

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting

Date	14 / 01 / 2021
Time	10.00 - 11.30
Location	Web Ex Video Conference
Present	Cllr Bobby Feeley (BF); Cllr Barry Mellor (BM); Cllr Brian Jones (BJ); Cllr Graham Timms (GT); Cllr Joe Welch (CJW); Cllr Tony Thomas (TT); Cllr Ellie Chard (EC); Cllr Alan James (AJ)
Apologies	Judith Greenhalgh (JG), Cllr Arwel Roberts (AR); Nicola Kneale (NK) Cllr Gwyneth Kensler (GK); Cllr Rhys Thomas (RT); Cllr Meirick Ll. Davies (MD);
In attendance	Supporting Officers: Helen Vaughan-Evans (HVE), Liz Wilcox-Jones (LWJ); Tom Booty (TB); Howard Sutcliffe (HS); Andrew Cutts (AC), Heidi Barton-Price (HBP), Joel Walley (JW), Tony Ward (TW), Manon Celyn (MC), Sian Owen (SO)

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair GT welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Minutes of last meeting agreed as accurate.

Actions of last meeting reviewed and update provided by HVE. See summary table below.

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ACTION	UPDATE
<p>RP – to provide contact details for the land use lead at Welsh Government for DCC representatives to have a meeting.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVE has requested and chased on email
<p>HVE – to make changes to the letter to Lesley Griffith AM and send to BJ for review.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>TW - to discuss with Nigel Highfield in Facilities Management about introducing low carbon menus and bring back thoughts to the group.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported back to group 17.12.20
<p>GT- As the Chair of the working group, to suggest to Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committee the opportunity for a written report from School Catering to go to Scrutiny in September/October 2021 regarding progress made on low carbon and reduction of single use plastics</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>LD – to send staff survey results in relation to new ways of working to the HVE to distribute to Climate Change and Ecological Emergency working group.</p>	<p>SUPERCEDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal report given to group 17.12.20 • Survey results to be sent out to all staff and cllrs at same time in January 2021
<p>LD – to feedback back to the New Ways of Working working group the concerns raised around some meetings not working virtually and the need to circulate insurance requirements and tax advantages for staff who are now working from home.</p>	<p>SUPERCEDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal report given to group 17.12.20 • See action below for HVE
<p>HVE- send on to AS the collated feedback from the working group from the meeting held in November.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>

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ACTION	UPDATE
HVE- make all changes agreed to the strategy document in light of public feedback.	ONGOING
HVE- liaise with Democratic Services to change sign off of strategy document to February 2021 in Forward Plan.	COMPLETED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet- 16th Feb • Council- 23rd Feb
HVE- produce and publish to the public the Consultation Response Report.	ONGOING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted- now with translators to produce welsh version • Aim to publish by end of January
HVE- swap January and February agendas and secure NRW representatives to come along.	COMPLETED

Discussion around Carbon Literacy training. HVE – updated the group on up take so far in the priority cohort (including Cllrs, SLT, Middle Managers and other key officers).

Discussion around encouraging all Councillors to book onto the course. Agreed that standing members of this working group will take responsibility in encourage Councillors within their political grouping to book onto course.

BM – informed the group of a letter he had received from a constituent who had heard about the Carbon Literacy opportunity and was concerned this would only be made available to managers and office-based staff.

HVE explained that from 28th January remaining places will be opened up to all staff across the Council.

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ACTIONS:

- **HVE-** to provide information to standing Members of this group for them to email/encourage councillors to book onto training by January 27th.
- **COUNCILLORS OF THIS GROUP** – to encourage councillors within your political grouping to sign up for the Carbon Literacy training.
- **HVE/LWJ-** promotion of the remaining places to all staff from January 28th.

3. Theme: Behaviour Change - Encouraging and sustaining low carbon and ecologically positive behaviours amongst Staff and Councillors

Theory of Behaviour change

SO took the group through her slides on the Theory of Behaviour Change collated from material from Bangor University, Welsh Government and UK Government.

Talked about: Capability, Opportunity and Motivation.

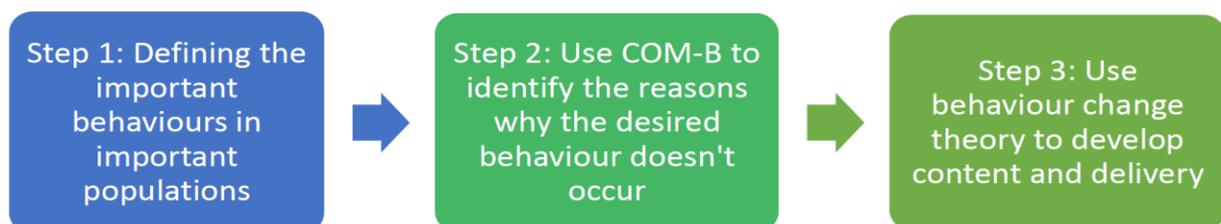
Capability – Does the audience have the right skills?

Opportunity – does the audience have the resources required?

Motivation - does the audience want to carry out the desired behaviour?

Effective communications – essential this is harnessed and used well. Different communications will be right for different people.

Process for design and delivering a Behaviour Change campaign/initiative as follows.



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SO - suggested we pilot this process for a discreet part of the Climate and Ecological Change agenda to see if it works and then roll it out to other parts of the Programme.

Talking heads are useful – e.g. if a Cllr had a great experience on the training, this could be shared as a talking head piece (video) to encourage others to increase their knowledge.

Welsh language – encouraging and sustaining Welsh language uptake within the Council

MC took the group through her experience and top tips in her work to encourage and sustain Welsh language uptake within the Council.

Emphasised the need for trying to keep it fun and not a chore – improve physical and mental wellbeing e.g. walking groups, Cled the Elf (encouraging engagement), Cor Sir Y Sain etc.

Social media engagement encourages people to take part. If something is well received, others are encouraged to get involved in the future.

Top 5 tips given were:

1. Keep things fun and simple
2. Consult and plan with others
3. Familiarise yourself with participants
4. Make them feel a part of a community
5. Give anything a go

Building engagement and planning programmes is more difficult virtually but not impossible.

Round table discussion

GT –Thanked SO and MC for their presentations. Achieving the public engagement and getting the message out effectively is a big task and will take time to pull together.

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BF – Careful with our messaging so not to cause negativity or confusion. Ensure what we communicate is simple and clear. Mindful there are many who don't do social media or IT (many avoid it currently as they don't want to hear the scary/negative news). Ensure we are realistic with our expectations on behaviour change and avoid the risk of stopping people wanting to be engaged.

HVE – creating the feeling of being in a 'cohort' seems to be important from what we have heard from SO and MC. A Climate Warrior/Climate Champion Group perhaps.

HVE- Important we understand and identify the key behaviours we want to change – some things within our strategy staff/cllrs can contribute to directly – business travel, supply chain, staff commuting, low carbon practice in the office (waste, energy). Stakeholder analysis and research will be needed.

HVE- Tone is important. Ensuring this remains fun to keep people on board important. Positive stories to share. Link to the arts perhaps, health and wellbeing. An annual focus event linked to a National/Global 'holiday' e.g. Earth Day perhaps.

HBP- creation of a character e.g. 'Carbon Zero Zog' perhaps like the 'Green Cross Code Man' to share learning in schools.

JW- it's about reinforcing the behaviours you want and deconstructing the ones you don't want- making it fun so that people are encouraged to do the behaviours we do want. It's a tough task to do this effectively, a lot of challenges.

GT –Interested to hear how far the Climate and Ecological Change messaging has got to within the council – is it just senior officers? HS- confirmed his officers within Countryside Services were all aware.

SO – huge message to get across. Needs to be split it up and challenged separately – potentially can't tackle them all in the same way.

TW – mentioned the National Campaign targeted at groups who don't recycle and DCC are part of that campaign.

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LWJ – we need to be leading by example where we can and communicating this across the authority and to the public in the most effective means. The more people see other's behaviour changing the more others will hopefully jump board. Put some communication that we put out internally on our public social media channels as well perhaps e.g. any videos we create in the future 'talking heads' on positive behaviour changes made.

HVE – Thanked the group for their ideas and discussion. Lots of think through and plan for 2021/22.

ACTIONS:

- **HVE/LWJ-** Devise a behaviour change and communications plan for 2021/22.

4. Forward work programme and next meetings

HVE took the group through the forward work programme.

Month	Proposed items for discussion
9 th February	<p><u>Theme: Land Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Use for the benefit of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement• Learning from Natural Resource Wales
9 th March	<p><u>Theme: Closing the group and celebrating success</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting on Council's consideration of Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan• Reflecting on the groups journey since the emergency declaration• Plans for governance and continued scrutiny of progress on this agenda moving forward.

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Month	Proposed items for discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lessons learned and next steps for the Council

5. AOB

GT – informed the group the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs will be considering options of how to challenge and monitor the delivery of the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and the Single Use Plastics agenda.

AJ – will be at that Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting and will share his views.

GT – explained this group has limited life in its current form as it was set up due to the Emergency Declaration motion to deliver the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy Document.

TB – careful for any group to have a measurable focus and clear Terms of Reference and not be too broad.

TB- expanded on green number plates after information regarding this was sent out after the previous meeting. Can we as Council do something to acknowledge this and perhaps offer free parking to those with a green number plate? Numbers will probably quite low initially so the cost would be minimal, but the positive message would be beneficial and welcomed. Something to consider in the revised Sustainable Travel Plan due to be produced 2021/22.

BJ – understands that a task and finish group being put together for flood/land management discussions which could involve Natural Resources Wales and suggested we needed to have communication between this agenda and that task and finish group on flooding. Suggested we need to find out more about the flood/land management task and finish group and how agendas can interlink.

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AC [Sent via email following meeting] – Email sent to inform the group of the work being done to introduce 'Living Asset' to colleagues. Due to lockdown this has been difficult to do in person so Andrew has created an introductory presentation which can be accessed here -

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/9e7571380b0a68bd305684e4b86eed2420210113141104/8898df60de7b9f5cd2cbdf25d085882320210113141143/9598fd> (please let Andrew know if you would prefer a welsh version). He would welcome any feedback and comments you may have.

ACTIONS:

HVE – to find out more about the potential Flood Land Management Task and Finish group and report back.