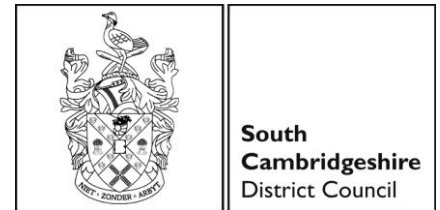


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4 June 2021

To: Chair - Councillor Pippa Heylings
Vice-Chairs – Councillor Dr. Martin Cahn & Geoff Harvey

Members of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee –
Councillors Paul Bearpark, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone and
Peter Fane

Substitutes: Councillors Heather Williams, Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya,
Nick Wright, Tom Bygott, Ruth Betson, Eileen Wilson and
Judith Rippeth

Dear Sir / Madam

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Climate and Environment Advisory Committee**, which will be held in **Council Chamber - South Cambs Hall** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **Monday, 14 June 2021 at 2.00 p.m.**

Yours faithfully
Liz Watts
Chief Executive

The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you

Agenda		Pages
1. Apologies		
2. Declarations of Interest		
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021.		1 - 6
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes		
5. Certificate of Excellence from IESE for the Council's Green to our Core Work		
6. Report on the Climate & Environment Fortnight		7 - 12

7. **UKYCC/Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill (Katie Williams and colleagues)**
8. **Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document - Report to Follow (Key)**
9. **Chalk Streams Report Presentation by Guy Belcher, Cambridge City Council** **13 - 14**
10. **Resources and Waste Strategy Consultations, Bryony Rothwell, RECAP Waste Partnership Manager**
11. **Green Investments Update - Waterbeach microgrid scheme**
12. **Forward Plan (Report to Follow) and Date of Next Meeting**
To note that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 2pm.

To agree an extra meeting on Wednesday 22 September at 2pm to discuss the Local Plan.

Guidance For Visitors to South Cambridgeshire Hall

Notes to help those people visiting the South Cambridgeshire District Council offices – please also refer to the [Covid-security measures relating to meetings in the Council Chamber](#)

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Security

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Emergency and Evacuation

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- **Do not** use the lifts to leave the building. If you are unable to use stairs by yourself, the emergency staircase landings have fire refuge areas, which give protection for a minimum of 1.5 hours. Press the alarm button and wait for help from Council fire wardens or the fire brigade.
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You are not allowed to bring into, or display at, any public meeting any banner, placard, poster or other similar item. Failure to do so, will result in the Chair suspending the meeting until such items are removed.

Disturbance by Public

If a member of the public interrupts proceedings at a meeting, the Chair will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chair will order their removal from the meeting room. If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Chair may call for that part to be cleared. The meeting will be suspended until order has been restored.

Smoking

Since 1 July 2008, South Cambridgeshire District Council has operated a Smoke Free Policy. No one is allowed to smoke at any time within the Council offices, or in the car park or other grounds forming part of those offices.

Food and Drink

Until the lifting of Covid restrictions, no vending machines are available. Bottled water is available for attendees at meetings.

Guidance Notes for Members of the Public Attending Online Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to view the livestream of this meeting, except during the consideration of exempt or confidential items, by following the link to be published on the Council's website.

Members of the public wishing to participate in a meeting, for example, by registering in advance to ask a question, are strongly urged to participate remotely, rather than in person. **You do not need to attend South Cambridgeshire Hall to speak at a meeting but can do so online.** [Please refer to the protocol applicable to attendance at physical meetings held before 21 June 2021.](#)

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If you would like to turn on live captions and subtitles, please select the Captions/Subtitles On button [CC], in your video controls. This can be found in the bottom right hand corner of the video.

For more information about this meeting please contact democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk

Agenda Item 3

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee held on
Tuesday, 9 March 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Pippa Heylings
Vice-Chairs: Dr. Martin Cahn & Geoff Harvey

Committee Members in attendance:

Grenville Chamberlain
Graham Cone
Peter Fane

Councillor in attendance:

Bridget Smith

Officers:

Patrick Adams	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Jonathan Bell	Green Energy Investment Manager
Peter Campbell	Head of Housing
Emma Dyer	Project Officer - Climate and Environment
Jane Green	Built and Natural Environment Manager
Siobhan Mellon	Development Officer - Climate and Environment
Trevor Nicoll	Head of Environment and Waste
Liz Watts	Chief Executive

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Jose Hales.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Grenville Chamberlain declared interests as Chairman of the Caravan and Motorhome Club, which uses a site by the Cherry Hinton, within the chalk pits and Director of Cecil Instruments, which has two commercial properties adjacent to Milton Country Park.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Fens Biosphere Project

The Chair explained that following the Committee's recommendation, Council had passed a motion to become the first authority to support the designation of a Fens Biosphere and encourage other neighbouring local authorities to do the same.

Retrofit software

The Chair reported that Cabinet had agreed the Committee's recommendation to purchase a one year licence for software to assist the retrofitting of homes.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chair gave a summary of the achievements of the Committee, since it had been founded three years ago, including:

- Eliminating single use plastics and improving recycling at the Council's offices.
- Reviewing evidence regarding biodiversity and tree cover in the district, leading to the development and adoption of the Doubling Nature Strategy.
- Reviewing evidence around greenhouse emissions from the District:
 - Work from Cambridge University including an in-depth report on emissions from our housing sector.
 - Held a Members' workshop, which led to the development and adoption of our Zero Carbon Strategy, including targets for reductions in Council emissions.
- In line with the Zero Carbon Strategy, recommended changes to our hackney cab and taxi licensing policy.
- Identifying gaps in the current Local Plan in relation to zero carbon targets and providing input into the development of new Sustainable Design and Construction supplementary planning guidance.
- Calling for an updating of the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, which was now underway.
- Receiving a presentation from Cam Valley Forum on the conservation of chalk streams.
- Calling for evidence to underpin strong policies on water, zero carbon and biodiversity in the new Local Plan, all now underway.
- Recommending improvements in monitoring air quality across the District
- Recommending the setting of a specific budget for climate and the environment, now in place.

The Chair thanked the officers for setting up a voluntary officer working group, which became the Green to our Core transformation board. She welcomed the fact that the Council had three officers dedicated to sustainability.

The Leader of Council welcomed the review of the Committee's work and congratulated the Chair for the Committee's achievements over the last three years.

6. Cambridge Nature Network, presentation from James Littlewood of CPPF

James Littlewood of Cambridge Past, Present and Future gave a presentation on how the Cambridge Nature Network aimed to restore the natural habitat in the Greater Cambridge area. He asked the Council to support the Network and its priorities. He requested that these aims be recognised in the Local Plan, the supplementary planning guidance documents and the OxCam arc framework.

The Chair urged members to watch the film on sustainable farming in the area made by Carbon Neutral Cambridge for the Council's Climate and Environment Fortnight of online events.

The Leader stated that the aims of the Cambridge Nature Network should complement the promotion of sustainability in the OxCam arc. She supported including the aims of the Cambridge Nature Network in the Council's Local Plan. She hoped that the Combined Authority would also support these priorities.

In response to questions from the Committee, James Littlewood:

- Recognised the challenges in promoting biodiversity on farmland, especially if there was a change that the land could be developed.
- Assured the Committee that the Network was working with other like-minded organisations to help achieve its ends.

Members of the Committee made the following points:

- District authorities had a duty to promote and create recreational parks.
- The Future Parks Accelerator programme could help create nature sites.
- Local neighbourhood plans could help to create green spaces.

The Built and Natural Environment Manager explained that the Council was already working with Natural Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Past Present and Future, as part of the Local Plan consultation process. It was noted that the Government's delayed Environment Bill will require local nature recovery networks to come forward and provide some of the details including on how these will be governed. The proposal would be taken into account in the Green Infrastructure evidence base which will come to Members for them to consider, alongside the many other evidence bases. As part of the Green Infrastructure evidence work, officers were looking at potential biodiversity projects, as deliverable projects will be needed if the Council goes down the biodiversity net gain route. It was noted that a small working group of officers would be meeting with partners, probably at a countywide level, to look at deliverability of specific biodiversity projects. Officers would come back with further detail as it emerged.

The Council supported the proposals of Cambridge Nature Network in principle and agreed to continue to keep in on the agenda and to monitor progress towards implementation of its aims.

7. OxCam Arc Environmental Principles (Cllr BZ Smith, Liz Watts)

The Leader reported that the OxCam Arc Leaders' plenary had agreed the environmental principles, which had to be accepted by the partner authorities. This would allow the Council to work in partnership to achieve sustainable development. There had been a compromise over the wording regarding the aim to achieve net zero carbon by 2040, which had been amended to a "target" rather than a "commitment".

It was noted that the Government wanted to progress the development and so it was important for the environmental principles to be agreed without delay. The Chief Executive estimated that it would take 18 months to implement the Strategy,

with permanent officer support from the Arc.

The Chair thanked the Leader and Chief Executive for the additional work that they had carried out on this issue.

Members of the Committee recognised the need for the different stakeholders to work together to ensure that the development in the OxCam Arc was sustainable.

The Committee expressed the hoped that the environmental principles would be agreed by the Council's partners. The Committee recommended that Cabinet adopt these principles.

8. SCDC Housing Asset Management Strategy Report (Peter Campbell)

The Director of Housing presented this item on the Housing Asset Management Strategy. He explained that this was to be agreed in time for the first quarter of 2021/22. He invited comments from the Committee on the Strategy.

In response to query regarding possible improvements to private rented homes, the Director of Housing explained that the Housing Revenues Account could not be used to finance any initiatives outside the Council's housing stock.

The Director of Housing advised that the Strategy should not be too specific on the new technologies to be used to promote energy efficiencies in the Council's housing stock.

The Director of Housing explained that the Council needed assess whether its units were too expensive to bring up to standard and so should be demolished. The Council had no control over Right to Buy, but properties could not be sold for less than the amount paid by the Council on the home in the last 15 years.

The Director of Housing agreed to consider whether the homes could be made more water efficient and would look at best practice.

The Director of Housing explained that Ermine Street Housing Ltd would produce its own Asset Management Strategy, as they were a separate company.

The Director of Housing explained that a Stock Condition Survey would be required to identify which properties needed to be upgraded and then a strategy would be agreed on how to carry out this work.

The Committee agreed with the Director of Housing suggestion that a joint working group be set up, consisting of officers, members and tenants. Councillor Geoff Harvey offered to serve on this Group.

The Committee **Noted** the report.

9. ZCC Grant Update (Emma Dyer) and Presentation from Cambridge Carbon Footprint on Plans for their Net Zero Now project

The Climate and Environment Project Officer presented this report on the progress of the Zero Carbon Communities grant funded projects funded in round one, provided an overview of the projects funded for round two and gave a brief update on the format for the soon to be launched round three. Applications for round three would be accepted from 10 May, for three months to 30 July, which was an amendment on the dates stated in the agenda on page 90.

The Committee thanked the Climate and Environment Project Officer for her hard work not just in awarding grant funding, but also the advice provided for various groups via many methods of communication, including a newsletter.

Alice Vodden from Cambridge Carbon Footprint gave a presentation on this organisation and their Net Zero Now project. She agreed to provide a link to the information about the project on the Cambridge Carbon Footprint's website, which could be sent to parish councils and residents. She confirmed that it was important to work in partnership to ensure that there was a single network, where best practice on achieving net zero could be shared.

The Development Officer – Climate and Environment explained that there was information on the Council's website on what parish councils and community groups could do at local level to attempt to help achieve net zero carbon emissions.

10. Green Investments Update (Jonathan Bell)

The Green Energy Investment Manager presented a report, which updated the Committee on the different opportunities for making green investments and provided a summary of the projects currently being undertaken. He was pleased to report that the County Council had signed the Energy Services Framework.

The Green Energy Investment Manager explained that the Council was still waiting for clarification from the Public Works Loans Board on the rules regarding loans for green energy projects. He was confident that the Council could justify green investments due to the benefits that they would deliver.

The Committee **Noted** the report.

11. Review of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Initial Recommendation Report Focusing on Transport and Buildings (chair)

The Chair explained that the Independent Commission would be releasing an interim report on 16 March. It was agreed that members of the Committee should review the report. The full report would not be issued until the summer. The Chair suggested that a working Group could be set up to review the full report if it became available between Committee meetings.

12. Forward Plan and Date of Next Meeting

The Head of Environment and Waste explained that the Resources and Waste

Strategy consultation would commence later this month and he suggested that the Committee should review this at its next meeting. It was agreed that the Committee should receive an update on signing-up to Heritage Declares an organisation that promoted energy efficiency in heritage buildings.

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 May at 2pm.

The Meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.

Agenda Item 6



14 June 2021

REPORT TO: Climate and Environment Advisory Committee

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Bridget Smith

LEAD OFFICER: Head of Shared Waste Services and Environment

Climate and Environment Fortnight of Online Events Update

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the recently held Climate & Environment fortnight of online events.

Key Decision

2. This is not a key decision. The purpose of this paper is to provide members with an update on the Climate & Environment fortnight of online events held in February and March and to provide an opportunity for the Committee to comment.

Recommendations

3. The committee is invited to review and comment on the update provided and agree the recommendation to repeat the Climate & Environment fortnight of events next year.

Details

4. As part of the actions listed in the corporate business plan, Action C2 states to 'Work with partners to protect and enhance the environment with the aim of doubling nature' Holding a climate summit in quarter 3 was the measure put in place to fulfil this. However, due to the disruption caused by Covid, it was decided to hold a series of one-hour online events for the general public instead.

5. The free events, aimed at a variety of audiences took place from 25th February until 5 March to help people think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and in turn help tackle climate change.
6. In order to achieve the best possible results, we partnered with various organisations who were able to offer their expert advice and tips while also allowing for audience participation. This method of delivery did not require extensive resource to put on and demonstrates the benefits of online events in terms of Officer time and accessibility.
7. Feedback from all events has been very positive and to allow those not able to attend to still benefit, a recording of each event has been uploaded to the Council's [Nature and Climate Change webpages](#)
8. The first online event, **Open For Business Greener Businesses** was aimed at those people wanting to reduce the carbon footprint of their business while saving money at the same time. Chaired by the Council's Commercial Development & Investment Project Officer and expert panellists from Bouygues, Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership, Investors in the Environment and Peterborough Environment City Trust, advice was given including:
 - How to become more energy efficient through investment in capital infrastructure.
 - Case studies from businesses that have identified ways to reduce their impact on the environment.
 - What schemes are available across the region to help access renewable energy sources and reduce costs.
 - The environmental and social benefit of reducing carbon footprints and becoming more sustainable.

This event attracted 66 attendees and has since had 161 views

9. The '**Sustainable farming in Cambridgeshire**' organised by Carbon Neutral Cambridge was the most popular event- attracting over 500 attendees. Chaired by John Shropshire OBE, one of the commissioners of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Change, the event shared the experience of five commercial farmers from the Cambridgeshire region on how they are adapting their farming practices to help cut carbon and double nature. The event included a film (funding for which was provided by both the Council and the Combined Authority) which has been recognised globally achieving 1370 views. There was also a Q&A session to allow farmers, rural landowners and policy makers to find out more information.
10. '**Shrinking your carbon footprint**', from Cambridge Carbon Footprint was an event aimed at residents, which provided an opportunity for learning about carbon

footprints, reducing carbon emissions and living more sustainably. 33 people attended the event and the recording has achieved 77 views on YouTube to date.

11. Cambridge Sustainable Food presented **Food for our Future- Whose responsibility is food waste?** This workshop tackled the question of ‘Whose responsibility is Food Waste?’ and included talks, discussions and an update on their recent Food for our Future campaign which was funded through our ZCC grant scheme. 23 people attended the event with a further 47 people having viewed the recording after.

12. **School Streets- a greener way to travel**-was a lunchtime event, introduced by Councillor Bridget Smith and chaired by [Camcycle](#) who talked about their Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Transport Committee approved [School Streets scheme](#) (another project given ZCC grant funding), to encourage safer environments around schools to enable more people to walk and cycle on the school run. The event, which attracted 20 people and has had 82 viewings to date, covered what was needed to get schemes up and running and how to overcome obstacles.

13. The **Greening your older home, tips and inspiration** event was aimed at those people owning an older or listed property. In this event, The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service provided up to date [guidance](#), hints, tips and local case studies on making older or historic buildings more energy efficient, without damaging their historic significance. Unfortunately, the original planned event was hijacked by zoom hackers and needed to end abruptly. However, the event was rescheduled as a zoom webinar as opposed to a zoom meeting and ran very smoothly. The event had double the attendees second time around, with 65 recorded and has since achieved a total of 135 views.

14. When planning the fortnight of events, an initial idea was to include a **Young Persons’** event. However, due to Covid and safeguarding issues this proved quite a challenge. Instead, it was decided to signpost schools and communities to the work being done by the shared waste team in terms of providing talks to schools on reducing waste and recycling.

15. Recordings and information from the events, indicating the Council’s involvement were featured in the Solutions Fair part of the prestigious [Earth Optimism event](#), organised annually by Cambridge Conservation Initiative, which ran from 26 March - 4 April 2021. Figures for these viewings are shown below:

webpage	Video views	Page views
School Streets: a greener way to travel	13	44

Greening your older home, tips and inspiration	44	155
Greener businesses	17	80
Regenerative farming in Cambridgeshire	35	148
Shrink your Carbon Footprint	50	181
Food for our future	35	556

Options:

16. Climate and Environment Advisory Committee could:
- Note the delivery of the Climate and Environment fortnight of events and/or
 - Highlight any concerns or comments
 - Agree to repeat the fortnight again next year.

Implications

17. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

18. The events recommended are within the Council's proposed budget for 2021-22.

Effect on Council Priority Areas

19. Climate & Environment fortnight of online events has attracted significant interest.

Growing local businesses and economies

20. Investing in renewable technologies

Being green to our core

21. Supporting community groups to promote behavioural change and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels

22. Helping communities to secure grants to fund green projects

23. Protecting and enhancing the district's heritage and environment

A modern and caring Council

24. Funding community and voluntary groups that benefit local people

Report Author:

Emma Dyer – Project Officer, Climate and Environment
Telephone: 01954 713344 (Teams)

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Agenda Item 9



**South
Cambridgeshire**
District Council

Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 14 June 2021
Lead Cabinet Member:	Bridget Smith
Lead Officer:	Trevor Nicoll

Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Project

1. This report introduces a presentation on the Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Project from the Cambridge City Council Biodiversity Officer.
2. The project arose from a cross-boundary Water Summit held in 2019, which identified the need to establish a baseline of the current condition, threats and opportunities facing the chalk streams. Cambridge City Council and Cambridge Water commissioned the Wildlife Trust and the Wild Trout Trust to assess the health of the 17 main chalk streams emerging from the aquifer in South Cambridgeshire. A draft report providing a brief overview of the main problems affecting these and the key opportunities to improve each one, was completed in December.
3. Local communities and other interested parties were invited to add their knowledge of the watercourses and how they can best be protected and restored to the report, which was open for comments until 4 March.
4. The draft report can be viewed on Cambridge City Council's website at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/chalk-streams>.
5. The purpose of the presentation is to further the conversation about what needs to be done, where, and by whom, to facilitate funding and delivery of projects to improve the health of local chalk streams.

Report Author:

Siobhan Mellon, Development Officer Climate and Environment
Telephone: 01954 713395

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