**Torbay Climate Partnership**

**Minutes**

**7TH March 2024**

**10:00 – 12:15 pm**

**Parkfield House, Paignton**

Attendees: David Edmondson (Chair), Jacqui Warren, Emily Reed, Cllr Fox, Rachel Geary, Liz Muir, Matthew Green, Daniel Vickridge, Chris Gunson, Chris Gomm, Helen Warren (New CEO Coast and Countryside Trust) and Tara Bowers, Lousie Marshall and Aaron Haverson.

Apologies: Dave Stewart, Tom Dauben, Emma Magee, Rob Parsons, Cllr Law, Cllr Billings, Jenny Hunt, Jordan Pierson, Melaine Boarder, Lara Ruetsch

1. **Welcome**

David Edmondson as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed Louise Marshall and Aaron Haverson from Active Devon. David also welcomed Helen Warren to the group, as the new CEO for Coast and Countryside Trust. David also introduced Alex Carter, the Climate Strategy and Project Officer from Torbay Council to the Group.

David wanted to note thanks to Davina Luther from Groundwork for all her work in the Torbay area and with the partnership.

Councillor Lewis will be taking the place of Cllr Twelves at all future meetings.

1. **Previous Minutes / Actions**

David Edmondson ran through the actions from the TCP’s 15th December 2023 meeting.

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| Action | Owner | Action Open or Closed? |
| The action on finding a new chairperson is covered in item 5. | All | Open. |
| Liz Muir asked to carry forward the action for Matthew Green and herself to meet and discuss Parkfield as a climate hub for young people. | Liz Muir / Matthew Green | Open. |
| Rachel Geary sent a word version of the GWFOB Survey out to Emily Read. | Rachel Geary (RG) | Closed. |
| Melanie Boarder sent a list of sites for postcards to be sent out to. | Melanie Boarder | Closed |
| Rachel Geary sent postcards out to Liz Muir and the Community Builders. | RG | Closed. |
| Jenny Hunt to share the promotional materials available with the newYouth Hub. | Jenny Hunt | Jenny was unable to make the meeting, this action is be kept open. |
| Jacqui Warren followed up issues raised by TCP with SWMAS on the live Make it Net Zero Torbay programme. | Jacqui Warren (JW) | SWMAS haverecognised some issues and 1:1 support is now available where required.  Action Closed. |
| Jacqui Warren to arrange meeting with Emilly Reed and Emma Magee to discuss climate change risks in Torbay. | JW | Update: This work has been progressed.  Action Closed. |

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

**3a: Update on the Greener Way For The Bay Framework and Action Plan Consultation**

Rachel Geary gave an update on the progress of the consultation responses;

* There have been 516 responses to the consultation so far.
* 257 Positive short surveys
* 142 Long surveys (some mixed comments)
* 100 Negative short surveys
* More male responses than female
* Most responses from 55-74 age group
* 65-74 age group disagreeing the most

Matt Green queried if the work of Tonic were included within the received responses, Jacqui Warren confirmed that this qualitative data was going to come in a separate report and would supplement the survey results.

Rachel Geary stated that 30% of the respondents were from younger people but that over 55’s was still the predominant age range for most of the survey responses.

Louise Marshall stated that they would be happy to share the consultation through the bulletins to garner more responses.

**Action: Rachel to share information/key messages with Active Devon to share.**

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

**Action: All partners to push the consultation one more time**

**3b: Tonic’s Creative Engagement Programme**

Jacqui Warren gave an overview of all the events that Tonic have been running across the Torbay area as part of their engagement programme for the Greener Way for our Bay (GWFOB). Jacqui highlighted that they had engaged with over 1,000 people since November, through 6 events such as eco-fest and other partner events, 10 creative engagement sessions and 5 young people events + more.

All members stated they were extremely impressed with the engagement work that has been done by Tonic, particularly with the level of profile and awareness they had raised to support the consultation.

**Action: Jacqui Warren to ask Wild Planet Trust to be a partner.**

**3c: Next Steps for the Greener Way for Our Bay Framework and Action Plan**

Jacqui Warren ran through the process for the finalising the Framework and Action Plan once the consultation had finished. Currently, there were no fundamental changes to be made only minor tweaks and adding in some new suggested actions that had become apparent from the consultation responses. A new draft of the Framework and Action Plan would be shared with members in early April for comments before bringing a finalised version for approval to the group at the next meeting in June. An internal council approval process would be running alongside this, with council endorsement likely to be in August 2024. Some of the council actions from the Plan are being captured in the council’s internal action plan to ensure delivery.

**4: Active Workplace Challenge - Active Devon**

Louise Marshall gave an overview of the role of Active Devon and its action within the Torbay. Their initiatives such as ‘Active for Life’, which supports the health and wellbeing of young people and ‘Live longer, better’ which is a flagship initiative within the Torbay area. They also offer Free Adult Cycle Training Sessions to support adults within the Bay and give them confidence.

Lousie explained that as part of their ten-year plan, they have launched their Torbay on the Move Challenge (Link to the challenge [here](https://activedevon.org/torbay-on-the-move-active-workplace-challenge/)), to encourage organisations and businesses within the area to get moving through challenging them to actively travel. This is the first time this challenge has been tried within the Bay but is aimed at creating behavioural change. Sign ups to the challenge have beaten their expectations with over 380 people have signed up currently. A BikeHub is also being set up in Parkfield this summer.

Aaron Haverson highlighted his work to reduce the carbon emissions of Active Devons operation and supporting their partner organisations to define and calculate their carbon footprint. Active Devon has calculated its scope 1 carbon footprint and are in the process of capturing more of their scope 2 and 3 emissions. Alongside this is the development of an action plan which focuses on looking at what positive changes they can make to reduce their own emissions and provide best practice to others. He is also supporting the understanding of the environmental impacts of travel and how active forms of travel can have the added benefit of reducing carbon emissions and supporting people’s health and wellbeing. The aim of this work is to spark positive action from their wider communities and providing a source of real-life inspiration to others.

1. **Recuriting a new Chairperson**

David Edmondson highlighted that there had been several suggestions from members for a new chairperson, such as Abigial Leaman, David Hodson OBE and Guy Watson (Riverford), Martin Harris (unleashed Theatre Company), however, there was still no clear candidate for taking on the position.

Councillor Fox suggested David Dimbleby and Sir Dominic Acland

Chris Gunson also suggested Helen Warren may be a possible future candidate. Helen agreed that the TCCT CEO role does fit well with the Chair position but that at the moment she couldn’t commit the time as she is only 3 months into her role. She would be happy to be considered in the future should the group be in agreement.

It was felt by the group that it may be beneficial to split the role between a chairperson and a more ambassador-oriented role, with the aim to promote the partnerships presence in the various strategic groups and meetings across Torbay/wider region.

**Action: David and Jacqui to approach the suggested candidates**

**Item 6 Roundtable / AOB**

Liz Muir stated that Torbay Communities was through to the next round of ARSINOE funding. ‘Imagine This’ has an environmental group who are exploring a new Climate Action Fund. This will look at engaging with more young people in the bay. They are also working with the Apricot Centre on a cultural development funding bid.

Chris Gunson gave an overview of some of the activities that had happened at Parkfield recently, with the Devon Wildlife Trust and Groundwork, planting several apples trees on the estate.

Matt Green stated that the college is installing a new roof with Solar PV and several Air source heat pumps. The college recently held it’s ‘Go Green’ week which had been a great success with lots of engagement with students, with activities organised by Tonic, sign ups offered by Active Devon and information on Torbay’s Sea grasses. The college has also planted over 500 trees on its campus. They have their global studies and sustainability diploma and foundation degree in global change and sustainability. Matt highlighted that it may be beneficial to have the course tutor come in and discuss the apprenticeship with the group.

**Action: Matt Green to organise a presentation at the next TCP.**

**Action: Matt to share the press release on the ‘Go Green’ Week and the new roof, solar PV’s and ASHPs.**

Tara Bowers gave an overview of the work ECOE were doing in Torbay. The Healthy Homes project is currently helping 100 households a month. As part of this work, they have hired a specific lead officer for Torbay to support this outreach work.

Through MCS foundation funding, they’ve started a retrofit programme to help, those able to pay, get domestic surveys completed. 30 have been paid for and they are already highlighting that Air Source Heat Pumps are a viable solution in most cases.

Tara stated that ECOE was working with a couple of organisations to develop some potential local energy projects i.e. solar, which would enable the sale of energy to local communities but also enable local households to buy their energy from this provision.

**Action: JW/AC to speak with TB about possible energy solutions for the Torbay Council Estate Buildings.**

Emily Reed stated that they were monitoring the Devon Carbon Plan and looking at new indicators. They were also exploring several bids to put forward for net zero funding from the South West Net Zero Hub (SWNZH).

Helen Warren stated that as the new CEO for the Coast and Countryside trust she was in the initial stages of developing the trusts long term strategic plan and through meetings such as the TCP, was assessing the joined-up actions that would form part of this strategy.

Jacqui Warren highlighted that the Council was bidding for the SWNZH’s Local Net Zero Fund, to support decarbonisation of a large strategic site.

Jacqui Warren gave an overview of the devolution deal that is currently out for consultation. The deal would create a combined authority between Devon County Council and Torbay Council, and government would delegate funding to deliver agreed priorities in the local area. The funding for this deal is around £16m and would provide capital funding to support several areas including housing, energy systems, heat networks, building retrofit and green skills.

**Action: Jacqui to share a link to the consultation**

Jacqui also mentioned the Climate Action Fund, for which she had a upcoming meeting with Torbay Communities to discuss putting in a bid

Rachel Gery queried if it would be valuable to have a dedicated TCP website to share the partnerships actions and best practices.

**Action: RG/CG/ to explore this option.**

**Action: Daniel Vickridge to present on SWISCo’s work at the next meeting.**

Chris Gomm asked for each member to double their efforts in pushing the surveys through their channels before the end of the consultation at the end of March.

David Edmondson thanked members for attending and providing their input into the session. The next meeting of the partnership would be in June and potentially be held at South Devon College.

**Action: Jacqui Warren/Matt Green to organise.**