



## WIRRAL CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Draft minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012

1 **Introductions and apologies**

Present: Cllr Alan Brighthouse, Wirral Council; Cllr. Brian Kenny, Wirral Council; Other names redacted

Apologies received from:

Names redacted

2 **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Materials from Invest Wirral had been circulated.

Last year's carbon reduction programme had been circulated although updates had not been sent back. **Agreed: All to send updates to the programme to as a matter of urgency**

The CRed Matters e-bulletin had been sent out – although slightly later than planned. Promotional material for the Warmer Wirral 'Last Chance' Promotion had been circulated.

The survey link for the 'What Really Matters' consultation had been circulated.

Under matters arising NAME REDACTED reported that St Helens Council had not been able to fulfil their role as lead authority for the CLASP-supported Liverpool City Region health and climate adaptation project. Unfortunately this meant the money allocated to the project had now been withdrawn.

3a **Introducing the work of Wirral Environment Network –**

NAME REDACTED introduced the work of Wirral Environment Network (WEN). WEN is an educational charity established for 25 years. WEN is an umbrella group for other environmental groups in Wirral. WEN works on a variety of projects and programmes (funding dependent) including: tree wardens; Fairtrade; community re-paint scheme; food growing/community allotments (has poly-tunnel). NAME REDACTED works on the Sustainable Living project giving public presentations and talks about sustainable living to charities, schools and community groups. By making the conversation about sustainable living: cars, transport etc. it was more accessible - 'climate change' sometimes came across as an abstract idea. WEN is funded by charitable donations and funding bids. It works with and supports a variety of groups, e.g. Transition Towns West Kirby and Incredible Edible Hoylake. There was scope to work with other partners in the climate change group. NAME REDACTED who had been with the network for many years. **It was agreed WEN be invited to part of the Climate Change Group.**

3b **Parks, countryside and green spaces strategy –** NAME REDACTED reported that work had commenced on the development of a Parks and Countryside Strategy. One of the ten themes planned was climate change. A draft strategy would be developed for spring. Thereafter there would be a consultation programme with adoption later in 2013. There were many links with climate change: SUDs (sustainable urban drainage systems); food/allotments; green space – cooling/shade; biomass planting, composting, micro-generation; habitat creation. The consultation would include various 'Friends of' groups. NAME REDACTED highlighted the opportunity to make health a strand across the strategy and the need to link with the Health and Wellbeing Board. NAME REDACTED welcomed comments which could be sent to him via: EMAIL ADDRESS REDACTED

4 **The Habit: There and back again: Adventures with Wirral Council's Energy Awareness Programme –**

NAMES REDACTED gave a presentation about their work promoting energy awareness across Wirral Council. Points raised included: Raising awareness is a process to improve understanding and develop skills that enable changes in social attitude and behaviours. A *habit* takes six weeks to become normal behaviour. Information overload and telling people what to do does not work. Neither does poorly targeted programmes. Engaging an audience face-to-face and making it personal to them is vital. It is important to invoke a future worth fighting for. Energy awareness work at Wirral Council is integrated across numerous fields. It involves engaging people in two broad areas: schools and council buildings. In schools a 'whole school' approach is employed which engages teachers, pupils, catering staff, caretakers, bursars and governors. Somerville Primary is an example where the whole school approach has worked well. For council buildings a similar 'whole council' approach is pursued. Information is included at induction, available on the intranet, through a network of energy champions (supported with training, a newsletter and champions guide). Posters and campaigns have been produced in partnership and linked to related initiatives, e.g. promoting home energy conservation making it more likely to be taken up at work. Looking ahead the use of e-learning modules is being investigated, a library campaign to switch off public computers when not in use is being planned based on earlier 'walk-round' audits, thermal imaging is to be offered, and some Christmas 'walkabouts' to check computers have been switched off. There is scope to develop campaign materials in partnership.

5 **Replacement climate change strategy**

NAME REDACTED reported on progress since the last meeting:

The climate adaptation survey is still live. Thus far 556 people have taken part. The survey was open until [the end of December – extended from 14 December reported at meeting]. **Partners were encouraged to promote participation by sharing the survey link via email lists.**

The 'cutting climate pollution' workshop was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012. NAME REDACTED thanked partners for encouraging participation. In total 44 people had taken part. There had been a good mix of people including those from local businesses, from voluntary and community groups, partners in the climate change group and members of the public. Thanks to NAME REDACTED at the Environment Agency, NAME REDACTED of Climate UK had taken part in the event and given a presentation to set the scene.

The workshop had been split into two main parts, one to consider where we are now and the other to reflect on what needed to happen next. The first part had involved a mapping exercise which had helped identify some existing projects and programmes and a SWOT exercise to identify perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Strengths commonly cited included existing partnership working and legislation. Some of the main weakness included a lack of awareness and information, limited finance, and a perceived lack of commitment. Opportunities were seen to exist in relation to education, creating employment, exploiting new funding mechanisms such as the Green Deal and developing links with the health agenda. The main threats perceived related to the impact of spending cuts and inconsistencies between policies.

The second part – reflecting on what needed to happen next - had been preceded by a presentation from NAME REDACTED from CLASP which featured a variety of

examples of actions being taken beyond Wirral. A presentation on the headline findings from the cutting climate pollution survey was also given to set the scene for these discussions. Participants chose two from four discussion topics. After discussing the issues participants were asked to identify and prioritise potential actions. Suggestions were recorded on 'post it' notes and clustered together in common themes. Participants were asked to "vote" to identify priorities – being given 10 sticky 'dots' to do so – they could stick more than one dot on a suggestion or theme if they thought it was particularly important. In the discussions of *energy efficiency*, education and awareness, and planning/building control featured as priorities. In discussions of *renewables*, energy from waste, business opportunities, communications/awareness raising, and leadership from the public sector were important themes. In discussions of *sustainable travel*, measures to encourage cycling, regulate use of highways and the introduction of low energy street lighting were popular. In discussions of *reducing indirect impacts*, local food and procurement specifications were the themes which attracted most 'votes'. Several common ideas emerged across the different topic discussions, with leadership – particularly public sector leadership; raising awareness and educating; local business opportunities; and stronger planning requirements common to many discussions. The creation of an exemplar eco houses was also popular in discussions of both energy efficiency and renewable energy topics

NAME REDACTED invited comment on the event from those present. The cross-section of people and their enthusiasm was highlighted, although the exuberance of participants was sometimes at the expense of focus in discussions.

NAMES REDACTED thanked for help with the event logistics and NAMES REDACTED for their role in the task groups shaping both the survey and workshop event.

**Volunteers were now needed to plan the adaptation workshop (All to note-contact NAME REDACTED).**

Work was ongoing on reports on both the cutting climate pollution survey and workshop. These reports would be circulated in due course. **[Action: NAME REDACTED to circulate reports when ready]** The next step was to begin to draft the 'cutting climate pollution' part of the strategy. NAME REDACTED anticipated the need for some one-to-one discussions to ensure the strategy reflected partner ambitions. This would need to take place simultaneously with work on the adaptation survey and workshop. The adaptation workshop was due to take place in spring 2013. NAME REDACTED anticipated a consultation on the draft strategy would then follow, followed by its adoption by all partners.

- 6 **CRed Wirral update:** NAME REDACTED reported progress with the CRed programme. The number of people signed up to the CRed Wirral website was now 2034 up 134 since the last meeting. The number of pledges was now 6017 up 167 since the last meeting. The notional carbon savings was now 1,104 tonnes up 20 tonnes. There had been a staffed CRed promotion stall at a Swap Day in Meols held in November organised by Wirral Environment Network. A prize draw had been run at Seacombe library. The CRedMatters e-bulletin was issued November. The @CRedwirral twitter account was followed by 490 up 111 since the last report.

- 7 **Partner information exchange:**

- NAME REDACTED reported that Renewable Solutions a renewable installer (65 employees) had been attracted to River View Business Park. Work was ongoing with Lubrisol/D1 Oils on a potential £50m investment to re-commission a bio-diesel plant

and expand production with the potential for 200 jobs. There was Regional Growth Funded work to support the development of off-shore wind. This was focused around the Camel Laird site.

- NAME REDACTED reported TTWK held a joint event with Recipro and WEN. Recipro is a Bromborough-based company that takes excess unused building materials and makes them available for resale to community groups and projects. They have a warehouse in Wallasey open each Thursday for community groups. TTWK is planning an Eco Fair with St Brigit's for summer 2013 **[Action: Partners were invited to contact NAME REDACTED if they wished to participate]**. The first in a regular monthly farmers market had been held at St Andrews and was a great success. As a result local shops were now stocking more local produce. The Bike Hub project with Wirral Fire Station had been a success with 54 people signed up. The plan was to run it again for eight weeks in the spring.
- NAME REDACTED reported he would now represent VCA Wirral on the group. VCA Wirral is giving support to a variety of environmental projects including Holy Spirit PTA in Leasowe and a social enterprise project in Royden Park.
- NAME REDACTED reported Faiths for Change is still working with VCA Wirral on the faith group mapping and were making progress through Wirral Churches Together. There is lots going on and a desire to share practice and create new projects.
- NAME REDACTED expressed his relief to hear that the planned consultation workshop on adaptation was still going as it was an important area of work.
- NAME REDACTED reported Merseyside Police had made progress with its sustainability policy and governance review. When this was in place work could commence on various planned actions. An Automated Meter Reading (AMR) project was important to build energy use profiles and target actions. A site rationalisation programme had started with staff being moved. The hope was to use zoning to manage energy during the process.
- NAME REDACTED reported the Council's travel plan 'snap shot' survey had taken place in July. The survey found Car alone travel at 54%, Car share - 17.8%, Bus - 7.5%, Train - 9.3%, Walking - 5.4% and Cycling 1.9%. A 'pedometer league' had been run in September with 221 participants clocking up 56 million steps. The Local Sustainable Transport Fund work was ongoing. Employers in east Wirral were being supported to develop travel plans. The travel solutions element had distributed 257 monthly travel cards and 136 bikes to help people access work opportunities. Work had started on an electric vehicle infrastructure strategy.
- NAME REDACTED reported that a Liverpool City Region EMS sharing group had now been established. Phase 2 of the voltage optimisation programme was progressing. Salford University were designing a bespoke champions training package. Plans were being made for Climate Week in March 2013. The hope was stations would serve vegetarian food for the week. Textile banks had been installed at stations to raise money for the fire fighters charity. A combined sports centre and fire station was being built in Toxteth with SUDs carpark. The aim was for all stations to be used as community resources (both West Kirby and Wallasey stations had been used for cycling promotions).
- NAMES REDACTED Reported that had also flagged up work on the electric charging infrastructure strategy due for completion by April 2013. Anyone with a specific interest in this area should contact NAMES REDACTED reported on behalf of NAME REDACTED that the consultation on the Local Development Framework Submission Draft was due to start the following day and would run until 11 February.

Full details and links to the documents can be accessed via the following page on the council's website web site <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy-development-plan>

- NAME REDACTED reported that following the 'last chance' promotion more funding from British Gas meant the Warmer Wirral insulation programme would now be extended to mid-February. New e-posters would be produced. EPPlus has submitted a bid to DECC for a collective energy switching scheme on behalf of the Liverpool City Region (**action:** NAME REDACTED to send copy of bid to Cllr Kenny). In addition, EPPlus has submitted a bid for a community energy challenge project on Wirral with partners Regenda, Wirral Partnership Homes and Riverside.

8 **Any other business:**

There were no other items of business

- 9 **Dates of next meeting:** Dates for next year's meetings would be circulated for 2013. If any partners would like to host a meeting please contact NAME REDACTED