

**Sustainable Calne Monthly Meeting:  
Marden House (also via zoom)  
Minutes, Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 7:00 pm**



## **Agenda**

- Welcome and Apologies
- Updates and News
- Discussion - SC 'Four Pillars'
- Approval of the August meeting minutes
- Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy Consultation
- AOB
- Confirm the date/time for the next meeting
- Socialising

## **Attendees:**

In person at Marden House: John Bennett (Chair), Stan Woods (Treasurer), John Boaler, Averil Ashton, James Gladding, Celia Stevens. Sue Deedigan. Becky Timmins, Rob MacNaughton, David Conway

Via Zoom: Denis Griffin (Secretary), Jenny Joyce (Vice-Chair), Denis Robinson

## **Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies: Bob Greenwood, Tom Morris, Fiona Campbell, Sue Pitman, Glenis Ansell, Mala Tu

**Approval of minutes from last meeting** Approved.

## **News & updates**

So as to allow more time to discuss the Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy Consultation the Four Pillars discussion was limited to just Community Energy and Walking & Cycling. Note: that the slides prepared by Stan Woods on air quality can be viewed on our website.

## **Discussion - SC 'Four Pillars'**

### **Community Energy** - James Gladding

James opened the presentation with news of the **Calne Community Solar PV Buying Scheme**. Which is modelled on the work undertaken by Zero Chippenham who devised a scheme for residents of Chippenham and Calne to buy Solar PV.

A full description of this scheme is available on the Sustainable Calne Website.

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Their next project was for a solar farm sited close to Calne. An early success was a grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund (£42k) to fund a feasibility study. Contact was then made with the local energy network operator (SEN) to ensure that the solar farm would be able to feed into the grid. When a suitable site was identified all was looking good. Disappointment followed when SEN were recontacted as grid access was no longer available.

Despite being thwarted by the grid, they are now working on other options. Notably rooftop solar schemes providing power directly to companies on the Porte Marsh industrial estate. Discussions have been held with two of the largest companies there, Hills and Deceuninck. Eight other smaller companies are also being considered.

### **Walking & Cycling – Celia Stevens**

Celia leads a small working group whose focus is to encourage participation and to increase/improve facilities for walking and cycling in Calne.

The group quickly set targets but were initially frustrated by who makes which decisions in Wiltshire. Over the last 6 months they have developed a network of contacts within local government and have met with Sustrans.

#### **Projects**

- Conducted a survey of users for the Calne to Chippenham pathway.
- Calne to Chippenham pathway – encouraged WC to negotiate longer leases and for the route to be re-designated as a commuter route rather than a leisure route.
- Calne to Avebury – visual survey conducted by a member submitted to WC and to CATG.
- Footpath audit – working with others to put this process on a sustainable footing
- John Bennett has trained as Walk leader and is supporting the Walk for health groups.
- Working with CTC on Beat the Street project.

#### **Future Projects**

- Pavements
- Connecting safe cycle routes – dependent on Wiltshire and their willingness to really push for action on Climate Change.

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**Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy Consultation**

James and Celia shared some slides to start the conversation on this initiative from Wiltshire Council.

In the following discussion members welcomed the consultation and felt we should make promoting it our focus over between now and the deadline of October 17<sup>th</sup>.

There were some reservations, notably the lack of ambition, targets or timelines in the draft. And as Wiltshire Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 two and a half years ago there was an expectation for action to be underway by now.

**Wiltshire Climate Alliance** has also welcomed the Climate Strategy but it too laments its lack of ambition and commitment to achieving its goal of seeking to make Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030.

**AOB**

**Sue Deedidgan Eco-Fair**

Sue invited us to partner her and other local groups in the **Eco-Fair** she is organising to take place in Calne Town Hall this November. We are of course happy to be involved. More updates on this event in future newsletters.

**Next meeting date:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October . Venue and time TBA.