

Portsmouth Climate Action Board

19th September 2019

Future Technology Centre, University of Portsmouth

Minutes

Chair:

Professor Stephen Fletcher (SF)

Attendees:

John A'Court (JA) - Portsmouth Hospitals Trust
Councillor Dave Ashmore (DA) - Portsmouth City Council
Jerry Clarke (JC) (representing Mike Sellers) - Portsmouth International Port
Carole Damper (CD) - Portsmouth HIVE
Pete Dowbakin (PD) - Gunwharf Quays
Megan Howson (MH) - Friends of the Earth
Stephanie Lasalle (SL) - University of Portsmouth
Kelly Nash (KN) - Portsmouth City Council
Stef Nientowalski (SN) - Shaping Portsmouth
Gary Plummer (GP) - Airbus
Nick Sebley (NS) - Extinction Rebellion
Tristan Thorn (TT) - Portsmouth City Council (Minutes)
Hayley Turner-McIntyre (HTM) - University of Portsmouth Students' Union
Pam Turton (PT) - Portsmouth City Council

Apologies:

Carla Broom - Friends of the Earth
Rachel Jones - Natural England
Jim Barker - Portsmouth Water
Mike Sellers - Portsmouth International Port

1.0	Setting the scene and agreeing the challenge
1.1	SF welcomed the attendees to the first meeting of the Portsmouth Climate Action Board. Each person was then asked to introduce themselves and outline the actions their organisation had taken, or is taking, to tackle climate change.
1.2	Introductions: MH - Friends of the Earth aims to reduce Portsmouth's carbon footprint through community action, for instance a climate change walk was recently conducted to highlight the flood risk in Southsea.

SN - Shaping Portsmouth has over 600 ambassadors in Portsmouth and provides a voice for multiple businesses. 80% of businesses in Portsmouth employ fewer than 9 people; therefore we need targeted information for the individual and small businesses. SN stated that the Climate Board could use the Shaping Portsmouth network to disseminate messages relevant to the business community.

JA - The NHS has a target to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. The core challenge locally is determining the contributors to the carbon footprint and emissions.

JC - The port is aspiring to become the first carbon neutral port in the UK and has received European grants and self-funded several internal projects to achieve this. There are currently issues with energy infrastructure in the city which can inhibit progress, for instance the local network cannot accept excess self-generated electricity.

DA - The city is looking to promote sustainable transport in the city through improving cycling infrastructure and walkability. At the moment the council's plan to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide in the city is being developed, including a charging clean air zone.

GP - Airbus is a large employer and has up to 1000 employees and contractors on site. There have been multiple onsite projects since the site was purchased in 2011 to improve energy efficiency and to reduce overall emissions.

NS - The aim of Extinction Rebellion is to mobilise the public and raise awareness of the science of climate change and the current emergency. The Extinction Rebellion can also provide a presentation/screening about climate change at businesses and organisations if requested.

SF - The city has a significant student population at approximately 10% of the population. The University of Portsmouth is drafting a 10 year strategy with the aim to be one of the greenest universities in the world; and eventually to become climate positive.

HTM - Campaigned for the Students' Union to implement a recycling award scheme and to facilitate the donation of excess food back to the local community at the end of term.

PD - Gunwharf Quays no longer encourages travel by car to the centre, instead it is promoting rail and ferry. This includes the promotion of the Portsmouth Park and Ride to prevent delays entering the centre due to congestion.

2.0	Agree the Terms of Reference
2.1	NS and MH suggested that a measureable aim or goal should be included in the terms of reference. SF recommended that we first propose a strategy which will then lead to a target.
2.2	NS suggested that Board membership should be expanded to include youth membership, a citizen's forum and sector leads (e.g. transport and housing). KN and PT noted that this could cause a cross over with the current Air Quality Board.
Conclusions	
2.3	It was agreed that the Board will work towards a measurable target and carbon reduction.
2.4	The target will be included as part of the strategy and not as part of the terms of reference.
2.5	The Board agreed that membership should include representation of young people.
2.6	The Board will also look into the membership of more sector leads.
Actions	
2.7	TT to change Para 3.1a of the terms of reference to "Facilitate the development of a Portsmouth Climate <i>Action Strategy</i> ".
2.8	TT to change Para. 2.3 of the terms of reference to start with the positive "We are an independent body that can pursue its own actions".
3.0	Priorities and how we turn that into a process to develop a strategy
3.1	SF proposed the establishment of a number of sub-groups to develop a strategy; this will involve input from the public, businesses and Board members. The strategy will also need to be credible and easy to understand.
3.2	SN made clear that the Board will need data on the contributors to carbon emissions in the city so that the biggest contributors can be addressed first.
3.3	PT raised that at the end of October the council will decide on the clean air zone class in Portsmouth. This will have an impact on carbon emissions in the city which the Board should take into account when drafting the strategy.

Conclusions	
3.4	The strategy will need to focus on quick achievable results; which will be influenced by the carbon emissions data.
3.5	Strategy sub-group members: Pete Dowbakin Nick Sebley Councillor Dave Ashmore Megan Howson Mike Sellers Steve Fletcher
Actions	
3.6	TT to analyse the baseline carbon emissions in the city and the biggest contributors with a view to identifying priority actions to reduce carbon emissions.
4.0	Identity and branding
4.1	After discussion it was decided that the identity and branding sub-group will need to work with the conference sub-group (5.0) to establish the nature of the proposed conference on 29th November.
4.2	It was agreed that the Board should have its own identity, including a logo, website etc., in order to demonstrate its independence and develop its own brand awareness.
4.3	SN suggested that it would be better to hold multiple smaller events within the community by ward as opposed to a single launch event.
4.4	KN also thought it would be helpful to hold an initial event followed by a 'roadshow' style set of smaller events for the local community.
Conclusions	
4.5	Identity and branding sub-group members: Stef Nientowalski Steve Fletcher Nick Sebley
Actions	
4.6	Identity and branding sub-group to determine if the proposed conference on 29th November will be an event, conference or meeting.

4.7	The sub-group will determine the Board's brand visual identity, tone of voice, and identity.
5.0	Proposed conference 29th November
5.1	SF noted that there is generally a negative rhetoric surrounding climate action therefore it would be better if the event is optimistic in tone.
5.2	The group will need to work with the identity and branding sub-group to determine the style of the event.
Conclusions	
5.3	Conference sub-group members: Hayley Turner-McIntyre Carole Damper - (TBC as this was assigned in her absence) Gary Plummer Steve Fletcher
Actions	
5.4	Conference sub-group to develop the style of the event and work with the identity and branding sub-group to work on the event on 29th November 2019.
6.0	Agree preferred time slots for future meetings
6.1	It was agreed that meetings will be conducted every two months, as per the terms of reference, with plenty of notice to ensure as many members as possible can attend.
6.2	Meetings should remain closed so that members can speak frankly and openly, however the minutes will be advertised publicly for accountability.
6.3	To encourage collaboration between members, the Board will setup a WhatsApp group and a shared drive (e.g. Google Drive); this will need to be confirmed depending on the IT restrictions of each member's organisation.
Conclusions	
6.4	Board meetings will be conducted bi-monthly with as much notice as possible for members.
6.5	Minutes for each meeting will be advertised publicly for accountability.
6.6	A shared drive and online group will be established to communicate and share documents.

Actions	
6.7	TT to set up a WhatsApp group and look into additional options for online sharing.
6.8	All Board members to agree on the best software to use for the online sharing which can be used by all Board members.
6.9	TT to send out an email to Board members to arrange the times and meetings for each strategy group.