

# Climate Emergency Working Group

22 November 2022

Hybrid meeting, Guildhall and Zoom

## *Present:*

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson – Chair

Cllr John Cummings

Frank Benatt - environmental campaigner

Fran Benatt - volunteer at Climate Hub

Maiken Hutchings – Sustainability Officer (SO - notes)

Jane Nichols – Sustainable South Hams (online)

Wendy Hartley - Totnes Supporting Fairtrade, and Totnes Churches Steering Group (online)

## Recommendations

- 1) CEWG recommends that £5000 of the Climate Change budget is allocated as follows:
  - a. £1000 for the Bike Hub towards recycling of materials and/or re-loved bike project
  - b. £1500 for Transition Town Totnes for a Climate Hub laptop
  - c. £2500 for the Mansion for electric hot water heaters for taps

## Actions

- 1) SO to see how TTC might be able to support the Power Allotments initiative
- 2) TTC to share the Local Nature Partnership consultation details on social media
- 3) Cllr Hodgson to link Cllr Cummings and Jane Nichols into the South Devon Catchment Partnership

## 1) Introductions

## 2) Budget discussion

### Allocation of Climate Change budget

- At the previous CEWG meeting it was agreed to support three groups with funding. These three groups had not been successful in their applications for the Town Council Community Grant but it was suggested they could receive funding through the Climate Change budget.
- There is £5000 available
  - Totnes Bike Hub applied for £3,996 for re-loved bike project

- SO has spoken to them and they could also use support for figuring out their cradle to grave with spare parts (primarily tyres, cost involved). Any support welcome.
  - The Mansion applied for £2,800 for electric hot water heaters
    - This is 50% of required amount – they planned to budget for the remaining amount in the new financial year
  - Transition Town Totnes
    - £1,870 for a laptop and printer for public use in the Climate Hub
- The group discussed how to split the money with various suggestions arising. Final agreement was made to **RECOMMEND** the following split:
  - £1000 for the Bike Hub
  - £1500 Transition Town Totnes for the Climate Hub
  - £2500 The Mansion

#### **Gardening for Wildlife booklet**

- Cllr Hodgson informed the group that she is looking into distributing the Gardening for Wildlife booklet (created by Dittisham) to Totnes residents. Costs would come out of the Climate Change budget
- Cllr Hodgson also informed the group that TTC is looking into distributing the final Climate Change Action Plan in a similar fashion if budget allows
- Jane Nichols highlighted that Carbon Savers have a course that is very digestible and which has top tips and resources, which SSH have a free login for free login through SSH. Suggested that we could use the newsletter articles from each of the modules for inspiration.

### **3) Power allotments**

- Power Allotments is a new not-for-profit initiative set up between Regen and community energy company Devon Energy CIC.
- Devon Energy Collective and Regen are supporting local councils, climate action groups, and community energy organisations to identify new sites for local renewable energy generation – and help to get the very best of these projects up and running.
- More information: <https://devonenergycic.co.uk/our-projects/power-allotments-devon/>

- Parishes encouraged to try to find a 5-acre site for PV panels or a wind turbine. Power Allotments will then work with the parish to get it all set up.
  - Joint meeting with the National Grid on the 7th December in South Brent. 25 spaces available. More information and sign-up can be found here: [LINK](#)

**ACTION:** SO to see how TTC might be able to support, e.g., by spread the word

- Suggestion that the land at the bottom of Barracks Hill – by the allotments – could be used for either PV or community composting

#### 4) Devon Local Nature Partnership - Recovery Strategy - “Consultation”

- Cllr Hodgson highlighted that Devon Local Nature Partnership are starting to create their Nature Recovery Strategy and are looking for feedback
- They are asking for people to join the LNP Forum and to complete their questionnaire
- More information can be found here: <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/our-work/local-nature-recovery-strategy/>
- Questionnaire here: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gzehjWjLP0S7S5I\\_d1b--EzJy4BjB9Gv94RbxE\\_5-hUNDJYTU84QTdEUjZONIdJVExXMThXTEdPMY4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gzehjWjLP0S7S5I_d1b--EzJy4BjB9Gv94RbxE_5-hUNDJYTU84QTdEUjZONIdJVExXMThXTEdPMY4u)
- It was suggested that the CEWG could work on this at a future meeting.

**ACTION:** TTC to share on social media

#### Short discussion around water / river issues

- Jane Nichols mentioned that SSH will be focusing on river issues next year
- Cllr Cummings briefly updated on a new collaboration happening between various stakeholders in and around Totnes
- John and Jane will connect to liaise
- John and Jane to connect re rivers issues – collaborative
- Cllr Hodgson mentioned the South Devon Catchment Partnership - meet every quarter - <http://south-devon.org/>

**ACTION:** Cllr Hodgson to link Cllr Cummings and Jane into the SDCP

## 5) EV strategy consultation

- Brief discussion around the Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy consultation
- Deadline 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/devon-electric-vehicle-charging-strategy/>
- Everyone encouraged to respond to the consultation
  
- Key points to highlight in responses:
  - Charging times are much too slow – need for rapid charging points
  - Draft strategy doesn't mention electric bicycle charging
  - What about commercial vehicles? These don't seem to be mentioned in the strategy.
  - What about solar panels PVs over car parks – EU now apparently stipulate no new car parks without solar panels

## 6) COP27 reflections

- Discussion of key outcomes based on a Guardian article <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/20/cop27-climate-summit-egypt-key-outcomes>
- General feeling of frustration over lack of positive outcomes

## 7) AOB

### **Devon Carbon Plan**

- Frank asked whether the recently released final Devon Carbon Plan will be discussed at any time
- Cllr Hodgson informed that it was briefly discussed at the last CEWG but that it might be worthwhile dedicating a full meeting to it. This will be considered.

### **Climate Change and Climate Justice event**

- Wendy informed the group of an event being organised by Totnes Churches on 21 January 2023 focusing on Climate change and climate justice focus
  - 10-3pm with a panel at St John's Church followed by discussion groups.
  - 7-9pm music and readings at the Methodist Church
- There is a planning meeting this Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 11-1230 at St John's – everyone welcome

**SSH Planet Local initiative**

- Jane told the group about a new SSH initiative called Planet Local
- Planet Local Festival in Bigbury on 3 December 2022
- <https://www.sussh.org/events/planet-local-festival>

End of meeting 20:15