

Time commenced - 6.05pm
Time finished - 6.50pm

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION 1 FEBRUARY 2010

Present: Councillor Ingall (Chair)
Councillors Banwait, Chera, Keane, Tuplin and Webb
Peter Robinson (Co-opted member)

91/09 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hird and Shanker.

92/09 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

93/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

94/09 Call-in and Councillor Call for Action

There were no items.

Items for Discussion

95/09 Longbridge Weir Hydro Plant

The Commission received an update on the Hydro Plant for the River Derwent. It was reported that the project had been delayed by studies, at considerable cost, that had been requested from the Environment Agency. There were now no more concerns and permission had been received to commission the project. It was noted that there were also plans to commission feasibility studies for two further plants on the Derwent at Borrowash and Darley Abbey, which could be commercially viable.

The Commission Members noted that it was positive that the excellent project was moving forward but questioned whether the weir would be affected by the tariff announcements. It was reported that as this was a big project it would be out of the remit of the feeding tariff. It was noted the weir would provide more electricity than it needed some electricity generated would be sold.

Concern was raised with regard to the heritage interest at Darley Abbey, as the site was used by the canoe club and other sporting users. It was reported

that site users would all be consulted and their views considered, but initially there was only thought as to whether the site would be viable.

The Commission were informed that the Derwent project would take about a year to complete, as there was a timely wait for turbines. It was noted that the project would contribute towards the Council's carbon emissions by a significant 2-3 percent.

Members felt that this project showed that the Council took renewable energy as a serious issue and congratulated officers on their work.

Resolved to note the update.

96/09 Topic Review

The Commission received a report on the outcomes of the Climate Change surveys arranged by the Commission as part of their Topic review. It was reported that the Commission had engaged Marketing Innovation to conduct a telephone questionnaire to determine the views of a representative selection of Derby people on climate change.

The Commission noted the highlights of the survey and were pleased to find that the respondents did not blame the Council and wanted to take their own responsibility for Climate Change. Members felt that one of the downsides was that residents found the changes difficult and did not know where to get further advice from.

Members agreed that there was a need to raise awareness that Climate Change was a shared responsibility of residents and the Council, although it was noted that residents were reluctant to invest from their own pockets.

The Commission reported that further work needed to be done at a national level with more schemes such as the boiler scrappage scheme. Although there would need to be further providers of the services with measures to reduce residents spending if they were prepared to join the schemes.

Andy Hills informed the Commission that the Climate Change Unit were working on a project with Rolls Royce, Derby University and Severn Trent to start a City wide communications campaign, to identify key points and deliver actions. The focus of the campaign would meet the key aims of National Indicator 186, which was a City wide strategy looking at housing, transport and businesses in Derby. It was reported that there would be a draft marketing plan with different events planned to attract the relevant target groups. It was noted that there would be a common brand for the project.

Members welcomed the communications project and requested that the Commission was kept informed of future planning of the project. The Commission agreed on the following recommendations which stem from the conclusions in the topic report, subject to the Chair and Vice Chairs approval following the meeting;

Recommendation 1

The Council should consider the public to be relatively well informed about climate change when producing marketing, educational or publicity information on climate change.

Reason for Recommendation 1

The results of the Marketing Innovation Survey demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the issues relating to climate change.

Recommendation 2

The Council should target any information which aims to encourage the public to take action to reduce their carbon emissions at the following groups

- Women (page 17 Marketing Innovations Survey)
- people of 'middle age' (Page 23 Marketing Innovations Survey)

Reasons for Recommendation 2

The Marketing Innovations Survey highlighted that it was these groups that were most likely to take action to tackle their carbon footprint.

Recommendation 3

In these economically trying times the Commission feels the Council should demonstrate cost savings associated with efforts to reduce carbon emissions in any information it produces on climate change.

Reasons for Recommendation 3

The population of Derby is not worried about climate change. Any actions taken so far have been done to save money or have been externally imposed. The survey demonstrated affordability was the key for those taking action. The public stated that they did not want to receive any further information on climate change, therefore demonstrating any potential financial savings may engage them to a greater extent.

Recommendation 4

The Commission recommends that any publications should adopt a 'we're in this together' approach which both informs the public about what the Council is doing on their behalf and provides information about what they can do to combat climate change.

Reasons for Recommendation 4

In the Marketing Innovations Survey 54% of those surveyed and in the Pointer Panel 81% of those surveyed believed everyone is responsible for climate change. The research also demonstrated that the public felt that Local Government should lead by example on these issues.

97/09 Street Lighting

This item was withdrawn due to officer unavailability until the next scheduled meeting of the Commission.

98/09 Climate Change Strategy

The Commission received the Climate Change Strategy report that had been approved by the Council Cabinet on 12 January 2010.

Members noted that Strategy and requested that they were consulted during any future reviews of the document.

Resolved to note the report.

99/09 Response of Council and Council Cabinet to recommendations of the Commission

There were no items.

100/09 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END