**WaterCAN Waterside Climate Action Network**

**MINUTES** of Meeting held at The Grove, Hythe on **Monday 6 February 2023 at 7 pm.**

This Meeting was due to be for the **Household/Personal Sustainability Group (1)** but, after some general matters were covered, and because of the Members present this evening, it was agreed to change it to **Transport & Active Living.**

1 **ATTENDING :** Philip Dowd (Acting Chairman)

Helen Capstick

John Lawrence

Laura Mulley

Stephanie Osborne

Philip Thomas

Kathy Thornett

Brenda Smith

Mike Smith

**APOLOGIES:** Allan Fairhead

Lucie Mann

Dorothy Shirvell

Malcolm Wade

Janet Adshead

**2 CHARITY STATUS**

Stephanie and Mike (who has agreed to act as Treasurer) updated the group on efforts towards this and Mike is hoping to put the application for Charity Status in soon. The aspects of setting up a Bank Account for the group were discussed and Natalie Haigh (Clothes Swaps) has offered to advise and help set up spreadsheet etc.

**3 FACEBOOK PAGE**

Brenda will be working with Adrienne Dowd (an experienced local Facebook Administrator) to build the Facebook Page (Not a “Group”) using the original agreed Vision Statement as the base.

* An “Administrator” or Team will be needed to make sure there is no misuse.
* Free Speech “comments” can be useful, however, as they can be “answered”.
* Facility for information to be added, although it will be important to ensure “trusted” information.
* Brenda is still hoping Simon Chadwick (local Writer) can be given a simple brief to design a Logo but the group felt it must have a definite sense of “place” ie “Waterside”.
* Group felt that a Facebook Page would be particularly useful for promoting meetings, events, etc although email, and “Signal” would also be needed.

**4 WEBSITE**

Laura and Lucie and Helen, have started work on the Website and Laura is thinking of joining the software Forum.

**5 TRANSPORT AND ACTIVE LIVING**

Philip and John advised about their recent meetings and talked about the designs for the new development at Calshot Power Station where they felt it should be considering ‘people’ and ‘places’ ie Cycling, buses, public access etc. Despite previous meetings involving the Waterside Cycling Action Group, (WCAG) nothing has been done for 3 years about a Cycle Route from Kennels Corner to the Power Station. Phillip outlined the proposed route through Gang Warily and towards Fawley where he felt there were a number of difficult points to be resolved.

* It was suggested that this Group write to the Parish Council to stress the importance of moving forward with this proposed Cycle Path Network, stating that our Group have discussed its importance and benefit to the people from this Parish and Waterside generally, as they will want to use this for local access.
* HCC also need to be reminded of the importance of this aspect. Cycle groups in Fawley need to be encouraged to lobby. Collaborative work is needed.
* Government say they are putting money into “Active Living” so a stronger case from the combined community is needed.
* In view of the air quality issues in the area (2nd highest CO2 in HCC is **in** this area) we need to know what mitigations are in place for citizen’s benefit with further negative developments coming to the area, ie moving Totton Waste Depot to Hardley, Dibden Bay, Freeport etc

**6** There is a need to engage with the wider community…..many people don’t know what is affecting the environment and what is planned for the future.

* HCC Transport Plan – are people engaging?
* Can schools be asked to encourage children to cycle but it MUST be safe?
* New Cycle Path from Kennels Corner to Calshot development was originally required before the development of the residential aspect BUT this has changed and it seems the developers are now concentrating on the commercial development of the site ie Vesta storage of wind turbines.
* This new development is being marketed as an “EcoTown” but this can’t really be seen at present
* The group felt there is a need to approach New Forest D.C. to ask for works on the Cycle Path to be put in place before any further commercial use is extended.
* Section 106 document was promised but we need to know the latest position
* Suggested that a draft letter be prepared to send from Hythe and Dibden Parish Council, together with Fawley Parish Council (contacts Councillors: David McElhenney and Sally Read) as there is a need to show that both Parishes are pressing for the Cycle Path.

**7** Waterside Cycling Action Group understand that two new Cycling Routes are planned from the Totton area into the Waterside. One will be a TCF (Transforming Cities Fund) and the other LCWIP (Local Cycling/Walking Infrastructure Plan). Recent Government monies have been announced for these types of projects but it is a “Bidding” process.

**8 NFDC Climate Change Officer (Roxanne King)**

Members of the group understand that a new Officer has been appointed at NFDC and the members felt it important to start a meaningful discourse with this new Officer, possibly by inviting her to attend a Steering Group Meeting to let her know about the group and what it is working towards. (SO, to send invite).

**9 FUTURE ACTIONS**

* There is a need to ensure that Cycling Information and other Climate Action events etc is available to the public especially with so many busy local roads.
* If a simple A4 Sheet could be prepared on the cycling aspect and maybe another about WaterCAN itself, for Philip’s and Stephanie’s “Meet their Constituents” monthly events they could be handed out, as they are getting a lot of questions and it would be useful to have something to distribute. (PT to create)
* These A4 sheets could be put on the Facebook Page/Website.
* These and other handouts would be useful also if we can have a stall at such events as School Fayres; Church and Community events (a list of these and dates needs to be built).
* People could also be encouraged to leave their names and areas of interest.
* Minutes/Notes from our meetings could be distributed further.

**NB** Philip felt it is important also to ensure that within the future, **Transport and Active Living Group** we also talk about other aspects eg Walking, Buses, Trains etc.

**10 RESCHEDULED MEETINGS**

**Group 1 Household/Personal Sustainability** Monday 6th March 7- 8.30 pm

**Group 2 Action/Activism Groups** Monday 20th February 7-8.30 pm

**Group 4 Greener Energies** Monday 20th March 7- 8.30 pm