

## Reading Climate Change Partnership

### Board Meeting Minutes, Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

#### MS TEAMS meeting online, 10-12pm

<b>Attendees</b> Tim Dixon (co-Chair, will Chair today) Tricia Marcouse Chris Maddocks, Rachel Hazell	Shreeya Paudel, Poppy Harris, Paul Ducker, Scott Witchalls,	Alison Foster Becky Pollard - observer Katie Brett Peter Moore
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Item	Action – who
<p>Apologies: Tracey Rawling-Church (co-chair), Ben Burfoot, Cllr Tony Page, Calvin Gavrilov, Paul Harrison.</p> <p>Scott Witchalls needs to leave by 11am,</p> <p>Introductions made to Becky Pollard - Interim public health consultant for RBC</p>	
<p>Minutes of last meeting – approved</p> <p>Feedback from ACTION: Ben to investigate final share certificate of Reading Hydro (for further information on returns to RCCP) to answer query from Chris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading Hydro is operational and powering the Thames Lido. The partnership has £4000 of shares. This was in exchange for ~£1000 that was paid by the Council for the grid connection - this was not used in the end and so the partnership have asked that the shares be reduced to £3000 or the Partnership pay additional £1000 to maintain the £4000 shares. We should not expect a large income from it. BB to track down the shares certificate</li> </ul> <p><u>ACTION:</u> RH to explore possibility of Workplace Platform for improved theme communication and look at newsletter concept in more detail so this can be achieved.</p>	RH
<p><u>Theme lead day (16<sup>th</sup> Feb 1130-130): Structure and Agenda ideas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview (agenda from last meeting attached)</li> </ul> <p>The board welcomed Alison Foster as the new RCCP Health Theme Lead. We thank you for offering your support.</p> <p>We ran our first theme lead day last Jan 2021 which was useful for the 7 diverse theme leads to come together to compare and contrast the issues and challenges they were dealing with and identify areas for collaboration and extra support. This helped inform the governance review. It was felt this would be useful to repeat atleast annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Discussion on needs and interests of theme leads</u></li> </ul> <p>Ideas for this years meeting:</p>	

- A fundraising talk from Lisa Hill, our fundraising volunteer
- Communications and engagement: taking forward the 3 current projects (UK 100 - Local Climate Engagement Project', Urban Room proposal, Net Zero Placemaking: Story Accelerator)
- Things that have worked well and not
- Fragmentation: Themes currently working in relative isolation from each other. This could be challenged. What are the opportunities to work on joint initiatives i.e. food. This is key
- Making the best use of resources around comms and engagement: Given limited theme resources - Is there an opportunity for the comms and engagement team to grow again to provide a central support to themes.
- Building a big common story for all themes to fit under. Placemaking project could help, and annual campaign calendar...
- Dashboard – what info can we use, how to be done?
- Ongoing Website, social and newsletter communications is needed – and is v hard to achieve as a volunteer. How could this be addressed

Expectations/obligations/roles of theme leads has now been address.

Action: PM to circulate these docs before theme lead meeting

PM

LS joined on 6 month Kickstart placement. The re-recruitment has not been smooth as the successful candidate withdraw.

More communications and engagement resource should become available on recruitment of Katie Brett replacement. And drawing on the communications resources of partners would be welcomed. Linkages have now been made between the RBC and RBH comms teams

- Do we want the invite to be wider than theme leads?
- Becky Pollard – an opportunity to widen the engagement and profile of RCCP work. the RBC public health colleagues happy to attend – to support in cross cutting issues – food, green spaces, public transport, walking, cycling.
- 2 diff audiences: Other members of theme group attend – depends on agenda – if focus on interactions between themes – open invite, or focus on structures..?
- Some theme members don't want to be limited to interaction with limited theme, but more interested in the boarder strategy.
- Invites: Lisa Hill

Who to attend?

- More then just theme leads. Comms team links

Paul,  
 Rachel, Lisa and Malcolm Fowles,  
 Ali – tbc  
 Chris m plus 1  
 Tricia, John Murdoch, christina and Helen  
 Ben- tbc  
 Water?

= 12, TD, TRC, PM, KB

- And Becky pollard team for cross theme collaboration

<p><b>Action:</b> KB to arrange a pre theme lead meeting (with ops team and volunteers) to confirm the structure and agenda for the meeting</p>	<p>KB</p>
<p><u>Thank you to Katie and Update on Partnership Officer Role</u></p> <p>Katie Is leaving her post as Support officer to RCCP after 3 years in the role. TD thanked KB for her hard work, positive energy, drive and practical approach.</p> <p>PM: we plan to recruit into this role, which is now a permanent position. Funds allow us to now recruit to a 0.5FTE (up from 0.4FTE). The Job Description has been slightly amended to increase emphasis on communications and social media. It is now with HR for advertisement.</p>	
<p><u>Cllr Rachel Eden – meet the new Mayor (special guest)</u></p> <p>TD gave a warm welcome to Cllr Eden – the new Mayor of Reading.</p> <p>Sustainability is one of Cllr Eden’s priorities for her Mayoral ship, alongside giving young people the best start in life. The Mayors role is symbolic, and Non partisan. Instead she has the power to influence, standing beside and promoting causes.</p> <p>Wants to be an inclusive mayor and whilst holding a ‘Meat free mayoralty’ she will avoid serving meat products at her events – for sustainability reasons, and to take into account peoples’ health or religious needs. It will be a nuanced approach to take into account the local situation, and not to cause offence.</p> <p>RE would be happy to support RCCP in anyway she can. She is happy to host us, when appropriate in the Mayor’s parlour.</p> <p>Schools: Termly Schools Eco newsletter – include offer for the Mayor to attend sustainability events in schools – ie eco school group meeting. If at a school – to share what resources RCCP can offer – i.e support in refreshing their playgrounds, talks,...</p> <p><b>Action:</b> All to encourage contacts they have – which involve young people and/or the environment- to invite Mayor to any suitable sustainability activity at the school or alike. Email: <a href="mailto:mayor@reading.gov.uk">mayor@reading.gov.uk</a>. Adds excitement</p> <p><b>Action:</b> KB to send RE schools eco newsletters – for background info when visiting schools. KB to link RE with Harriet Neville in regards ongoing engagement in schools and school engagement priorities when visiting.</p> <p>schools to do species ID and log them on biodiversity database (TM to provide more detail). <b>Action:</b> to promote biodiversity identifying on her mayoral tweet – for wider community. TM to send RE details – to plan it. Rachel... <a href="mailto:Racheleden.whitley@gmail.com">Racheleden.whitley@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Helping to engage purposefully with the ethnic groups in Reading is very needed as we are currently not reaching a large demographic in Reading. <b>Action:</b> SP to follow up RCCP speaker opportunities with ACRE.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>KB</p> <p>TM</p> <p>SP</p>

<p>AF – Launching RBH green Plan next month. They have the challenge of creating a Net Zero hospital alongside considerable construction. Request for RE to visit the RBH too hear about their green plans and how they connect to the wider community. AF has ideas of how to make the zero carbon plan more accessible to local communities to encourage them to help implement it.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> AF to contact RE to arrange a visit to RBH to support their work</p> <p>Becky – v pleased that mayor is supporting healthy food approach. The next Director of public health report –what do we eat and how it contributes to climate change – grow local, shop local. A quote for this report? BS to liaise with lead member Cllr Hoskin first and will support where is suitable.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> KB to follow up the possibility of having a sustainability tip added to the weekly RBH Covid newsletter with the RBC comms team/leaders office</p>	<p>AF</p> <p>KB</p>
<p><u>Reporting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updates on themes. Opportunities and challenges</li> </ul> <p>Alison Foster – Health theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with Reading Green Wellbeing Network, Peter, Paul H, Paul D to understand history and opportunity, Meeting with Public Health lead next Monday</li> <li>• Propose workshop with wider stakeholders to broaden out the theme to include connection with other themes. RBH are a large employer, emitter and co-institution – we need to demonstrate community leadership, good practice and share examples of good practice from the wider NHS. Linking to the other themes- to achieve a tangible outcome.</li> <li>• Urban room development</li> <li>• Linkages with other themes</li> <li>• Communications collaboration – with RBC and RCCP</li> </ul> <p>Propose workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other issues: sense checking against new national policies</li> </ul> <p>Chris Maddocks – some Transport highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active travel funding project: for a cycle scheme and pedestrian enhancements along the Shinfield road should start implementation in late spring.</li> <li>- The set up of Active travel England, changes to highway code.</li> <li>- Cycle parking hub- location agreed – open in a month or 2.</li> <li>- School streets: Crescent road is the next scheme to be rolled out.</li> </ul> <p>Paul Ducker - Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of stakeholder newsletter sent out.</li> <li>- Connecting: is logical and pragmatic approach</li> <li>- Aligning: a lot is going on in the community, businesses and other organisations. There is a desire to put goals and aims at the heart of the strategy so that organisations want to align what they are doing with it.</li> <li>- Sharing knowledge across organisations – what works and what didn't and why.</li> <li>- Challenges – the need to develop a shared narrative beyond sharing the action plans.</li> <li>- What do we do in regards planning for succession – if a theme led wants to move on.</li> </ul>	

Rachel Hazel – Communications

- Lauren Shute and Faye Hargreaves have now left – so there is currently less support with social media and the website.
- Doing some work in formalising the volunteering positions – to manage expectations – of role and time.
- Priorities – the website, campaign calendar and getting newsletter up and running, looking at social media. Funding – 3 bids have been submitted, awaiting feedback. Set up the dashboard.
- Community engagement – focusing on linking to groups to communicate via their established channels.
- Education – work on the quarterly schools newsletter.
- Climate Festival to be repeated again this year - prob in Sept.

Trish Marcouse – Nature:

– additional sites of interest – recreation grounds in South Whitley and Basingstoke road.  
Offer 2000 trees from Trees for our cities – requested funder to defer this to winter 2022.

Peter Moore - Energy

- The second phase of District Energy feasibility is underway currently with Aecom and managed by Carbon Alternatives. This work is highlighting areas of developments north of the station that are suitable to form a network with access to the river at Kings-meadow. Some meetings have started to take place with developers.
- The Council is developing plans for the Minster Quarter area and an application for ground source heat pumps for the Hexagon theatre has been made to the governments PSDS fund
- The Green Homes Grant is progressing working with Insta Group to identify homes. 11 RBC homes were retrofitted and 40 air source heat pumps installed although the latter were not eligible for the government funding. Some homes have been identified and are being surveyed with the Council continuing into phases 2 and 3 via the South East Energy Hub and with a managing agent called 'Warmworks'.
- The Council's zero carbon depot programme is continuing with one eRCV in place (electric bin lorry) and solar canopies being ordered
- The Council's leisure centres are preparing for construction and designs now include heat pumps and additional solar
- The Council were awarded National Homebuilder of the Year for their passivhaus principle design and are planning to retrofit the large tower blocks at Coley High Rise to a low carbon standard

Going forward – we would like to investigate further the challenge of how to capture the new opportunities and challenges that arises from the fast moving policy environment within our strategy and action plans. There is a danger that action plans could be RAG rated, but they now don't reflect the reality of current priorities. When should we do a refresh of the plans (and therefore the constitution impact). We need for theme leads to have a more fluid approach of building in new actions and opportunities as they arise.

ACTION: KB to add this onto the theme lead meeting agenda to gather thoughts from the theme leads.

KB

<p><b>ACTION:</b> to consider how best to update Strategy document and Annual report in light of legislative changes, including Net Zero Strategy and Environment Act 2021 (PM to take to theme lead meeting)</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p><u>Current communications and engagement opportunities:</u></p> <p><i>UK 100 – ‘Local Climate Engagement Project’</i> – PM updated all on the UK100 and ‘their race to zero’. Consortium of ngos and specialists in community engagement and public participation. Funded by Antony Fairburn. Training, mentoring and peer support – (‘training level’ to gain skills on what good community engagement looks like). Project level – engagement and inkind support from trained experts to get a piece of community engagement off the ground. We have for both.</p> <p><i>Urban Room proposal</i> – RH updated all on this project. The Consultation space will on the Broad St Mall from 22-26<sup>th</sup> March 2022: known as ‘Climate change week’. The space will be manned by university students 10-5pm. Ideas are being worked up at the moment to include interactive top tips and a talk/seminar slot. <b>ACTION:</b> RH to email all with a summary of her needs for collaboration and support on the Urban Room project. RH to follow up the Reading GreenBID input into the business week</p> <p><i>Net Zero Placemaking: Story Accelerator</i> <a href="#">Clean+Cool Story Accelerator - Stronger Stories</a> PD, TRC, TD have been in discussion with Stronger Stories– funded by Innovate UK. Mentoring training course available to RCCP members and local businesses to be able to work with stronger stories to be able to develop our ability to tell our story better. Online training course. Develop a playbook to help tell story of net zero in UK, fill in gaps from the quieter voices in a community who play a part in net zero agenda. <b>ACTION:</b> TD to update all with more details on the dates of the training All to contact TD if interested in being part of this training opportunity.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>TD ALL</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water Theme (co-lead)</li> </ul> <p>Chris Beales has stepped back, we are hopeful to get a name from Thames Water to replace him soon. PM confirmed that we hope to have a BFFC representative at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> PM to share the Evaluation of the RBC COP26 comms work with all. Feedback has been received from the Carbon Disclosure Project around their analysis of borough placings. This will be useful in regards to help prepare for this years report.</p> <p>Date of next meetings: 10- 12noon <b>Tues 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>, 10-12noon <b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>, 10-12noon <b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Nov</b></p>	<p>PM</p>