

Torbay Climate Partnership

Minutes

15 December 2023

10 – 12:15 pm

Whitley Room, Paignton Zoo/Teams

Attendees: David Edmondson (Chair), Jacqui Warren, Emily Reed, Claire Malkin, Emma Magee, Cllr Fox, Rachel Geary, Liz Muir, Melanie Border, Ross Green, Daniel Vickridge, Lara , Jenny Hunt, Chris Gunson, Matt Newbury (Tonic Creatives)Tanny Stobart (Play Torbay) Ivy and Agata (Play Torbay)

Apologies: Dave Stewart, Tom Dauben, Rob Parsons, Cllr Law, Cllr Billings, Roger Stoker, Tara Bowers, Cllr Twelves, Matt Green, Chris Gomm, Jordan Pierson, Helen Warren (New CEO Coast and Countryside Trust)

1. Welcome

David Edmondson as Chair welcomed everyone to today's meeting. David explained that Dennis Flynn had stepped down as the Chair of the TCP. On behalf of the Partnership he expressed thanks to Dennis and Claire Malkin for all their work and for kindly hosting us and providing refreshments for meetings.

Partners were asked how they would like to find a new chairperson. Liz Muir and Chris Gunson suggested someone from outside the Partnership with a high profile and who can reach out to others that we cannot manage to access. They could be from outside the Torbay area/wider Devon area. **Action: Partners are asked to provide any suggestions for a new Chairperson to Jacqui Warren in advance of the next meeting so that we can begin to make approaches.**

David also thanked Roger Stoker for his hard work supporting the Partnership. Roger is changing roles so will no longer be able to support the Partnership. Jacqui Warren and Rachel Geary will pick up this function going forward.

2. Previous Minutes

David Edmondson ran through the actions from the TCP's 15 September 2023 meeting.

- Jacqui Warren has updated the Net Zero Target to 2050 in the new Action Plan.
- Melanie Boarder is setting up the TCP Comms Subgroup and they will meet in January 2024. **Actions: Any partners wishing to be involved to contact Jacqui Warren (Cllr Law and Tara Bower have already expressed an interest).**
- Liz Muir asked to carry forward the action for Matt Green and herself to meet and discuss Parkfield as a climate hub for young people. **Action: Carry forward to next meeting.**
- Jacqui Warren arranged for Dan Vickridge from SWISCo to attend this meeting.
- Jacqui Warren arranged item 4 of this meeting to focus on young people engagement.

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 15 September 2023 were accepted.

3. Updates

3a – Torbay Climate Emergency Action Plan Update

Jacqui Warren, Principal Climate Emergency Officer and Rachel Geary, Climate Strategy and Project Officer, Torbay Council, provided an update on the new Greener Way for our Bay

Framework and Action Plan and the communication materials available to support the live consultation and wider engagement plans. Jacqui Warren also provided some early feedback on the consultation so far:

- 104 results so far
- 48 Positive short surveys
- 27 Long surveys (some mixed comments)
- 29 Negative short surveys
- More male responses than female
- Most responses from 55-74 age group
- 65-74 age group disagreeing the most

David Edmondson stressed the importance of all partners helping to carry out work to promote this new consultation.

Emily Reed will respond from Devon County Council. A word version of the form will be sent to Emily. **Action: Rachel Geary to send a word version of the survey**

Ivy from Play Torbay said she found that the Questionnaire was easy to fill out. She also offered to promote it through Doorstep Arts. **Action: Rachel Geary to send materials to Ivy.** David Edmondson thanked Ivy and recognised that many young people are struggling with climate anxiety.

Action: Melanie Boarder to provide list of sites for promotional postcards to be sent to.

Action: Liz Muir and Rachel Geary to liaise and provide postcards to all Community Builders.

Chris Gunson said she liked the graphics, and that Spark are going to push the consultation in January 2024.

Other suggestions received included contacting:

- Carolyn Custerson
- Leisure and volunteer groups and Healthscape CIC
- Brixham Chamber of Commerce (An existing TCP member)
- Active travel groups
- Health and Wellbeing Board (weekly newsletter).

Action: Tonic and Rachel Geary to liaise and approach such groups.

Item 3b – Creative Engagement Support

Matt Newbury of Tonic Creatives verbally updated the Partnership on their commissioned work for the Partnership. Including:

- A new marble run to engage people has been made and is in use
- A willow sculpture to gather ideas from the public has been made and is in use
- Attending various events - EcoFest, Playing in the Street, Big Bay Bakes, Future Proof, Turning heads, Lupton House, Groundworks South, 365 Swim project Torbay, HAF – Holiday Activities and Food program.
- They have also created and distributed an promotional activity sheet for young people that will be sent to all schools.

Matt Newbury asked for contacts within the business community, as they are struggling to gain traction. He also asked that partners share Tonics social media posts on the Greener Way for Our Bay.

Some suggestions received included contacting South West Business Council (via Emily Reed), Torbay Business Forum. **Action: Tonic to contact them.**

Cllr Fox asked how the work was going. Tonic have had no safety issues to date. David Edmondson is meeting with some representatives of the 7 Concern Citizens to try and engage positively with this group.

Play Torbay's Ivy and Agata both said that not enough information is given out in schools and there appears to be a lack of caring about tackling climate change in their schools.

Action: Jenny Hunt to share the promotional materials available with the new Youth Hub.

Torbay Harbour Authority and Coast and Countryside Trust's TCP representatives should be contacted to support the creative engagement plans. **Action: Tonic to contact them.**

Item 4 Engaging Young People

Verbal presentations were given by Play Torbay's Tanny Stobart and Ivy and Agatha who are Young Volunteers with Play Torbay and Liz Muir. Davina Luther of Groundwork South was ill and unable to update all on their work engaging young people.

Tanny from Play Torbay presented on their work. Play Torbay are a small local charity that has been encouraging children to play outdoors for nearly 25 years. They believe in the power of Play. They work with school age families, especially those that are disadvantaged or have suffered adverse life experiences. In a recent survey about young people's concerns, carried out by the group, the environment came out on top. Therefore this has become a focus of the work they do.

During Covid they provided play packs for 1500 families in 2021 and connected with more families during the pandemic than before, but they also had a lot of vandalism on their sites.

They have a Play and Ecology Strategy that includes raising awareness about climate change, energy conservation, sustainable food, health and wellbeing, supporting Biodiversity, sustainable transport, reducing waste and water conservation

Achievements so far:

- they have built a polytunnel
- held their first green market place that over 100 people attended
- received funding for Forest School from Brixham Chamber of Commerce
- worked with young people with autism through ASRUS
- won Best Holiday Club in 2023, and
- set up junior placements (including Ivy and Agata) to help expand their reach.

Agata and Ivy then presented on the environmentally friendly Play Packs that were given out, including the 'How to be an Eco Champion' pack and how to make bunnies and eco salt dough decorations. They also shared personal stories about how they first got involved with Play Torbay and how it is a safe, inclusive and calm environment. All the children they see over Christmas will get a play pack and a food pack. Children are also given things to do at home and encouraged to play outside.

The Partnership congratulated them on their incredible work.

Liz Muir asked about the biggest challenges and Tammy said it was funding. They did get HAF funding which has made a real difference, but they would really like more funding to do more work with partners like Tonic and Tree surgeons.

Liz Muir also asked how the Partnership can help. Tammy said she would like to report to the Partnership more often. **Action: Jacqui Warren to invite Play Torbay to regularly come and present.**

David Edmondson mentioned the Community Infrastructure Levy as a source of possible funding. He also suggested that Tanny talks to Liz Muir who has just been through the funding process. **Action: David Edmondson to share the funding forms.**

Melanie Boarder offered her congratulations and said the Geopark would welcome an invitation from Play Torbay to become a Geopark member. This would offer branding support and possibly access to a heritage lottery small grant. Members can use themes of the Geopark to secure up to £5000 of funding. Phase one is open at the moment and phase 2 is coming online next year. **Action: Melanie Boarder to share the information with Tammy.**

Action: Rachel Geary to compile a list of all the mentioned local funds for Tanny including local ward funding and Life on Edge (South West Water).

Liz Muir then provided a verbal update on Imagine This. It is run by Torbay Communities and funded by the lottery. In 2018 local young people were consulted about their concerns. Young people said they wanted:

- Safer streets
- More spaces to hang out
- Reduce stress and anxiety
- **To protect the environment**
- Greater access for all

Impact groups have been set up to address these issues in Torbay. The Protecting the Environment Impact Group includes a group of partner organisations and will be looking into funding and plans in January 2024. Young people have asked for activities along the coastline and would like to feel safer hanging out in greenspaces. Imagine This will be reaching out to this Partnership for support soon.

The Partnership welcomed this work with young people. Jenny Hunt asked about Parkfield as a hub to support this work. Liz would like to present to the Partnership on Parkfield's plans. **Action: The next TCP meeting in March to be held at Parkfield. Liz Muir and Jacqui Warren to arrange.**

Item 5 Roundtable

Emma Magee provided an update on bathing water quality within Torbay. Most are ranked as good. Goodrington is ranked as sufficient. **Action: Emma Magee to send over a full update.** Beaches receiving anything other than Excellent have to undergo improvement plans.

Chris Gunson and Rachel Geary raised booking issues with the Make it Net Zero Torbay business programme. **Action: Jacqui Warren to raise issues with SWMAS who run the programme.** Jacqui Warren is also aware of issues, however, the scheme now provides 1:1 support for some businesses in need.

Jacqui Warren updated all on the Council's recent net zero work, including a £600k bid for government funding to install heat pumps at Paignton Library and three newly installed electric vehicles for staff use.

Agata and Ivy offered to help with contacting young people through Locomotion.

Dan Vickridge stated that SWISCo are keen to be involved with sea grass restoration and noted Tammy's comments about the state of play parks. There is an open door for her to come to him for help. **Action: Dan Vickridge to present on i-Tree at the TCP's March meeting.**

Emily Reed updated all on the [Devon, Cornwall and the Isle of Scilly Adaptation Strategy](#). It has now been published. She would like to work with the Partnership on more action around climate impacts in Torbay. Emma Magee would also like to see this. **Action: Jacqui Warren to arrange this.**

Rachel Geary raised the idea of an interactive, publicly available, map to pull together partner organisations work in Torbay. **Action: Rachel Geary to explore the idea of using Google maps.**

Jacqui Warren asked for ideas regarding the new Chairperson to be sent to her by the end of January not before the next meeting. **Action: All partners by 31 January 2024.**