

CEWG meeting notes – 15.03.22, 18:30 – 20:00

Present

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson
Maiken Hutchings (Green Travel
Coordinator - notes)
R■■■■ O■■■■

J■■ F■■■■ (Totnes Talks – arr. 18:50)
M■■■■ R■■■■ (18:55)
I■■ B■■■■ (TRESOC - 19:15)
Cllr John Cummings (19:20)

Notes

1. Introductions – who is here

2. Discussion of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan new Climate Emergency Planning Policy and Guidance consultation document.

Available here:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicyandguidance/climateemergencyplanningpolicyandguidance>

- Mitigation section is missing the key issue of water
 - Both in relation to water use within housing but also issues re flooding, etc.
 - The document should include this
- Questions as to whether the wording in the adaptation section is strong enough
- Sustainable South Hams SSH / South Hams Climate Action Network SH CAN have created a document to share thoughts on the planning policy
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PUWk33_W1Ju1YXgb-Fj7wrKMTEZmly2dolaiEfiXIBM/edit
 - Requires access permission, email JF for more info
- Comment in reference to the requirement in the doc, p. 23
“All EV charging to be at least 7kw for homes with 50% of communal bays to be connected and for commercial development charging points should be a minimum of 22kw;”
 - 22kW is almost a waste of money for charging - you need at least 50kW for a significant charge. You end up needing more charging points than with rapid chargers

- We are increasingly reliant on electricity – what happens when there is a power cut?
 - Passivhaus not mentioned – this would help in terms of heating
- We need for data when developers say they can't do stuff. Why can't they? This needs to be public information.
- PV panels should be mandatory and developers should have to apply for exemption not to do it
- A suggestion to bring more people in from different environmental groups (e.g., SSH and SH CAN) to discuss this planning document in more detail
 - Agreed that a meeting will be held Tuesday 29th March via Zoom. Jacqi will send link
- How does this policy apply to planning processes?
 - JH: it will be a part of the validation checklist
- Developers tend to demolish existing building and build from scratch. Doc highlights need to minimise demolition but retrofit needs to be included more in the document
 - JH – need to include a hierarchy with retrofit at the top
- Grade 2 listed buildings - extremely difficult and very expensive to try to make it more energy efficient. A lot of things that are prohibitive. Warrants looking at.
- Need for guidance from SH planning on where they stand in terms of PV in Totnes and conservation areas. Need clear guidance from SHDC.
- Brownfield sites – community use might get more priority if new developers cry viability re including embodied carbon of existing buildings etc.
- No mention of co-housing and terracing/shared walls

3. Pension investment fund divestment

- JH – Devon County Council Investment and Pension Fund meetings
 - Have taken out big chunk in the investments in Russia
 - The ones they haven't sold are the ones they can't sell because no one is buying
 - Central Government have said that pension funds need to think about how they can play a role in Levelling Up investments and to be national, rather than international
 - DCC have said there seems to be a deficit on renewable energy projects to invest in
- There will be projects to invest in now that government have removed the planning restrictions on on-shore wind
 - Huge potential, payback time is 3 months. Payback for solar is 5 years. Onshore is our biggest and cheapest resource
 - Orkney doing a lot of work here
 - Severn Barrage back on the agenda
- Enterprise Investment Schemes
 - Could this be put to DCC?
- Need to put a poll to pension holders on divestment at their AGM
- General discussion around structure of grid and exporting renewable into grid

4. AOB

IB - Energy Local

- Need roofs to sign up in Totnes for PVs
 - Become Part of an energy club
- This information can be accessed via TRESOC
 - Write to TRESOC and get on the list
 - Anyone can join consumer and producer (or prosumer, both)

5. Totnes Talks – Jim Funnell

- JF said that these were being considered in a different format, using livestreaming via FB so that viewers could watch live and send in questions via the FB page as the panel discussion or interview was taking place. He agreed to update the CEWG at a future meeting about these plans

6. Extra meeting: 29th March 2022 18:30 to discuss planning document in more detail
7. Next regular CEWG meeting: 19th April 2022, 18:30

ACTIONS

- Jacqi to send meeting link for the additional meeting 29th March 2022