
- *meeting with the relevant Head of Service;*
- *observing related Committee meetings;*
- *raising the Environmental Strategy during Committee meetings;*
- *reporting back to the CCSG on any progress or findings; and*
- *the Chairman of the CCSG designated monitoring roles in conversation with Members accounting for Member's workload and availability.*

Concern was raised that some of the CCSG Members were Cabinet Portfolio Holders and therefore already had an extensive workload; it would be difficult to commit to additional work. In general, the CCSG was supportive of the recommendation, however they felt it would be more appropriate to seek Member volunteers across the whole of the Council rather than just CCSG Members. The Chairman recommended that she discussed Councillor Coleman's recommendation with the Chief Executive and Head of Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration to consider the logistics of his suggestion and whether it could be carried out in a light touch way.

East Sussex Youth Council: Important to encourage young people to be involved with the Council's Environment Strategy.

Budget Environment Strategy: The CCSG was advised that an annual budget of £40,000 had been allocated towards the Environment Strategy; additional funding would need to be sought from Cabinet. Additional resources would be sought from Government apprenticeship schemes etc.

Clean Growth UK: Additional support to deliver and progress some of the actions within the Environment Strategy's Action Plan might be available via Clean Growth UK, a pioneering, university-led innovation network with a hub at Brighton University. Early next year, free student support (30 days) could be offered. The Head of Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration agreed to investigate this option.

RESOLVED: That the:

- 1) Chairman discuss Councillor Coleman's recommendation in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Head of Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration; and
- 2) Head of Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration investigate the option of additional support being supplied by Clean Growth UK (Brighton University).

CCSG20/13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

(8)

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Monday 12 April 2021 at 10:00am to be held remotely on MS Teams.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 12:15pm

CCSG201125jh

CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

13 January 2022



Minutes of the Climate Change Steering Group meeting held remotely on Thursday 13 January 2022 at 2:30pm.

Members of the Steering Group Present: Councillors K.M. Field (Chair), S.J. Coleman (in part), P.J. Gray, L.M. Langlands, P.N. Osborne and S.M. Prochak (MBE).

Other Members present: Councillor P.C. Courtel.

Advisory Officers Present: Director – Place and Climate Change, Head of Neighbourhood Services (in part), Corporate Programme and Projects Officer (in part) and Democratic Services Officer.

CCSG21/01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(1)

There were no apologies for absence.

CCSG21/02. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

(2)

There were no declarations of interest made.

CCSG21/03. REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

(3)

On 10 January 2022, Cabinet considered a report on Carbon Baselineing which detailed proposals to be undertaken to assist the Council in meeting its ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030. It was noted that the report had also been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 November 2021. Following discussion, Cabinet recommended that a more robust approach was required and agreed that the Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) be reconvened to consider a set of Key Performance Indicators and potential projects, as well as funding sources including the revised Community Infrastructure Levy's Climate Emergency Bonus Fund (20% apportion) subject to full Council approval. It was therefore necessary to amend the CCSG's Terms of Reference (ToR) to incorporate these activities. Two amendments had been made, as follows:

Objectives – to add / amend

- To agree and monitor a set of Key Performance Indicators to ensure that the Council meets its carbon neutral objective by 2030.
- To investigate all possible sources of external and internal funding, including the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy's Climate Emergency Bonus Fund and match funding to support this

commitment.

RESOLVED: That the amended Terms of Reference be noted.

CCSG21/04. **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING IN CAR PARKS OWNED BY
(6) ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

In agreement with the Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG), the Chair changed the order of the Agenda to consider Agenda Item 6 next.

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services which detailed the delivery of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in Council owned car parks across the district. A key priority in the Council's Rother Environment Strategy adopted in September 2020 was air quality, sustainable transport and energy. Government statistics detailed that transport was the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions (37%).

The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2027 stated that installation of EV charging points would begin in appropriate Council owned car parks by 31 December 2021; it was noted that the target had been missed. Recently, sales of EVs had risen and the Government continued to introduce policy, investment and fiscal measures to promote the development of this market and ultimately ban sales of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030. Therefore, provision of a reliable public network / infrastructure was essential.

It was noted that the capital costs of delivering infrastructure could be significant and generating profit was unlikely in the short term. Opportunities to collaborate with the private sector were increasing and there was the potential to install infrastructure at no capital investment cost to the Council. However, this meant that the Council would have limited control over the location of EV charging points, rates and revenue collected.

At present there were nine EV charging locations across the district namely Cooden Beach Hotel, Yeomans Hyundai Bexhill, Aldi Bexhill, Flimwell Park, Battle Brewery, The Bell in Iden, Flackley Ash Hill Hotel in Peasmarsh, The Gallivant in Camber and Route 1066 Café at Johns Cross. Unfortunately, not all were accessible to the public. It was noted that East Sussex County Council was responsible for the provision of on-street EV installations.

The Council owned 44 car parks, 16 were free of charge (predominantly rural) and 28 were pay and display (predominantly urban). Car parks were operated under the District of Rother (Off-Street) Parking Places Order 2020 which provided a legal framework for the Council to manage and enforce parking regulations.

It was proposed that a procurement exercise be commenced by the East Sussex Procurement Hub to source an appropriate Provider to provide equipment and install EV charging points (dual or single) at nil cost to the Council in several car parks across the district, ensuring

there was at least one in Battle, Bexhill and Rye. A feasibility study would be requested to identify suitable locations, equipment / technology required, as well as maintenance, pricing (payment methods) and costs. The type of technology installed would be dictated by the available power supplied at each location.

During discussion, the following salient points were noted:

- 100% renewable energy sources would be used.
- In the short-term, loss of revenue was expected (details were unknown at this stage). Revenue might not be realised until at least 2-3 years after contract commencement, possibly longer.
- Once procured, the project could take approximately 12 months to complete. 15 to 20 year contract anticipated.
- Advantages – all risks would be transferred to the Provider.
- Disadvantages – the Council would have less control.
- Providers would have the opportunity to apply for Government and specific funding sources.
- Two different types of charges: 'Fast' (2-3 hours plus) or 'Rapid' (60 minutes). It was anticipated that dual 'Fast' charging points would be installed. However, this would be dependent on the power supply available and type of technology / equipment installed.
- EV charging bays would be chargeable (they did not provide free parking).
- Planning Strategy included the provision of EV charging points within all new development.

The Director – Place and Climate Change advised that partnership discussions had commenced regarding the county's EV infrastructure requirements. In future, it was anticipated that there would be greater opportunities to work in partnership with other local authorities.

The CCSG recommended that Cabinet approve the procurement of a Provider to install EV charging infrastructure in selected Council owned car parks at nil capital investment to the Council. Members were keen to see the project commenced as soon as possible with the maximum number of charging points installed.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approve the procurement of a Provider to install EV charging infrastructure in selected Council owned car parks at nil capital investment to the Council.

CCSG21/05. **CARBON BASELINING UPDATE**

(4)

The Corporate Programme and Projects Officer updated Members on the Council's Carbon Baseline in order to monitor its progress towards the Council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030. An update report had been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 November 2021 and Cabinet on 10 January 2022.

Data of direct emissions generated by the Council's own operations from the year 2019/20 was currently being / had been collated which included electricity, gas and water usage, waste collection service, as well as business travel information. A standard tool developed by

Local Partnerships/Local Government Association would be used to benchmark the data with local neighbouring authorities.

Greenhouse Gas Protocol identified three types of emissions, referred to as Scopes 1, 2 and 3 and were reported as carbon dioxide equivalents:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Scope 1 | Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by Rother District Council. |
| Scope 2 | Indirect emissions from the generation of energy purchased by Rother District Council. |
| Scope 3 | Indirect emissions that result from the other activities that occur in the supply chain of the Council's activities. |

It was anticipated that baseline emissions for Scopes 1, 2 and some Scope 3 activities would be in place by the end of March 2022. The Council was currently recruiting to the post of Climate Change Project Officer, who would review the baseline data, further scope 3 activities, including data capture, and progress projects to reduce carbon emissions.

CCSG21/06. **PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION** (5)

The Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) was asked to propose projects that they would like to see progressed. Several projects and other suggestions were proposed. During the discussion the following was noted:

- Air Quality: To install air quality monitors throughout the district and promote "Climate Cluster" Apps for cyclists to measure the air quality and forward data to the Council for collation.
- Biodiversity: It was suggested that the Parish and Town Councils be encouraged to complete a Biodiversity Audit of their areas.
- Communication: Introduce 'green top tip of the week' on 'My-Alerts.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): Funding to be used to deliver carbon friendly projects; this would be subject to CIL Strategic requirements / criteria.
- Dark Skies: To minimise light pollution, particularly in the rural areas across the district.
- Education: To be influential and promote / advertise best practice techniques on energy efficient measures.
- Electric Vehicle: Explore ways to encourage and incentivise usage of electric vehicles and bicycles. It was acknowledged that electric vehicles contained engineered plastics which were not necessarily environmentally friendly. Provide electric charging points for bicycles. Encourage Village Halls to install electric charging points.
- Food: To promote healthy food options e.g. plant-based products / choices etc.
- Green Spaces: Reduce verge cutting, encourage wildflowers and reinstate rewilding meadows on Council owned land, where appropriate. It was considered important that tree management was monitored on Council own land, particularly with regard to the condition of mature trees.

- Health: Incentivise usage of alternative transport methods e.g. cycling and walking etc. Encourage the public to use the free gym equipment in the green spaces / parks across the district, with the potential to general power.
- Officer Working Group: Develop an Officer Working Group to instigate a 'culture shift' within the organisation e.g. encourage staff to cycle to work, work from home etc. Complete a staff survey.
- Pedestrianisation: Explore options to make urban areas car free or restricted access e.g. Bexhill Town Centre.
- Pesticides: Consider ways to reduce the usage of pesticides on Council owned land.
- Planning Strategy: Adapt planning strategy and criteria to encourage development of renewable energy methods e.g. installation of air source heat pumps, solar panels etc.
- Pollution: Consider ways to reduce pollution across the district and, in particular, the sea.
- Public Transport: Improve services and offer free bus services, where appropriate.
- Repair Swap Shop: Establish a "repair swap shop" in Bexhill Town Centre.
- Town Hall: It was anticipated that the Town Hall Renaissance Project would be a low-carbon development. Renovate Town Hall Bike Shelter to encourage staff to cycle to work. Install a real time display on the Town Hall to show how much is being generated by solar panels.
- Waste: Promote effective ways to reduce waste within the authority and across the district. To promote composting food waste, to supply composters and encourage subscription to the Garden Waste Service.
- Website: Introduce a climate change target page on the website.

It was noted that several of the suggestions proposed were outside the remit of Rother District Council.

The Chair advised that, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration, a Green Sustainable Business Scheme for the district was being developed.

Members were encouraged to forward project ideas to the Director – Place and Climate Change. It was clarified that all projects would be collated, considered and prioritised by the CCSG and instigated, where possible, subject to budgetary and resource availability.

The Director – Place and Climate Change advised that the Council's Environmental / Green Asset Management Plan would be considered at the next scheduled meeting.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) projects be collated, considered and prioritised by the Climate Change Steering Group and instigated, where possible, subject to budgetary and resource availability;

- 2) Members forward project ideas to the Director – Place and Climate Change; and
- 3) Environmental / Green Asset Management Plan be considered at the next scheduled meeting.

CCSG21/07. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(7)

Members were advised that a tree planting mapping survey, which included public engagement, had been completed in the Bexhill area. Tree planting and tree management needs had been considered and a project of tree planting was scheduled to commence in March 2022. The Climate Change Steering Group would be kept abreast of progress.

CCSG21/08. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

(8)

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday 24 February 2022 at 2:30pm to be held remotely on MS Teams.

CHAIR

The meeting closed at 15:38pm

CCSG220113jh

PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION

RDC Deliverable (Corporate)	RDC Deliverable (District)	3 rd Party Deliverable (RDC Partnership)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Asset Management Plan (CP) - Electric bike hire - Electric vehicle pool for staff - Formalise flexible working - Pollinator and pesticide policy - Officer working group – Green Team - Real time display on Town Hall to show how much is being generated by solar panels/ Meet the Target page on the website - Renovate Town Hall bike shelter - Survey of staff travel to work arrangements - Heat pumps on new housing and retrospectively - Improve signage on waste bins at bring sites - Plant more wildflower areas on Rother green spaces - Solar panels on leisure facilities, Rother buildings - Review 'Grey Fleet' for RDC Staff Travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EV Charging Point in RDC Car Parks (CP)* - Top tips on My Alerts - Electric bike hire - Double tree cover - Verges campaign - Air quality monitors - Charging points for electric bikes* - Repair swap shop - Air quality measurement kit for cyclists - Heat pumps on new housing and retrospectively - Biodiversity audit for villages - Become a veg first District - Outdoor gyms to generate power* - Supply composters - Plant more wildflower areas on Rother green spaces - Rother Carbon Reduction Award for businesses - Have more solar bins for litter* - Consider subsidising the community bus services to go electric* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help village halls to install EVPs* - Incentivise drivers to go electric - Heat pumps on new housing and retrospectively - Increase public transport* - Biodiversity audit for villages - Pedestrianise streets in Rother Town Centres*

(CP) = Included in the Corporate Programme

* = Potential to apply CIL Funding

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