

Derby Green Forum

Thursday 25 May 2017

Attendance: Andy Hills, Anne Morgan, Anthony Davies, Barry Greatorex, Cathy Roelich, Chris Ring, Christine Lillie, David Clasby, Diana Bruce, Donald Macdonald, Jay Wilde, George Phillips, Gillian-Ann Macpherson, Ian Sleeman, Jane Temple, John Beardmore, John Whitby, Karl Suschitzky (DCC Environmental Protection), Keith Burchell, Lisa Hopkinson (Transition Chesterfield), Lucy Care, Martin Rawson, Michael Giaquinto, Nigel Brien (DCC Traffic Manager), Pat Greatorex, Patric Harting, Peter Robinson, Reg Hand, Shirley Wessels, Simon Bacon, Tony Roelich, Ursula Ann Watts, Viv Ring,

Apologies: Chris Clemson, Roy Webb

1. **Peter Robinson introduced the meeting** and welcomed the new mayor, John Whitby.

2. **John Whitby** established his number one priority, saving the planet, promoting all green agenda

Andy Hills expressed concern that all green issues including climate change had suffered greatly from the Council's austerity cuts over the last 4-5 years . At a national level the profile of climate change has also considerably diminished which has not been helped by the abandonment of the climate change national indicators.

Dave Clasby suggested that the new mayor could use available green transport (co-wheels) or, better, attend mayoral functions on a bicycle; the mayor was keen to promote green transport, but said using an electric vehicle would have been easier if the mayoral car had not been renewed with a conventional one. Tony encouraged the mayor to attend active Travel Fora.

The mayor was asked if he could move the STWA wind turbines issue forward, but he considered it was out of his hands. It was also suggested that he could use his influence to talk to other councillors from other parties.

3. **Karl Suschitzky – DCC Environmental Protection**

Karl gave a thorough presentation on air quality

Monitoring has been reduced over last five years. NO2 only monitored in the city now. Diffusion tubes are used, over 80 of them, which enables monitoring over a wide area.

Particulate PM10 and PM2.5 not being monitored by Council, but Defra monitors at Bass's rec.

Road quality is an important factor with particulates; poor road quality causing higher levels of brake and tyre particulate.

Traffic data is reported by the Council to Defra.

NO2 exceeding objective at areas shown on map (can we get one?)

What DCC is doing

a. Monitoring and reporting to Defra

b. Planning applications (air quality assessments)

Securing practical measures by developers eg cycle paths

Note: NO2 levels drop off smartly with distance from carriageway

c. Regulation/enforcement; eg chimney smoke, bonfires. Bonfires cause particularly bad air pollution

d. Miscellaneous eg cycle schemes

Council's Low emissions strategy

Top priority is to avoid using any sort of car where possible

Make the next car you buy a ULEV (ultra low emission)

Avoid bonfires altogether, especially bonfire night

Nigel Brien said there was a good chance of Derby moving away from diesel buses, with potentially good funding available for bus companies to convert their fleets. He said congestion charges in Derby were unlikely; chargeable access restrictions are more likely.

A lead from central government is necessary to initiate a nationwide scrappage scheme and emissions charging; it cannot be left for councils to decide.

Dave Clasby explained that Derby's bike hire scheme will begin with conventional cycles, with ebikes coming later.

Tony requested a link to the Defra report (Dave Clasby to provide). He offered support to Nigel's negotiations.

Nigel said the shortcoming of Defra's policy was that it was modelled rather than measured ??

Karl sees the conversion of buses and taxis as a good start for improving air quality.

Dave wants to see a modal shift from cars to alternative transport and suggested a blanket restriction to 20mph within the inner ring road.

Nigel is looking at working with bus companies to generate bus travel through short-term special offers.

Peter reminded the meeting that a booklet on Air Pollution has been produced (see the attached).

4. **Divestment and Derbyshire County Council**

Lisa Hopkinson

Lisa is from Transition Chesterfield, one of 13 organisations (including Derby Climate Coalition and the University of Derby Students Union) that are part of the Divest Derbyshire campaign to try to get the Derbyshire Pensions Fund to divest from fossil fuels (they have about £200 million currently invested in fossil fuel companies).

Representatives from the campaign, including the then-Youth Mayor of Derby, handed in over 1,000 signatures in March this year and met with the then Chair of the Committee, Cllr Dave Wilcox (no longer a councillor). The cover letter for the petition outlining their main arguments is attached.

1. As well as the moral arguments and the need to keep 80% fossil fuels in the ground due to the risks of catastrophic climate change, there are strong financial risks from continued investment in fossil fuels. Leading financial experts have advised that fiduciary duty compels divestment due to the risks of stranded assets and the Pensions Regulator has also advised that climate risk could be significant. Client Earth have taken legal advice that pension trustees who fail to consider climate risk could be exposing themselves to legal challenge in the future.

2. Engagement is not an option when you are objecting to a companies core business and even the most 'progressive' oil companies expect to have fossil fuels as the main part of their core business well beyond the point necessary to meet our carbon targets.

3. The group think that the money could be better invested in more environmentally and socially beneficial ways and point to the examples of other local authority pension funds investing in social housing or renewable energy as well as the growing number of LA pension funds who have committed to divestment.

Lisa has had acknowledgement from DCC Legal Services that they have received the petition and that it will be reported to the meeting on 14 June. The new committee was appointed on Tues. Lisa will write to the new committee, asking if (a) the group can attend/speak at the meeting on 14 June or any subsequent meeting and (b) if they can put the issue of climate risk on their agenda.

5. Carbon Smart

Andy Hills gave details of an ongoing European project aimed at improving the energy performance of small manufacturing businesses, with 200 grants available over the next three years. The project team is currently working with 52 SMEs, with 2 grants having been awarded so far. See the attached.

6. Any Other Business

- a. Belper Goes Green ECO Festival, at Belper rugby club 2nd, 3rd, 4th June
- b. Envirofusion, Alfreton Road, Derby have applied for planning permission to test a waste-to-energy plant.

Simon Bacon reported that a group was campaigning against the scheme on the grounds of air quality issues, noise and smell in the vicinity.

Martin told the meeting that the application was on hold, pending the results of expert assessments.

- c. All party community bike ride from Derby Council House to Elvaston Park leaving at 11am National Bike Week and Refugee Week. To celebrate the life of

MP Jo Cox.

d. Derby Climate Coalition Steering Group meets next on Wednesday 14 June at the St Marys Parish Community centre at 5.30pm. All are welcome.

e. Friends of Markeaton Park, pond-dipping 17 June and garden festival 27 August.

f. Friends of the Earth

Basecamp 2017 at Castleton, 2nd, 3rd, 4th June.

7. Date of next meeting, to be arranged in due course.

RH