

## CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2021

#### Present:-

Councillor Jan Harwood  
Councillor Caroline Reeves  
Councillor Catherine Young  
Councillor Paul Abbey (Sub)

#### In attendance:-

Ian Doyle, Director of Service Delivery  
Marieke van der Reijden, Head of Asset Management (Climate Change Lead)  
Paul Taylor-Armstrong, Climate Change Officer  
Chris Wheeler Waste, Parking and Fleet Services Manager  
Chris Burchell, Local Economy Manager  
Carrie Anderson, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Andy Mintram, Deputy Fleet Manager

Alastair Atkinson GEF Co-optee  
Prof Graham Miller University of Surrey Co-optee

#### Action By

#### 19. WELCOME

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

#### 20. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Diana Jones, Deborah Seabrook and Paul Spooner. Also, Dawn Hudd and Emma McBriarty. Councillor Paul Abbey was in attendance for Councillor Jones.

#### 21. PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was noted that there would be an update on the draft Comms Strategy under AOB.

Solar energy short talk – further details would be provided in due course.

Improving the provision of green rather than brown energy supply was raised. There were two options the Council could take. One was renewable energy with guarantees of origin but this was not considered robust, whilst Laser would be able to demonstrate that the provision was from a reliable source. Work with Laser was ongoing.

With regard to the Council having its own energy company, this was not without risk as was evident from other council's experience and would be a matter for the full council to decide as an investment option.

Otherwise the minutes were agreed.

## **22. CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD CLIMATE CHANGE MOTION REPORT (PROGRESS UPDATE)**

Full Council had received a report updating on the progress of the Climate Change Board at a meeting held the evening before. It was noted that the Millmead House and Farnham Road MSCP solar installations and the electrification of the Council's fleet of vehicles were on track, as well as developing partnership work with Surrey County Council (SCC). The meeting heard that it had been proposed by SCC that there should be a summit-style meeting between SCC and the eleven districts and boroughs once or twice a year with delivery of initiatives under a Greener Futures Partnership, alongside the existing Climate Change Officer Network, comprising of officers from Surrey district and borough councils. This group was in discussion about common issues across the County.

Marieke van der Reijden

It was suggested by GEF and UNIS that the Council might provide a list of desired and proceedable actions to both SCC and UNIS in order to push forward the momentum, which was well received. The Chairman also advised that there were productive outcomes being developed by more collaborative working on a borough level. With regard to the risk section of the report, it was queried how the momentum might be recaptured as everyone emerged from the pandemic. It was noted that the Communications Strategy and engagement work with businesses, parishes and communities was being developed, of which more would be heard later in the meeting.

## **23. ENERGY PROJECT UPDATE**

The APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) trajectory draft report had been received very recently. It was extensive and would set the pathway for achieving net zero carbon for the Council and to meet the 2030 commitment. The report would be key to supporting the Council as it worked on developing and prioritising its engagement and partnership projects. At the next Board meeting there would be more information about the way forward including the means by which projects could be prioritised in terms of comparison between cost implication and emissions reduction.

Paul Taylor-Armstrong

The energy monitoring reporting was the current prioritised piece of work aimed at bringing all of the Council's energy consumption data into one place so that it could be better monitored and reported, enabling it to be better managed and ultimately reduced. There would be a further update at the next Board meeting.

Cllr Harwood was questioned with regards to whether the council should directly pursue tree planting schemes to combat climate change. Cllr Harwood noted that the opportunity to plant trees was always sought and the Council supported Surrey County Council in its tree planting programme. Therefore, it was not on the project programme.

The group discussed the efficacy of hydrogen technology for transport and even domestic heating. It was noted that hydrogen technology its infancy and currently inefficient due to the electricity required in the production process. The technology would likely have specific use

scenarios and whilst the development in this technology is a way off, it was eminently sensible to proceed with the technology available whilst remaining agile in embracing new technological developments that would support its ambition to achieve zero carbon.

The group heard how the National Trust (NT) had two motorboats carrying passengers along the River Wey Navigation, but the challenge to providing a regular service beyond tourism was the speed and pace of the transport due to the limited space for boats to pass one another and to turn. However, emerging from pandemic it was possible that the NT would be interested in discussions to run a service.

## **24. INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UPDATE**

The first electric community minibus was due to arrive on 9 March and the tenth and final bus in early May. Individual Vehicle Assessments (IVA) were required by the DVLA on each bus and this was causing a small delay of around two weeks in the roll out. The EV charging infrastructure at Park Barn was in place and had been used recently to charge the Council's pool cars delivering food parcels.

Andy Mintram

It was reported that as the Council progressed replacing its fleet vehicles with carbon-free technology it also had an active interest in hydrogen technology for larger vehicles and electric (EV) for smaller vehicles if appropriate. It was anticipated that the new Council Depot would have charging provision for both.

It was suggested there were some community minibuses in operation that might be replaced with EV technology. The Government funding scheme for such a conversion was directed to local authorities and bus companies, but SCC should be contacted as possible point of assistance.

## **25. BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES PROJECT UPDATE**

There was a presentation from the Local Economy Manager. The slides of the presentation are attached to these minutes.

Chris Burchell

It was noted that Guildford was home to a large number of big companies some of which had their own climate change policies and some were operational in the field of climate change especially globally. There could be an opportunity to work with those companies to share expertise and ideas.

The results of the Business Survey were set out. Most respondents were SMEs. The majority of business activity had been to reduce plastic and improve energy efficiency of premises and operations where possible. Very few were undertaking monitoring or setting targets. Barriers to activity were funding, restrictions on what might be achieved in their-premises due to building type or landlord permissions and finally a lack of knowledge on what types of projects could be undertaken. There was a strong interest in gaining more knowledge and advice and over 50% of those surveyed would be interested in becoming a part of a green business network. It was possible the Council might look to

develop such a network based on the Cambridge Clean Tech Network (CCTN) model. The CCTN, was a membership organisation offering access to events (national and international), information seminars and networking opportunities to businesses and academics.

The presentation concluded with a number of proposed areas the Board might explore such as:

- Supporting the Council's procurement Strategy to ensure our suppliers have suitable environmental practices in place
- The formation of an innovation and sustainability forum in partnership with UNIS based upon the model of the CCTN model.
- Establish a Guildford Climate Change Charter
- Run a Local Climate Change Business Summit
- Invite graduates and academics from the UNIS Centre for Environment and Sustainability to do industry placements with local businesses and organisations.
- Research and identify funding for businesses and organisations.

Prof. Miller (UNIS) was supportive of the proposals and suggested that there was also knowledge and expertise around behaviour change and environmental law and taxation that could be shared by UNIS which was welcomed. The Business School and Psychology Faculty could be incorporated as well. There would be a conversation outside of the meeting to take the discussion forward.

With regard to community engagement it was noted that some parish councils and residents were enthusiastic in getting involved. The meeting heard that there was a new Climate Emergency Centre to be launched in Guildford that was not instigated by the Council but the Council was involved in discussions. The intention of the new Centre was to draw together the various groups and individuals under one umbrella in order to share knowledge, ideas, and activity. Community engagement was on the agenda for that group. The Chairman would bring more information to the Board at a future meeting.

It was suggested the bi-annual Parish Clerks meeting with the Council could be a forum for engagement and that certain parish councils were already organising themselves in terms of networking and sharing information. Notably, Effingham Parish Council had undertaken much work in engaging residents. The GEF was organising meetings for parish councils in March and April. A list would be circulated covering those parishes involved. It was suggested there was an opportunity for a 'living lab' project. A number of residents could be involved to research how individuals can get engaged in lifestyle changes with involvement from a strong parish council and UNIS.

## **26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 8 April at 10:30am

**27. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Climate Change Comms Strategy was being developed and it was likely that it would initially take a broad overview rather than being too detailed with engagement specifics. It was stressed that Board should be putting out even simple messages as soon as possible.

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## Climate Change and Business Outreach

- Industry and commerce accounts for circa 22% of emissions (162.3 Thousand tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, 312 in 2005)
- Guildford pre Covid was identified as one of the top economies outside London (Lambert Smith Hampton Economic Vitality Index) with a GVA of £5bn
- The Borough is home to influential corporates including Colgate Palmolive, BAE Systems Applied Intelligence, SSTL, Phillips and Allianz. It is also recognised by Government as a ‘Digital Suburb’. Businesses can act as exemplars and advocates
- Our recent business survey identifies a desire for sustainable practices and for networking
- We have companies at the forefront of climate change technology and thought leadership
- We have our own leavers for change – procurement, planning and facilitation



# Case Study 1 – Ecopare

- Ecopare are based at The Surrey Technology Centre and have been helped by the Set Squared Partnership
- They provide energy management solutions and audits to commercial, industrial and educational clients (which have included GBC and G-Live)
- Current focus on aligning energy use with occupancy through use of motion sensors and thermographic auditing
- They have delivered over 328 projects with an average of 28% of savings on energy usage

(SOUTH EAST BUSINESS INTERVIEWS)


## INNOVATORS

# PRACTICAL ANSWERS TO ENERGY ISSUES

Like many businesses, Ecopare has had to remain flexible and alert to potential opportunities during the pandemic.

MD Craig Astfalk admits the past year has been challenging, but productive. His company specialises in analysing the energy use of

businesses in three main sectors – industry, education and commerce – and lockdown has opened some interesting doors.

"Many offices, warehouses and commercial premises are now being occupied by only a tiny percentage of staff, yet they are still having to

be lit and heated. We can help, by installing technology which is tailor-made to use.

"When people hear what we do, they come to us and say 'how can we reduce our heating and lighting costs according to occupancy?' We try to find the answers."



» The hall at Queen Anne's School, Reading, which Ecopare upgraded to LED lighting.

**WHAT DOES CRAIG'S TEAM OFFER?**

"When we get a request for help, the first thing we do is ask to see energy bills, so we can analyse costs. Then we make an on-site survey, spending up to two days understanding how the building works. We can then offer the company our analysis of the system and how we can help.

“

**WHEN PEOPLE HEAR WHAT WE DO, THEY COME TO US AND SAY 'HOW CAN WE REDUCE OUR HEATING AND LIGHTING COSTS ACCORDING TO OCCUPANCY?' WE TRY TO FIND THE ANSWERS.**

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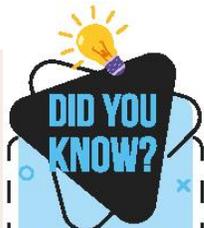


» Amelia and Craig Astfalk.

Craig, who was born in South Africa, but has lived in the UK for 20 years, has a background in IT for manufacturing systems, but diversified into providing consultancy for the sector. He founded Ecopare, which is based on Surrey Research Park, in 2011 and describes it as a "practical energy management company". The website outlines the range of services as including "thermographic auditing, power quality analysis and smart metering solutions". A key part of those solutions lies in LED lighting, which provides long-lasting, environmentally friendly and cost-effective systems for all sizes of business premises. The results are startling, with up to 80 per cent of savings in some cases.

If they agree, we will send our in-house electricians and technicians to install the power-saving technology." Premises left mainly empty during lockdown have benefited from the installation of motion sensors, so that only the sections of the building being occupied are lit or heated. This can be individually monitored from floor to floor of a business, said Craig.

At the moment, Ecopare is operating at part-strength with just four people including Craig's wife Amelia, who keeps a close eye on the admin side of the business. The rest of the small team is furloughed, but Craig is confident business will pick up when the pandemic is controlled and people can return to work. In the meantime, he and Amelia share home schooling for their 12-year-old daughter and observe a house rule of no business talk after 5pm. Craig is looking forward to returning to his hobby of fly-fishing and his wife to her tennis, but in the meantime they keep fit and enjoy family time walking in the woods near their home outside Guildford.



**LOCATION:**  
Guildford, Surrey

**ESTABLISHED:**  
1985

**KEY SECTORS:**  
Technology, science, health, space, engineering

**KEY FEATURES:**

- Furnished offices of all sizes including shared workspaces and self-contained office units.
- Award winning start-up business support available with on-site incubation hub, SETSquared – the global number one university business incubator.
- Access to R&D funding initiatives, leading advisors, recruitment support and training in addition to links with the University of Surrey's knowledge and talent base to maximise business growth and innovation.
- Facilities include a café, meeting rooms, breakout spaces, picnic areas, parking and preferential rates for nearby Surrey Sports Park.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The 170 businesses located on the Park generate over £1 billion of economic activity each year and create 4,000 jobs in Guildford.
- A number of tenants have won the Queen's Award for Enterprise, created global industry firsts and pioneered major medical breakthroughs.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**  
[www.surrey-research-park.com](http://www.surrey-research-park.com)

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021 | [WWW.SOUTHEASTBUSINESS.COM](http://WWW.SOUTHEASTBUSINESS.COM)

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For more information on available properties:  
01483 579 693 [www.surrey-research-park.com](http://www.surrey-research-park.com)



## Case Study 2 – NVH Global

- NVH Global are an R&D company set up in 1985 who look at innovative water, waste water and energy re-use
- They are developing processes that reduce the high energy costs inherent in desalination (Reverse Osmosis)
- They also have an SPV that has patented the production of hydrogen green energy from water
- The Team in conjunction with the University of Surrey have partnered with Fluor UK Ltd and Air products to create the first fully green bus network using hydrogen cells.



Minute Annex

## Business Survey – initial results

- Of those respondents who answered majority are focussed on reducing plastics, improving energy efficiency of premises and energy efficiency of operations.
- Few are doing active monitoring or setting targets for Net Zero
- Third say there are barriers to change including funding, listed building status/landlords or lack of knowledge
- 50% are keen to get more information and advice
- 50% are keen to be part of a local green business network



## Cambridge Clean Tech Network

- Cambridge Cleantech connects innovators, corporates, academics, SMEs and investors for a smarter, more sustainable future.
- This is a membership organization with a busy programme that includes:
  - Access to finance seminars
  - Meet the Buyer – meeting corporates and other organisations looking for green solutions
  - Green Career Fair
  - International events – clean water in Africa
  - Case studies



## Areas to explore: Business Engagement

- **Procurement** - GBC spends £50million a year on goods and services. Our new Procurement strategy has strengthened the need for our suppliers to have strong environmental credentials. Also boosting proportion of local suppliers shortens supply chains
- **Innovation and Sustainability Forum** in conjunction with the University of Surrey. Could follow the Cambridge Clean Tech Network model
- **Establish Guildford Climate Change Charter** - Ask Guildford businesses to sign to support say GSG or other commitments– Could be seen as a mark of quality and credibility
- **Local Climate Change Business Summit** – focus on thought leadership and sharing best practice
- **The University of Surrey’s Centre for Environment and Sustainability** can provide post graduates and academics to work in organisations on green projects. They have also established the Crest Awards for the Environment that celebrate excellence in sustainability
- Identify grant funding through **Grantfinder** and **LoCASE**.