

Deputation to Fareham Borough Council Climate Change Scrutiny Panel January 24th, 2022

By Anne Stephenson
On behalf of Gosport and Fareham Friends of the Earth

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Deputation:

Thank you for allowing me to make a deputation today. I would like to have attended the meeting in person but sadly I am in Yorkshire due to a family bereavement. I hope an officer from the Democratic Services Team will read out my words.

I was looking forward to attending today's meeting to hear the update on the Climate Change Action Plan and the presentations on housing. I was disappointed that the Agenda Reports Pack did not include any details of these items as it would have been helpful to be able to have reports to read through beforehand as some of the points I raise in this deputation may already be in hand. Also, if the reports were included, Councillors would be more prepared with questions. I think at the last meeting Councillor Forrest made a request for this to happen (please see item 6 in the minutes of the meeting on 12th October 2021).

Re Item 6. Climate Change Action Plan Update:

I would like to commend FBC on more prominently featuring Climate Change on the first page of the FBC website. There are some very useful links and information in the "What you can do" section of the Climate Change area on the website, although I hope in the future this can be improved to make it a little more engaging and perhaps to include links to local installers (I didn't find the link provided to installers with the TrustMark very useful). I was also pleased to see a January press release: "Driving toward Carbon Neutral", as it is so important to keep local efforts to combat climate change in the news.

I have heard mixed reports of the Greening Campaign launch in Titchfield and I hope this doesn't mean a set-back for the FBC's plans to include the local community. I have heard a recent FBC presentation by Roy Brown to the Warsash Residents' Association was very well received and accompanied by an admirable leaflet "Tackling Climate Change". Perhaps something similar might be done with other community groups that are already established? I also wondered if FBC might consider something like the Gosport Climate Change Partnership as a way of supporting businesses and the local community in moving ahead on Climate Change? (see <https://www.gosport.gov.uk/cc-partnership>)

(see next page)

Re Item 7. Upgrading the Council Housing Stock:

1. This is indeed a very important issue as 40% of carbon emissions in Fareham are from housing and 5% of the population is in fuel poverty. (Although this figure may rise with fuel prices having gone up recently. Figures from <https://takeclimateaction.uk/near-you/fareham>)
2. Today's presentation needs to identify a rolling program to bring council buildings and housing stock up to high insulation standards and this should include a timescale for when this will be achieved.
3. All new building on council-owned land should be built to *Passivhaus* standards - i.e. carbon neutral - this fits in with saving council taxpayers the future expense of retrofitting which is far more expensive than building to higher standards in the first place.
4. Can FBC please use the local Plan policies to require that new housing development is zero carbon by 2025, including incorporation of renewable energy in the development, using low carbon materials and building to extremely high energy efficient standards (using the *Passivhaus* standard or similar)?
5. FBC also needs to use its powers to reduce emissions from non-council housing stock. For example,
 - i. Enforce minimum energy standards in the private rented sector and encourage landlords to insulate homes to a higher EPC level.
 - ii. Enforce building standards during construction and renovation.
 - iii. Develop a heating and energy efficiency strategy for the area. This should include:
 - A. Identifying suitable experts who can advise members of the public on insulation etc at cost price/slightly above cost price.
 - B. Providing access to a thermal imaging camera to show where heat is escaping from a home. For example see <https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/is-your-central-heating-going-out-the-window/>
 - C. Providing skills and training to increase local employment to cover the skills shortage. Over 1,000 'Green jobs' could be created locally (for a breakdown of this see <https://takeclimateaction.uk/near-you/fareham>)

(see next page)

Re Item 8. Sustainable Warmth Scheme Overview:

I look forward to hearing more about this. I would like to ask how the success of this scheme will be measured?

Fareham should be looking to install nearly 2000 Eco-heating schemes per year in order to have its fair share of government funded installations (see: the housing section of <https://takeclimateaction.uk/near-you/fareham>)

Re Item 9. Executive Business:

I do hope this item is not a box ticking exercise or a case of “shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted”. If the decisions have already been taken, can this panel reverse them if they do not sit with FBC’s aim of reaching carbon neutral by 2030 or supporting the UK commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050? Perhaps this will highlight the need for proper Carbon literacy training throughout FBC. Is it possible to have an update on how this is proceeding?

Re Item 10. Priorities:

I would like to make the following suggestions:

Waste: currently only 33% of household waste in Fareham is reused, recycled or composted compared to 70% in the best performing similar local authority. What are FBC’s waste reduction plans?

Divestment: what can FBC do to put pressure on Hampshire County Council to divest the pension fund from fossil fuels as soon as possible?

Solent Airport: How do FBC plans for Solent Airport sit within the aim to reduce the Carbon footprint of the Borough?

Thank you again for allowing this deputation and for the support of the Democratic Services team in reading it out.