



Norfolk Climate Change Partnership: Portfolio Holder Group Notes of meeting on

Wednesday, 7th February 2024 – 09:30-11:30

Location: Microsoft Teams

Item	Lead	Start	Est. time
1. Welcome & apologies for absence	Cllr Vardy (Chair)	09:30	
<p>Present: Cllr Vardy (Chair), Cllr Davis, Cllr de Whalley, Cllr Hampton, Cllr Overton-Neal, Cllr Suggitt, Cllr Varley, Cllr Wells, Jason Cole, Ged Greeves, Kate Rawlings, Greg Pearson, Jonathan Ward.</p> <p>Apologies received:</p> <p>Cllr Crane (sub: Cllr Suggitt), Lorraine Gore (BCKLWN), Steve Blatch (NNDC), Paula Boyce (GYBC), Annie Sommazzi (BDC & SNC), Phil Hunt (Norwich CC), Deborah Carr (Norfolk CC), Al Collier (Norfolk CC).</p>			
2. Minutes of last meeting (paper attached)	Cllr Vardy (Chair)	09:35	10 mins
<p>Cllr Davis requested an amend be made to item 7 of the minutes to be called Beati Passive.</p> <p>Cllr De-Whalley – provided an update on the Tidal barrier meeting referenced in the minutes. This meeting had taken place and an informal working group had been established, with terms of reference in place.</p> <p>The notes were agreed.</p>			
3. Fast Followers Project Update (presentation)	Jonathan Ward (NCCP)	09:45	15 mins
<p>Jonathan Ward provided an update on the premise of the Netzero Norfolk Communities project and the work undertaken to date. He outlined that the following seven communities had been selected and were in the process of being formally endorsed by the communities themselves: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breckland – Swaffham (town) 			



Our partners include:

- **Broadland** – Brundall ward (including Brundall, Postwick, Witton, Strumpshaw, Cantley, Limpenhoe & Southwood)
- **Great Yarmouth** – Ormesby ward (including Ormesby St Margaret with Scratby, and Ormesby St Michael)
- **King’s Lynn & West Norfolk** – Marshland St James Parish
- **North Norfolk** – Stalham Ward & Parish (including Stalham & Sutton)
- **Norwich** – Eaton
- **South Norfolk** – Loddon (town) and Chedgrave (parish)

Main work to date had been engaging with 13 town/parish councils and residents’ organisations.

Feedback received from portfolio holders: -

Cllr Vardy – really positive, great project, we all have responsibilities to influences this.

Cllr Davis – Lots of misinformation about in the public arena, it would be great to have a factsheet demystifying issues around climate. He raised a question around the Strategic flood Alliance and how much information we are giving people. Jonathan Ward suggested that open homes might be a useful tool as well as a factsheet so people could see retrofit examples working well in people’s homes.

Cllr Vardy – suggested that including something in the Your Norfolk magazine might be helpful. Greg Pearson agreed to pick this up.

Cllr de Whalley – Construction industry has a role in this, we need to take a fabric first approach to addressing this. There is a need to promote retrofit actions more positively highlighting the benefits to residents e.g. better insulation means cheaper bills.

Cllr Overton-Neal – A summary of the different actions that people could take would be very helpful. Also, it would be great if this could be turned into a factsheet for councillors that could be distributed to town and parish councils.

Cllr Suggitt – Agreed with the points made, raised the risk of missing groups from our approach. Anything produced needs to be in plain English and must be mindful not to put people off making changes.

All portfolio holders agreed to formally endorse the selection of the seven communities chosen.

Actions

1. **Use ‘Your Norfolk’ Magazine to do some myth busting (GP)**
2. **Create a factsheet for councillors to make them aware of actions that residents can be shared with town, parish and community groups (JW & GP)**

4. Partnership Update (presentation)	Greg Pearson (NCCP)	10:00	15 mins
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Greg Pearson provided an update on the partnership work undertaken since the last meeting. Key points included: -

- Significant amount of partnership and relationship building with a number of key stakeholders.
- Provided an update on the Community Energy Fund being managed by the GSE NetZero Hub. 2 full applications received plus a number of expressions of interest awaiting funding decisions. It has been agreed with the hub that a lessons learnt report will be developed from the bids to enable Norfolk to generate more successful applications in future bid rounds.
- Update on the County council work on developing an energy plan for Norfolk
- Update on two pilot projects on thermal imaging and climate literacy for communities
- Outlined current national consultations and review publications:-
 - [The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
 - [Proposals for heat network zoning 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
 - [Adapting historic homes for energy efficiency: a review of the barriers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

5. Regional Climate Change Forum update – including key advocacy messages (paper attached)	Greg Pearson (NCCP)	10:15	10 mins
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Greg Pearson provided an update on the East of England regional climate change forum that he and Cllr Vardy attends. He circulated as part of the meeting pack the agreed list of advocacy messages that the forum had start to develop for comments.

The portfolio holders discussed and agreed the development of a set of advocacy messages for Norfolk which would be broadly similar. Cllr Davis raised the need for a message around funding – particularly seed fund to demonstrate what can be achieved.

6. Portfolio Holder Discussion; to provide some space on the agenda for Portfolio Holders to share what their councils are doing, share intelligence and raise topics.	All	10:25	20 mins
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The portfolio holders used this item to bring forward any updates from their organisations they wanted to highlight and raise awareness of key issues across the county.

Cllr Vardy – highlighted the positive work of coastwise.



Our partners include:

Cllr Varley – provided an update to the group on the work programme of Coastwise and shared the following link if members wished to explore in more detail [Home | Coastwise \(north-norfolk.gov.uk\)](http://Home | Coastwise (north-norfolk.gov.uk)).

Cllr Overton-Neal - updated on the successful delivery of several public sector decarbonisation fund projects within South Norfolk, including heat pumps at Diss leisure centre and the Horizon Building, as well as solar PV at the leisure centre and one of the council's temporary accommodation buildings. She added that they were proud to be leading by example.

Cllr de Whalley – Highlighted the financial challenges for the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk around the Internal drainage boards and how they are working with other councils to ensure that these are properly funded by government. He highlighted some of the work the council was focusing on around the decarbonisation of its buildings and improving its scope three carbon accountancy.

Cllr Davis – Reiterated the delivery of the heat pumps at the Horizon building. He highlighted the new construction skills hub being created in Broadland to improve skill. He had recently attended a flood event hosted by Duncan Baker MP which highlighted a lot of different opinions about what was causing the problems around flooding. He also highlighted that there were links between the work of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance and the internal drainage boards and raised how the portfolio holders could use their roles to prevent duplication of effort.

Cllr Hampton – Updated on the development of a city-wide climate action strategy, which the Norwich Climate Commission will be advising on the scope of. The City Council are revising their corporate plan with a greater focus on climate change which is one of the areas which will see proactive budget growth.

Cllr Overton-Neal – raised the issue of drainage systems and SUDs in developments. A number of developers are not completing their SUDs conditions. Great awareness raising with developers needed around their responsibilities in this areas.

Cllr Vardy – updated on the recent meeting the county council had held with the Norfolk MPs around funding for climate change. It was a constructive conversation which aimed to raise the profile of the issues in Norfolk.

Cllr Suggitt – Updated on the recent Breckland NetZero Business forum, 2400 trees delivered at Oxborough Hall with the Woodland trust and the delivery of solar panels and destratification equipment at Dereham leisure centre, and the ongoing consultation on their local plan. She highlighted the need for planning policies to be in place from the start to be able to enforce actions, as well as a skills gap with finding ecologists. She fed back that this group was important to act as a forum to feedback from all the other groups happening across Norfolk.



Our partners include:

7. Forward Plan	Greg Pearson (NCCP)	10:45	10 mins
<p>Greg Pearson raised with the portfolio holders what items they would like to see on a forward plan for this meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Davis feedback that he would like to use this meeting as an opportunity to share intelligence from other forums and meetings that they attend and use it to help prevent duplication across Norfolk. All portfolio holders agreed with this.</p> <p>Cllr Suggitt raised that it would be good to look at benefits realization and to track how we are doing. As well as using evaluation and monitoring of work carried out to feedback learning points.</p>			
8. AOB	Cllr Vardy (Chair)	10:55	5 mins
None raised.			