

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER 2022
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square

Present: **Councillor Ginny Boxall**
 Councillor Graham Hill
 Councillor Graham Titterington
 John Hubbard (Energy Alton)
 Phinna Brealey (ACAN)

In attendance: **Leah Coney (Town Clerk)**

12 **Apologies for absence**

All members of the Committee were present.

13 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Hill reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda. None were declared.

14 **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record.

15 **Updates:**

- a) **EV Charge Points at Anstey Park and Jubilee Fields** – The supplier identified to install EV charge points had undertaken the viability study for Jubilee Fields in the wrong location and are now reworking the plans. In respect of Anstey Park, a viability issue existed in so much as the cost of installing the required electricity from Anstey Road up to the Finnimore which was estimated to be in the region of £70,000. The tarmac pad just off the entrance off Anstey Road was identified as potentially suitable for an EV bay and would therefore reduce the connection costs significantly. This is now being re-costed.
- b) **E-Bike demonstrator and “Recycle your Bicycle” scheme** – The Clerk reported that the fold up e-bike loan scheme has been running all summer and has been very successful. Bookings can be made on line for the bike and will continue into 2023. The Town Clerk has been working with two members of local cycle clubs to put in place an event in June next year to promote cycling for residents for leisure, commuting and short journeys as well as encourage leisure cyclists to come to Alton for days out to enjoy the town and surrounding countryside. It is proposed to have a velo-village, stalls, workshops, entertainment and of course, lots of cycle rides led by local ride leaders.
- c) **Alton Energy Advice Café** – Flyers have been distributed publicising opening times a number of which coincide with Foodbank. There is a register of people coming in and the questions they are asking. There is a question-and-answer sheet/decision tree that has been put together that will be used as a base for training. There are two categories of users, the more well off who are looking to invest in their homes and those who are looking for assistance with reducing their consumption and costs. More volunteers are needed in the shop to listen and make cups of tea. Cllr Hill said he would be happy to

volunteer for a couple of hours each week. Community Energy Alton gave a £100 grant for set up. Energy Alton will pick up the cost of milk etc..
Secondary glazing is being fitted in the unit, Tony Cohen is arranging. More advertising, press coverage and social media is needed to push up the visitor numbers. Flyers will be given to the railway station, library, community centre etc..and targeting particular locations such as the Tuesday Market.

16 **Grant request from Royal British Legion**

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Boxall it was agreed to:

APPROVE a grant of £946 towards the installation of glazing at the Royal British Legion building in Anstey Park, replacing a number of rotten single glazed wooden framed windows with double glazed UPVC.

17 **Update from Energy Alton**

In summary:

- Home energy surveys very popular.
- Free energy survey for small businesses have just started
- A part time position is currently being advertised by Energy Alton to run home energy and business surveys, providing both project led and support. This is for 1 year and if Energy Alton are able to demonstrate the need for the role, they will look to further funding beyond this period.

18 **Update from ACAN**

In summary:

- The “Back on the Rack” event last week which was very successful.
- ACAN have been surveying young people on their attitudes towards climate change. The results are being discussed at a public Zoom on the 10th October.
- AVLAN have continued to undertake water sampling around Bank Car Park and Flood Meadows which is sent to Surrey Wildlife Trust.
- Funding is desperately needed for administrative support to helps as there is so much being done and the volunteers are at risk of being burned out. An application has been put into the Postcode Lottery for assistance but there are no obvious grant pots for revenue funding.

There was a discussion over whether there might be the potential to increase the cost code for climate change as part of the budget setting process for the Council for 2023/4 to provide revenue funding for this role. Councillor Hill commented that he would be happy to advocate for this and ACAN were asked to provide cost estimates. He also suggested that Neighbourhood CIL might be an option as an alternative funding source.

19 **East Hampshire DC Climate Change Fund**

Councillor Hill confirmed that there is no spending protocol, unlike funds such as CIL, so until this is in place, funding cannot be applied for. The blockage is the lack of policy, forms and the replacement of the Climate Change officer. This department now comes under the portfolio of the Director of Regeneration and Prosperity, Clare Chester and Councillor Hill

would contact her shortly for a progress update.

20 Zero Carbon Britain Seminar

Councillor Hill provided feedback on this training session which he attended. He got the sense that most councils were still at an awareness stage and all about communicating their climate change objectives rather than actually attaining them. He encouraged everyone to complete the carbon footprint calculator which he had circulated in advance of the meeting. He noted that a few district and town councils have set up Energy Advice Cafes.