

Zero Carbon Working Group 15.9.22

Chair: Ali Ross (Cllr), Councillors : Doug Banks, Michael Hanley, Officers: Fergus McMorrow (Planning Officer), Corentin Cortiula-Phelipot (Sustainability Team Leader, EDC) , Linda Debenham (Support Officer to Leader), Officers: Ellie Hill, Rachel Butler, Peter George (environmental planning manager).

Report by Michael Hanley.

1. Nutrient Neutrality

Fergus McMorrow (FM): Treatment (of nutrient overload) can be with wetlands. We need to see how we can take forward mitigation. The Water Authority will be required to upgrade their waste water treatment. The target date is 2030.

Ali Ross (AR): Is there any clarity on monitoring any of the mitigation measures, who will do this?

FM: The responsibility is with the developer. The authority will decide whether to approve the application. We consult Natural England about this. If we don't follow the rules we may be subjected to a judicial review.

AR: How will the effectiveness of things like wetlands be monitored?

FM: I don't know how they will be monitored.

Peter George (PG): A wetland has a certain capacity for removing phosphorous from the water. The developer assesses what quantity of nutrient will be produced by the development. We need to explore this with Natural England. The onus may be put on the developer to monitor.

AR: With wetlands, will multiple developers share responsibility?

FM: We are looking to work with other organisations such as The Rivers Trust and other environmental organisations such as The Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

2. Sustainability Update

Rachael Butler (RB): We are looking for contractors to come to assess public buildings. We applied for funding but were unsuccessful. We will apply again next year. Penrith and Appleby Leisure Centres and the Town Hall are included.

Corentin Cortiula-Phelipot (CCP): Discussed gas and electricity consumption of various public buildings.

AR: Observed that gas and electricity consumption didn't decrease during the pandemic years, why? Also asked about solar panels and whether the electricity was being created was being used in these buildings.

CCP: Did not know whether the solar power was being used directly.

FM: We sell the power from the solar panels to the grid.

Pilio Energy Management Software: This monitors emissions of carbon from gas, cars and vans. Targets can be set up and the software can help with this.

AR: Waste collection and management will be one of the biggest carbon emitters.

CCP: We haven't set a target yet. We need to see how we are procuring. I sent a request asking for a rough estimate of the carbon produced by the contractor's (Urbaser, waste collection) trucks etc but I did not get a reply.

AR: Our contractors should not be able to ignore our requests.

CCP: It is difficult for me to go to Urbaser and ask for information.

FM: It's a corporate issue on these contracts. It's very complex, each contract is different.

Corentin can feed in zero carbon considerations.

AR: The Urbaser contract is for five years. I hope we will not have to wait until the end of the contract to influence the contractor. There is no way we will achieve zero carbon by 2030 if we do that. We were given reassurance by Les Clark that we would be able to influence the

contractors with regard to Zero Carbon. I am keen to see we are influencing the biggest carbon emitters.

3. Carbon Literacy Training

Ellie Hill (EH): 62 (35%) of the staff have been trained. We train 12 at a time.

AR: How many members (councillors) have taken part?

EH: 7 members.

CCP: We will organise more training for members.

AR: Can we require that members and staff do the training?

EH: It's still optional.

Michael Hanley (LH): Asked whether an on-line course could be designed.

AR: The Carbon Literacy Certificate is national.

4. Eden District Council Land Assessment

Phase 1: Land use using aerial photography looking at wildlife areas, ponds, green spaces etc.

Also site surveys, habitats and species surveys. Cumbria Wildlife Trust are doing phase 1.

CCP: We can use this assessment to restore habitats and plan for nutrient mitigation (wetland).

5. Electric Vehicle Charger Installations

EH: We are waiting to see if we are successful with Plug and Go (Drovers Lane). If so then chargers will be installed at the Leisure Centre. We applied to the LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) fund but were unsuccessful (most of the grants from this fund have gone to big urban centres). ORCS (Onstreet Residential Charging Scheme) gives less money. We will apply to this. With ORCS we can put EV chargers in car parks. LEVI was for on-street chargers only.

MH: It is important that some of the chargers be the fast chargers (22Kw, 80% battery charge in 40 minutes).

5. COP 26 Community Fund

The council has had their first application that day. They are setting up a grant panel.

Doug Banks (DB): We are looking to put solar panels on our village hall.

MH: What grants can be applied for?

CCP: You can apply for grants to improve the natural environment, increase sustainability, promote community engagement, create renewable energy: solar, wind turbines. It is aimed at community groups.

Next Meeting 17.10.22.