

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 24th JULY 2024
Held in the Town Hall, Market Square**

Present: Councillor Barbara Tansey (Chair)
Councillor Don Hammond
Stuart Mills (Energy Alton)
Chris Chappell (Active Travel Representative)
Pennie Brown (Strategy Manager for Sustainable Growth, EHDC))

Apologies: Councillor Matthew Kellermann
Councillor Janice Treacher
Rod Painell (ACAN)
Erdogan Ornek (Youth Representative)
Janos Huszar (Potential Business Representative)
Harriet Coombs (Sustainable Growth Officer, EHDC)

In attendance: Wendy Simson (Assistant to Town Clerk)
1 member of the public

The meeting is quorum.

41 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.

42 Apologies for absence

Cllr Kellermann, Cllr Treacher, Rod Painell (ACAN), Erdogan Ornek, Janos Huszar and Harriet Coombs all sent their apologies.

43 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda.

None were declared.

44 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2024 were agreed as a true record. Cllr Hammond proposed that they are approved, Chris Chapell, seconded this, the Committee approved the minutes.

45 Questions/Representation to the Committee

The Assistant to the Clerk informed the Committee that there had been no questions received prior to the meeting. The member of the public was attending to hear the update on the LCWIP.

46 Climate Change Action Plan

The Assistant to the Clerk circulated copies of the updated Action. The Chair asked if the column titles would be repeated on each page, Cllr Hammond agreed to action this.

ATC Transport & Carbon Emissions – Cllr Hammond reported that clarification was required for the data, it was agreed that he would review the information and email specific question to Assistant to Town Clerk. Janos has been on leave, but a meeting is to be arranged.

Carbon capture from planting – Cllr Treacher's report was included in the meeting papers. The Assistant to the Town Clerk informed the Committee that hedging plants have been ordered for Anstey Park to fill gaps in the hedging on London Road, for the boundary at Jubilee Playing Fields and Whitedown Allotments. These will be a mixture of native plants including Hawthorn, Rowan, and Hazel. A small group of trees has been agreed for Jubilee Playing Fields next to the Scate Park, a selection of 11 varieties has been selected and the Assistant to the Town Clerk has agreed to order 3 of each (33 in total). These will also be inserted in the new hedging at Anstey Park.

The trees and hedging will be delivered in November as bare root stock, a call for help with planting will be assessed at the next meeting.

Retrofitting ATC buildings

Town Hall - Stuart informed the Committee that quotes had been collected for replacement of the 12 large sash windows at the Town Hall to compare against the secondary glazing quotes. It appears that the sashes are not original as they are softwood and the originals would have been hardwood, this may help get permission for replacement.

A Listed Building application has been made to replace the large windows at the three retail units for double glazed units, these usually take about 12 weeks so should be processed in August.

Stuart met with a representative from Energy Decisions who are a consultancy company who can research the feasibility of installing Ground Source Heat Pumps including surveying where the bore holes are going to be placed to check for other utility pipes and cables. It is suggested that an installation company be contacted to look at the feasibility of a heat pump before progressing to have the survey completed of the Market Square which will cost £1,500.

There are other minor improvements to be made to the building including replacing the fans in the toilets and the loft areas, these have been included in the project to refurbish the Town Hall.

Finnimore Pavilion – Cllr Hammond has reviewed the manuals for the heat pump but asked for the building plans which the Assistant to the Town Clerk supplied.

Edgar Hall – Men's Shed are investigating the opportunity to install 30 solar panels to the roof of the building which will generate 12,000 units of electricity a year. They are also fund raising to purchase double glazing units which they have members who can install. Floor insulation has already been installed.

Assembly Rooms – Funding has been agreed to progress with the Mitchell & Dickinson secondary glazing project.

Jubilee Bungalows – It is not possible to install cavity wall insulation as the buildings are timber framed and the gap is very narrow. Loft insulation is currently about 100mm, and this is to be increased to 300mm. A grant can be accessed from Great British Insulation Scheme, and this can be applied for by the landlord.

Quotes have been accessed for heat pumps to replace the boiler but there is not allocation for this in the 24/25 budget, it was agreed that this cost be discussed for inclusion in the 25/26 budget at the Budget Workshop on 11th December.

Energique – A meeting was held with the owner of Energique and Catriona from Energise South Downs, the meeting went very well, and a proposal for a community funded project is being drawn up including possible install dates.

The Kings Arms – The management have an action plan and have been able to access funding to support this, loft insulation is currently being installed.

Active Travel update – Pennie reported that EHDC have been sent a draft for review, this will then be put to Public Consultation later in the year for possible adoption in Spring 2025. Hayley Thorn from Hampshire Transport Team is to be invited to Alton to discuss the issues, Pennie agreed to ask Harriet to make this approach. Chris asked that the comments made last been included in the draft.

Cycle Alton are running cycle maintenance classes again for 2024/25. These were very popular in early 2024. There will be 2 sets of four classes each, one set in October 24, and the other set in February 25, eight in total.

The ends for the pump on the cycle pods have a fault and so the Assistant to the Clerk has ordered a new version which should be more robust.

The Cycling in Alton leaflet produced by My Journey Hampshire was originally created in 2020 and an additional 1,000 copies printed in 2022. The information needs to be updated and the Assistant to the Clerk has emailed the team who were involved at Hampshire County Council (HCC) about getting the information changed and then uploaded to the HCC website and a new print run completed.

47 Feedback from Green Homes Fair

Stuart informed the Committee that 75 people attended the event, 9 were as for detailed feedback, all of whom agreed it was very useful. It was agreed that winter was a better time of year for this type of project as residents were more concerned about heating, etc.

The Chair asked for a leaflet created by ALFI to be included with the papers, it was suggested that this be adapted and included in another ATC publication or printed as a new leaflet, to bring greater awareness to our open spaces in Alton.

48 Energy Alton Update

Stuart informed the Committee that SSEN have a new funding opportunity and Energy Alton are bidding for money to support low-income households reduce carbon emissions.

A village near Bramley has been working with Energy Alton to train volunteers to complete home surveys.

A new Local Area Energy Planning Tool is being launches; this will enable planning authorities to identify if the infrastructure is available to support new homes.

There are initial discussion about a solar farm which will have a 10% community ownership. There is little detail and Energy Alton have signed a NDA.

Stuart also informed the Committee that he will be leaving Energy Alton at the end of October. Interviews for his replacement will take place in September/October and if someone has been offered the role then Start will bring to the next meeting. Stuart confirmed that he would be attending.

49 Climate Change Grants

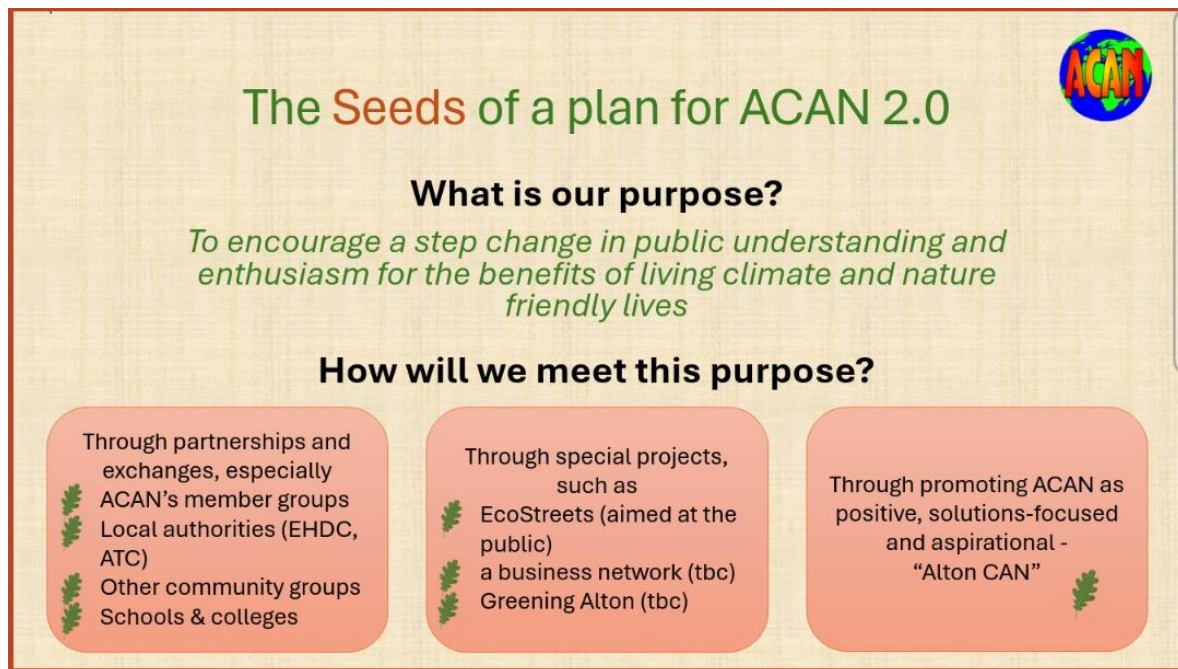
The paperwork for the Grant was discussed, it was agreed that the criteria listed in Appendix A should be changed to bring into line with the key actions for the Committee.

It was also identified that there were additional funding opportunities which could be added to Appendix B.

50 ACAN Update

The Assistant to the Clerk read out an update provided by Rod:

1. Mission statement/action plan for new ACAN. The preliminary concept and ideas are:



ACAN 2 will obviously be different from the original ACAN but luckily, we still have Jenny on board as a trustee to assist and advise.

We are hoping that at the next ACAN meeting in August a final game plan will be put in place by the trustees to move forward with our vision.

2. ACAN were successful in winning a bid from the Lottery Communities Fund "Awards for All" to support Young ACAN. Further discussion with ATC and others about future funding for our Eco Streets Community are planned with a meeting booked for 28th August. ACAN are also seeking funding from EHDC through one of their funding initiatives for Eco Streets Walk & talks and possibly education. Scott Gudrich has compiled a preliminary outline plan to assist with the bid to EHDC.

3. Rod had a meeting with Pennie Brown, EHDC, on 8th July to discuss funding opportunities and the Draft Climate and Environment Strategy.

4. Rod has a meeting with Ginny Boxall, EHDC, on 22nd July to discuss EHDC climate policy and how various groups (ACAN, PeCAN, Etc) can work together on various initiatives. Rod will contact PeCAN to discuss.

5. Details of carbon emission savings for Alton due to activities of the Repair Café and Alton Community Cupboard:

Repair Café:

2023 – 1512kgs

2024 (to date) – 1908kgs

Alton Community Cupboard:

2023 – food waste donations 33,284 kgs, equates to 103.5metric tonnes.

2024 is expected to be larger due to the recent opening of the Lidl store in Alton.

51 District Council Update

Pennie provided an update on the following:

- Our Climate and Environment Strategy is going to full council on Thursday 25th July - papers can be found here:
<https://easthants.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=4267>
- Community Climate Action Fund: This launched on 15th July and is open for 6 weeks:
<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate/community-climate-action-fund>
- LCWIP - it is anticipated that this will be out for consultation in the Autum and will be completed by March 2025

- EV – we are still waiting for EV provider to provide us with feasibility of sites in EHDC car parks in Alton
- LENZA tool - LENZA is a geospatial planning platform - The platform provides local authorities and their delivery partners with data and modelling tools that support informed decision making, including information on network capacity, building stock, and energy consumption. This tool can be used to inform energy projects
- Alton Leisure Centre Solar PV – going out to procurement - hope to be completed in the early new year
- Grow Up! We have this month received just over £1million from MHCLG to deliver the Grow Up programme. The Grow Up! Programme weaves six strands together to make one programme. These (subject to internal approval) are as follows.
 - Rural Grow Up! Hub - we are working in partnership on a central hub plus outreach activities to bring Grow Up! to the wider community. We are supporting projects that will teach people about farming, environmental sustainability, increase volunteering opportunities and a programme of workshops, and skills classes.
 - Grow Up! Community Fund - Over the summer we will launch a new grant fund for community groups and parish and town councils to fund community-led initiatives that align with Grow Up! It will focus on reconnecting residents with our district's rich rural heritage, providing volunteer opportunities and strengthening community cohesion.
 - The Rural New Directions outreach scheme – The programme will provide employment support for those newly unemployed (0-6 months) and the economically inactive. It is anticipated this project will be delivered between October 2024 to March 2025.
 - Rural Business Network - We will continue activity to support East Hampshire rural business, promote advice, opportunities, projects and funding to the local business community.
 - Kickstart Scheme – This project will offer 6-month work experience placements through local businesses.
 - Rural Grants - supports projects that improve local tourism and community cohesion in rural East Hampshire. This year, the fund will allocate grants of £300,000 to projects. We intend to launch the second round of the Rural Grant in August.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16th October 2024 at 9:30am

Ref.	Action	Person responsible	Date due	Comments
Aim 1.2	Meeting with Clerk & Head Groundsman to discuss electric tools	Cllr Hammond	30.06.24	
Aim 1.5	Review access to cycleway at Jubilee	Cllr Hammond & Chris	30.06.24	
Action plan	Add column titles to each page of Action Plan	Cllr Hammond	16.10.24	
Transport	Email questions about data to Assistant to Town Clerk	Cllr Hammond	31.07.24	
Transport	Arrange a meeting with Janos	Cllr Hammond	31.07.24	
Tree planting	Add tree planting support to the next agenda	Wendy	16.10.24	

Heat Pump	Contact installation company to look at feasibility of using at Heat Pump at Town Hall	Stuart		
Jubilee Bungalows	Apply for grant for insulation	Wendy	31.07.24	
Jubilee Bungalows	Allocation of funding for heat pumps to be discussed at Budget Workshop	Wendy	11.12.24	
LCWIP	Invite Hayley Thorn to meeting ATC/Cycle Alton	Harriet	16.10.24	
Cycle leaflet	All key stakeholder to be included in update with My Journey Hampshire	Chris & Barbara	16.10.24	
ALFI leaflet	Speak to Clerk & Emily about possibilities for adopting.	Wendy	16.10.24	
Grant p/work	Suggestion for appendix A & B to be sent to the Chair	All members	16.10.24	