

Deputation to FBC Climate Change Scrutiny Panel 12/07/2022

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 am sorry I am not able to attend the meeting in person as I am sure the presentations will be very informative. I hope you will receive my deputation in the supportive spirit in which it is intended and please bear in mind I do not fully understand the different roles of panels and committees etc, so I might make suggestions which are out of your remit.

I am conscious that this is the first meeting of the Panel since the elections so I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of Gosport and Fareham Friends of the Earth (GFFOE) to welcome new members.

On the 29th June the UK Climate Change Committee issued a stark warning under the title "Current programmes will not deliver Net Zero". It went on to state:

"As the UK prepares for a winter of extraordinary fuel bills, the Government has recommitted to Net Zero. The urgency of moving away from fossil fuels, securing energy supplies and cutting carbon emissions has never been clearer, but a new Progress Report by the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC) finds major failures in delivery programmes towards the achievement of the UK's climate goals."

This follows a similar warning from The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in February which stated: "Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future."

Both of these reports stress the need to move **at pace** to reduce emissions and to build resilient communities. With this in mind I would like to address the following agenda items:

6. Climate Change Scrutiny Panel Overview

i. Purpose: I hope you will agree that the purpose of the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel (CCSP) is **to enable Fareham Borough Council (FBC) to meet its commitment to become Carbon neutral by 2030**. However, Council emissions make up a small percentage of the carbon footprint of the Borough as a whole which is why it is so important that the focus of the panel is not just on the emissions of the Council but also on **how it can involve and encourage the wider community**. This leadership role is acknowledged in the FBC Climate Change Action Plan. In this role it is important that CCSP takes into account the work of all FBC departments as they all have their part to play in reducing emissions and building resilience.

I am pleased to see that many members of the panel also sit on other FBC panels and so can represent and feed into the decisions of other departments. I am sorry to see that none of the panel members are part of the Executive so I see agenda item 9 (Executive Business) as an important part of your role.

ii. Priorities: The two most important areas on which to concentrate are homes and transport which respectively account for 42% and 30% of the area's emissions (<https://tinyurl.com/yc6566xa>).

7. Council's Carbon Footprint Update

I welcome the news that there has been a 9.1% reduction in the carbon footprint of the Council since 2019/20. It is important that this is built on speedily bearing in mind that some emissions will be harder to reduce than others and that in fact 'picking the low hanging fruit first' should mean that reductions are greater in the early stages than when we draw nearer to the 2030 target.

8. Climate Change Action Plan - Annual Review

I would like to acknowledge the work that has gone into the production of the review document in Appendix A.

I note that in the Summary document it states that: "A detailed Action Plan Project Programme will be shared with the Panel at the next meeting on 18 October 2022." The review document also states that "One of the most important projects over the next 12 months will be developing timelines for reducing our Scope 1 and 2 emissions. This will include the costs involved in achieving our commitment to carbon neutral by 2030." I would very much like to see FBC use SMART targets for all its climate change policies which will ensure a clear timeline as to how you will make progress going forward. These should be clearly stated in the Climate Change Action Plan. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMART_criteria)

9. Executive Business

The Executive has recently been discussing the Welborne development and the Local Plan. Both of these involve important decisions that could make a positive impact on the carbon footprint of the Council and the Borough as a whole. I hope that the panel will be looking carefully at the decisions made and will ensure that the need to reduce emissions and build resilience has been taken into

account. For example: by enabling a reduction in the use of private cars by encouraging active travel and public transport, encouraging high standards in building to reduce the need to expensive retrofitting in future, building resilience by providing ways to mitigate the urban heat island and seeking to identify areas for renewable energy generation.

10. Climate Change Scrutiny Panel Priorities

In its work to reduce transport emissions I wonder if FBC has looked at the use of e-cargo bikes. These have been used in Brighton and Hove where the City Council has bought 12 bikes, some of which can carry loads of up to 150kg in weight. These are used by council teams and small businesses in the city (*for more information see <https://tinyurl.com/35u66y37>*).

I would also encourage FBC to look at reducing waste by setting up a Repair Café and a 'Library of Things'. (*There are local examples and an excellent scheme can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/5pb5nvsy>*).

All FBC departments need to embed climate resilience and emission reduction into their work so a continuing priority should be the roll out of Carbon Literacy Training to all Councillors and Council employees.

As a member of the Hampshire County Council Climate Change Expert Stakeholder Forum I recently attended a workshop run by Parity Projects who are working with HCC to support home owners and landlords across Hampshire who want to make their homes more energy efficient. Parity are a driving force behind the creation of 'one stop shops' in [Oxfordshire](#) and [London](#). I hope that Fareham Borough Council will fully engage with this important project.

FBC needs to do more to influence the wider Borough: through local business links, community groups, schools and college etc. The importance of involving the local community has been clearly demonstrated.

I am happy to provide more information on any of the above points.

Thank you again for allowing me to make this deputation and for the assistance of the Democratic Services team.

Anne Stephenson (on behalf of GFFOE)