

## COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

Notes from meeting held at Little Mill Village Hall

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### Present:

Vivien Mitchell	Transition Monmouth
Haydn Cullen-Jones	Monmouth FoE
Janet Rawlings	Chepstow FoE/Transition Chepstow
Phil Powell	Transition Chepstow
Marcus Perrin	Transition Chepstow
Rod Walters	Abergavenny FoE
Catrin Ellis Jones	Abergavenny Climate Action
Liz Barnett	Abergavenny Climate Action
Jon Prince	Usk
Hazel Clatworthy	MCC Sustainable Development Co-ordinator
Alison Howard	MCC Sustainable Development Co-ordinator
George Ashworth	MCC Head of Planning
Roger Hoggins	MCC Head of Operations
Cllr Giles Howard	MCC
Cllr Val Smith	MCC

### Apologies:

Ian Hoccom	MCC Energy Manager
Ian Bakewell	MCC Head of Housing
Sue Parkinson	Monmouth Green Transport Day
Richard Lewis	MCC Supporting Community Enterprise
Simon Brown	Transition Monmouth

Hazel thanked Phil for all his work organising the information session on renewables and Feed In Tariffs. The session from 2-4pm for village halls was fairly quiet, but from 4-7pm a good number of interested people came.

## 1 Presentation from Melin Homes about the Intermediate Labour Market

Karen Green and Stuart Baldwin gave a presentation about the Intermediate Labour Market. Melin are administering £300,000 to fund up to 16 week placements to help people into employment. The placements will be paid and receive training and support. The placements need to be in the green and construction industries. Melin would be grateful if we could spread the word both 1) amongst green construction companies we know of, and 2) amongst people who may be trying to get into work.

More information from Stuart: [stuart.baldwin@melinhomes.co.uk](mailto:stuart.baldwin@melinhomes.co.uk) or 01495 745908 or 07530 316213.

## 2 Prioritising work for the next 12 months

The group had been asked to look at the Review of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Strategy and to focus on what should be the priorities over the next year. The Review attempts to pull together all the work in this field that is going on in a number of different groups.

Thanks to Janet for her suggestions, which we used as a starter for discussion as follows:

***Develop Planning Policy to implement “Planning for Climate Change” guidance from WAG***

George explained that because of the large numbers of comments on the housing allocations, the production of the LDP is slightly delayed. Hence consultation on the renewable energy Supplementary Planning Guidance will take place alongside the consultation on the deposit draft LDP in January 2010. **Action:** George agreed that the Community Climate Champions would be consulted on the SPG.

Catrin suggested that Planning Aid Wales could help MCC to work with Town and Community Councils, helping them to understand the issues around renewables. **Action:** George does training/briefings with Town and Community Councils, and will incorporate energy into the next one which will be around the LDP consultation time.

Giles explained that some decisions are often taken at a higher level than local authority (e.g. Wales Spatial Plan).

***Include Energy and Sustainable Development as considerations in the overall procurement strategy for the Authority***

Giles said that sometimes it is hard to incorporate SD issues into procurement. Marcus explained that there are sometimes creative ways round the barriers.

***Create an Action Plan with the wider community as part of an over-arching energy strategy and action plan.***

The group discussed how this sounds like a Transition Energy Descent Plan. Totnes have just produced theirs: <http://totnesedap.org.uk/> It was agreed that the local nature of an Energy Descent Plan would mean that each town would like to produce their own, ideally in the next couple of years, but to link that work together through the CCC group would be really helpful.

***Develop a comprehensive strategy for local community and public transport to reduce carbon emissions.***

Roger explained that the Transport sub group of the Economy and Development Select Committee are producing a report based on the evidence they have gathered (some from members of this group) and making recommendations for the Select Committee to decide what to do.

There was discussion that it is hard to get hold of bus timetables. It was suggested that timetable availability could be publicised in Community Spirit.

(Bus timetables and the local bus guide are on the MCC website at:  
[http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/site/scripts/services\\_info.php?serviceID=134](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/site/scripts/services_info.php?serviceID=134) )

***Promote and support community level development of sustainable energy projects and initiatives and Work with our partners to develop further schemes to encourage owner-occupiers to save energy.***

It was agreed that events like this afternoon's and the work that Phil and others are doing with their local communities are making good progress in starting work around these two actions. Marcus also suggested that perhaps we could consider looking at the Transition Streets approach which has been successful in Totnes in working with smaller communities. See: <http://www.transitionstreets.org.uk/>

***Revise corporate targets to reflect climate change and to relate to environmental and social benefits.***

Hazel explained that if people or groups had further suggestions for priorities they should let her have them to circulate. The priorities we discuss are not set in stone as the strategy should be a living, evolving document.

### **3 Green Deal for Monmouthshire**

Roger explained how the Green Deal for Monmouthshire paper (circulated previously) has been approved by Cabinet. It has been written by Kellie Beirne, the new Chief Officer for Regeneration and Culture and sets out a policy framework to deliver a range of low carbon initiatives and interventions in the county. Other reports will follow over the coming months, setting out project proposals that will contribute to the delivery of a Green Deal for Monmouthshire, and a Green Deal Programme Board will be established to oversee continued policy development in this area and direct project delivery.

Roger reported on a bid that he will be submitting for funding for renewable schemes on Council buildings, in particular photovoltaics. **Action:** Roger to report progress on this to the CCC group. Catrin suggested that it would be a good project to engage the public on and get their support and input on where panels should go.

### **4 Any Other Business**

- The group talked about the importance of building resilience to peak oil. Marcus mentioned an article from Chris Huhne which speaks of oil price spikes: [http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/support/tiki-read\\_article.php?articleId=411](http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/support/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=411)
- **Action:** Janet to liaise with Roger about the Civic Amenity site at Five Lanes.
- Hazel updated the group on the Kafka project to reduce the barriers to microgeneration in Monmouthshire, working with CCW, the Environment Agency, Brecon Beacons Nation Park Authority, WAG and MCC.
- Hazel updated the group on plans which are developing to work with Village Halls in Monmouthshire to help them install PV panels. Richard Lewis and Phil are working on various funding models for this. Haydn asked whether the village halls could benefit from economies of scale through Green Deal bulk purchasing, and whether there might be a way for some of the FiTs to benefit local communities.
- Janet promoted 2 events: Chepstow Apple Day at the Drill Hall on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November from 11am – 4pm, and a showing of Garbage Dreams at the Drill Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

### **6 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7pm in Usk (exact venue to be confirmed).