

Reading Climate Change Partnership

Board Meeting Minutes, Tues 14th Sept 2021, TEAMs meeting online, 10:00-11.30 pm

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Sector Represented (Appointing Body)</u>
Tim Dixon (co-Chair, will Chair today)	Higher Education and Research (University of Reading)
Tracey Rawling-Church (co-chair)	Business (Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP))
Chris Beales (CB)	Defra Agencies (Environment Agency, Natural England) Theme lead for Water
Ben Burfoot (BB)	Treasurer for the Partnership, Theme Lead for Energy
Paul Ducker (PD)	Theme Lead for Resources
Kalvin Gavrilov (KG)	Young People (Member of the Reading Youth Parliament)
Poppy Harris (PH)	Larger businesses in Reading (RCCP board)
Paul Harrison (PHa)	Health Services (Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (in consultation with other NHS Trusts/Public Health England))
Rachel Hazell (RH)	Theme Lead for Communications and Engagement
Chris Maddocks (CM)	Theme lead for Transport
Tricia Marcouse (TM)	Environmental NGOs and community groups (Greater Reading Environment Network) Theme lead for Nature
Cllr Tony Page (TP)	Local Government (Reading Borough Council)
Shreeya Paudel (SP)	Reading's diverse communities (Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality)
Kate Reynolds (KR)	Education and Schools (Brighter Future for Children)
Scott Witchalls (SW)	Small and medium sized enterprises in Reading (ReadingUK)
(Tbc)	Theme Lead for Health
Peter Moore (PM)	Attending in a non-voting capacity on behalf of the Partnership's host authority
Katie Brett (KB)	RCCP Support Officer, secretariat to the Board

Item	Action
Welcome and introductions of new board members – Calvin Gavrilov, Shreeya Paudel and Kate Reynolds. Scott Witchalls can't attend today.	
Apologies from Scott Witchalls (Nigel Horton-Baker (NHB) attending in his place), Cllr Page, Natalie Ganpatsingh (Karen Buckley has taken over health theme role – see below) Late arrivals: Poppy Harris, Rachel Harris	

<p>TD Thanked Natalie Ganpatsingh for all her hard work in recently taking on and leading the health theme. She has now stepped down, but is keen to still be involved where suitable. Karen Buckley (public health consultant RBC) has now taken on the Health Theme lead. However, she is now on maternity leave and it is hoped that her colleague Becky Pollard will cover in meantime.</p>	
<p>Minutes of last meeting – approved</p>	
<p>Reading Climate Festival overview TRC gave a verbal update on the Climate festival which is going ahead next week (20-26th Sept). Plans are progressing well. Thanks to Lauren Shute who has done a great job scheduling all the events this year – which can all be accessed through the ReadingCAN website- www.readingcan.org.uk/festival #readingclimatefestival. This year it links with the national Great Big Green Week – from which we have secured £12,000 of funding. This along with the £2,000 from ReadingUK – has enabled us to add some live events, marketing and add Arts and Culture content to widen our audience.</p> <p>(Shreeya left)</p> <p>All to promote the festival to your own contacts and networks “Reading Climate Festival is a week long programme of free events to inspire and encourage positive action on climate change www.readingcan.org.uk/festival #readingclimatefestival ”</p> <p>TRC to work with Lauren Shute to upload festival events onto Great Big Green Week map</p> <p>Poppy Harris arrived</p> <p>TD to ask Pete Castle (UoR) for a photo of a Reading Bus with climate stripes on it</p> <p>Useful Reading University Links to current climate education work:</p> <p>Partnering the Planet Hub: https://www.reading.ac.uk/planet/ Climate Education Summit (free): https://www.reading.ac.uk/planet/climate-education-summit Future Learn Online course (free): https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/tackling-climate-crisis</p> <p>KR to check if anyone from Bffc is attending the Climate Education Summit</p> <p>COP 26 Plans</p> <p>RCCP has been successful in booking a stand in the Green Zone for Sat 6th Nov. We are in Alok Sharma, the President of COP26, home constituency and propose that we use it to showcase what we are doing in Reading to drive towards net zero 2030 target. A captioned video montage could be developed by Lauren Shute showcasing the process of developing the RCCP plan.</p> <p>TRC is already attending COP as a volunteer on the Climate Reality Leaders Project outreach programme. It was agreed that Lauren Shute will be offered the second exhibitor pass. NHB agreed ReadingUK will sponsor Lauren’s travel and accommodation costs to exhibit the COP stall. They also have technical video expertise to offer. Tracey to liaise with Nigel.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>TRC</p> <p>TD</p> <p>KR</p>

<p>TRC to write a blog whilst at COP – with images to be posted on website TD to share with Lauren Shute the UoR video to be added to the montage</p>	<p>TRC TRC TD</p>
<p>Reporting on action plan</p> <p>Quarterly reporting - Feedback from Theme Leads (Energy, Water, Transport, Nature, Resources, Health, Communications) – RAG ratings and challenges</p> <p>TD thanked all theme leads for the time and effort taken to complete the action plan reporting tables. It helps provide a sense of where we are, a sense of positivity in the preparation of the Annual Report. COVID has clearly played a part in meeting achievements.</p> <p>Verbal feedback on progress – the successes and the pressure points:</p> <p><u>Energy</u> (BB) – a mixed delivery picture. We are moving in the right direction but not at the pace we need to meet net zero by 2030. The RAG status of the action plan delivery is an amber/green picture.</p> <p>Projects highlights: New build council housing is now meeting highest energy standards. Some degree of retrofitting is happening though more is happening in RBC housing than private sector. Renewable projects: zero carbon depot, RCES. The success of the Reading Hydro project is great news. Reading is moving towards an electrified future of heat and transport, and we are engaging with SSEN, our local grid provider is developing their 2024-28 plan to support this. RBC Electric Vehicle strategy is being developed, and new EV vehicles arriving at RBC and at Reading buses.</p> <p>Within the theme there is a need for a smaller Strategic Partners group (including SSEN and other key partners), and then a wider theme group.</p> <p><u>Resources</u> (PD) – our goal is to be well on way to be a zero waste circular town by 2025. Progress has been made but not necessarily as planned. There is an appetite but there is a need to connect and align and grow ambition. Green/amber plan.</p> <p>Project highlights: Domestic recycling, introduction of food waste (domestic recycling rate is above 50% across Re3 area). Reading Green BID framework, Circular Economy Club, Plastic Free Caversham are showing great local engagement. There is more going on than meets the eye. Food initiatives in Reading is a great opportunity to improve our narrative.</p> <p>(KR left)</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gathering baseline data is difficult - a challenge across the whole strategy. Having indicators and visualising progress is important and could be a cross theme project. <p>RH to share with the group some insights on this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bringing theme groups together in person to work as a team (hybrid style perhaps) would be welcomed. As a volunteer it can feel out on a limb - The Reading Music Festival 2021. Constructive dialogue and diplomacy with Festival Republic is required, engaging with the Green Nation overall strategy. It was disappointing to see again the photos of all the abandoned tents. Perhaps it's a step in 	<p>RH</p>

the right direction: are their fewer abandoned tents this year? RBC has a regulatory and licensing role, with defined limits. There is an engrained media narrative – that needs to change. Energy, water, aspects of recycling has improved. There is a lot to celebrate within the Local Festivals that are working hard to explore sustainability – i.e. Reading Cycling Festival, Down at The Abbey Music Festival.

There is not a Resource Theme group per se. It's a group of groups, where we are supporting current groups and partnerships and helping to align their work. Having a mixture of online and face to face meetings

TD and PM thanked Paul for all his diligence and enthusiasm- taking on the theme lead role.

Rachel joined

Transport (CM) - Amber/green overview. Lots happening – but like to do more.

Project highlights:

- there is some government funding for active travel, walking and cycling. Funding received for a segregated route along Shinfield Road that is out for consultation. Similar programme along the Bath Road.
- Revenue funding: Cycle festival, training promotion initiatives, Cycle hub – volunteers and a location tbc.
- Public transport: currently producing a local plan on buses, with funding promised to include priority bus lanes etc. A33 works are nearly complete. First green roof bus shelter is complete.
- EV strategy being completed. Possibility of electric minibuses.

Theme group has merged with other transport engagement groups – such as the Cleaner air and Safer transport forum, the Cycle forum which meets regularly. Hope to have in person event in future.

(Poppy left)

Water (CB) – amber status. Covid has been a huge challenge for the group. Feeling fairly positive now with the 4 key partners (Environment Agency, Thames Water (TW), UoR and RBC) all keen to engage. Water related comms strategy is being developed linking the EA and TW work. Work continuing on Kennet Meadows and the Thames Valley Flood Scheme. TW will do a piece around the impact of COVID on local water supply.

(PD left)

Nature (TM) – action plan progress is multi coloured (red to green RAG status).

Concentrate on Red issues (that haven't started):

- RBC needs a body of opportunities to share with developers- which are identified locations for biodiversity enhancement to provide 10% biodiversity 'net gain' on new development where this can not be delivered on-site.
 - Need more volunteers – i.e. to walk the green corridors in Reading to determine how they can be enhanced. Outreach to Reading community – work to engage with community groups, resident associations, schools to redevelop grounds and give talks. Help is needed.
- TD is making links to Rachel Spencer (RVA).

<p>RH to reach out to theme leads about their volunteer requirements and work to bring in volunteers to help</p> <p><u>Health</u> (PM) – the ‘reddest’ of the themes, for good reason: The Covid pandemic has meant relevant staff are occupied on other challenges. However Climate is very much on their radar, covered in the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Karen Buckley is now on maternity leave and PM is working to find a replacement theme lead in the interim.</p> <p><u>Communications and engagement</u> (RH) – multi coloured RAG status. Generally – social media: numbers of followers are increasing. Continual focus on the website – improving content and snagging. Creating event material, developing a newsletter, and developing partnerships with community groups and networks. Community – need volunteering. Business and Education need volunteers to drive these areas of work. Harriet – Bffc lead is on maternity leave until Feb. Who can fill this gap?</p> <p>What is the process for moving the deadline on an action? Some are red because the deadline is perhaps too ambitious, or delayed due too COVID, or on longer required. PM suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If an action is started, but not reaching target on plan – mark as amber. - At mid-point in plan – refresh the plan and amend/remove those that are no longer relevant. <p>NHB to link with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CB concerning business engagement esp linked to town centre businesses and the Green BID framework - TM around investing in wild flower/tree planting in BID - RH around outreach to BID business community and wider Reading – help to shape content appropriately. - KG around linking to youth council <p>NHB is involved in Reading’s Place marketing review - Reading to be seen as a Green, Sustainable Town/City of the future. Also fed into the Town Centre Strategy, and the City bid.</p> <p><u>Preparation of Annual report</u> (PM) – An RCCP annual report will be published and made available to the public via the RBC SEPT committee which meets in November. The structure of the report: – headline: how Reading is doing in reducing its carbon emissions (based on national BEIS data set). 2019 (latest year for which data is available) – Readings carbon footprint has reduced by 49% compared to 2005 baseline, the 5th biggest reduction (out of 379 LAs in UK). This builds confidence. Great progress but clearly more to do.</p> <p>Positive case studies – Reading HYDRO, fleet conversions, Climate Festival, RBC housing.</p> <p>Part of purpose of report is to be honest and transparent about progress and challenges: actions are approx. 33% green, 50% amber, 17% red in terms RAG status – quite an achievement in context of our limited resources. Report will emphasise that we need more resource, and greater effort from more partners, to turn reds and ambers into green.</p> <p>BB- we need to up the level all the time. Trajectory must scale up at each opportunity to reach 2030 target.</p>	<p>RH</p>
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<p>All agreed that PM to update all on timeline, and draft structure for annual report. Require feedback from all via email</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>Budget – overview (BB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - and plan to spend going forward.. do we want to restart the programme fund? - Spend on new staff? - Lottery funds - ICN Model Climate conference funding <p>Ben shared the RCCP budget overview –income and projected expenditure for this year. We have a reserve of £35k carried over from past years, and expect with current spending to carry over a similar reserve this year. Further to the governance review we now have a Reserves Policy – which obliges us to keep a minimum of 6 months of operating costs in reserve to cover any liabilities if we have to close the partnership and a maximum of 12 months. The RCCP funding is now clearly ringfenced from RBC budgets.</p> <p>The grant scheme is currently still closed. Ideas for spend and priorities were voiced by board members.</p> <p>It was agreed that we review grant fund criteria and a proposal on whether/how to open it up again to be brought to next board meeting</p> <p>It was noted that we do need to think about wider income streams in order to meet the challenges of our strategy. Also noted that we have an existing commitment to support the ICN Model Climate conference.</p>	<p>PM/BB/TD</p>
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor representation at board meetings <p>This was raised at last SEPT committee with a request by an opposition member to be an observer at this meeting. A discussion was had and the Board’s conclusion was essentially that (i) there was no provision for observer status at present and the Board was reluctant to make an exception for any one partner (ii) the provisions on transparency in the new Partnership Agreement (i.e. for Board minutes to be made public and reported via SEPT) were considered sufficient to enable scrutiny of how all Board members perform their functions (iii) it is for each appointing body to select one representative to speak on behalf of their sector, and the democratic process of elections and subsequently nomination of a single Board member to represent the Council as a whole was the appropriate way for that to be resolved in the case of RBC.</p> <p>It was agreed that our corporate governance and constitution will be reviewed annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A future meeting in person <p>Question of meeting face to face at some point in the future was raised. Theme leads are happy to consider this in the future (as appropriate).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ailuna Campaign 	

<p>CB presented an opportunity for RCCP to use a new social media app to improve sustainable behaviours. Generally the board were supportive of the app, it is well respected, it would be available at no cost and is likely to focus on engaging a younger audience - which is good. RH felt we need to have the following in place to take this forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the content is ready and accessible, with the user journey mapped out from app to website. The content that is needed is light touch and RH felt confident that we already have suitable content to use.- A Campaign Plan in place- Volunteer sign up ready to go <p>Data collation would be very useful too, and perhaps a source for raising funds.</p> <p>It was agreed that CB and RH will work together to take forward this opportunity</p> <p>Note: Date for the next meeting changed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tues 30th Nov 2:30-4:30pm- Tues 25th Jan 10-12noon	CB/RH
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