

## Torbay Climate Partnership

### Minutes

7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

10:00 – 12:15 pm

### South Devon College, Paignton

Attendees: David Edmondson (Chair), Jacqui Warren, Rachel Geary, Alex Carter, Matthew Green, Matt Reeks, Daniel Vickridge, Chris Gunson, Melaine Boarder, Tara Bowers, Joanne Brimblecombe, Emma Magee, Doug Eltham, Robert Alexander (EEESafe), Marie Hale (SDC) and Davina Luther (now Torbay Communities).

Apologies: Cllr Lewis, Dave Stewart, Tom Dauben, Rob Parsons, Cllr Law, Cllr Billings, Jenny Hunt, Jordan Pierson, Lara Ruetsch, Chris Gomm, Helen Warren, Liz Muir, Emily Reed.

#### 1. Welcome

David Edmondson as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Previous Minutes / Actions

David Edmondson ran through the actions from the TCP's 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 meeting;

Action	Owner	Action Open or Closed?
David Edmondson and Jacqui Warren to explore the possible candidates to become the new chairperson for the partnership.	All	This item was covered in item 7 of the meeting.
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	This meeting hasn't been organised yet, so this action is to be kept open.
Jenny Hunt to share the promotional materials available with the new Youth Hub.	Jenny Hunt	Jenny was unable to make the meeting, this action is to be kept open.
Rachel to share information/key messages with Active Devon to share.	Rachel Geary	Information and Key messages were shared with Active Devon. Action Closed.
Jacqui Warren/Alex Carter to speak with Tara Bowers about	Jacqui Warren / Alex Carter	This meeting hasn't been organised yet, so this action is to be kept open.

possible energy solutions for the Torbay Council Estate Buildings.		
Daniel Vickridge to present on SWISCo's work at the next meeting.	Daniel Vickridge	Presentation was held as item 5 of the meeting. Action Closed.

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 07 March 2024 were accepted.

### **3a: Results of the Greener Way for the Bay Framework and Action Plan Consultation**

Rachel Geary presented on the finalised results from the Greener Way For Our Bay consultation;

- In total there have been 610 responses to the consultation.
- 202 Long Surveys (including 17 paper responses)
- 295 Short Agree Surveys
- 109 Short Disagree Surveys
- 6 Other responses were received outside of the surveys.

The key finding was that 75% of respondents supported the framework and action plan and its 10 key things.

Tonic Creative's engagement work for the consultation had engaged with 1,263 people and had found a higher proportion of people who approved of the plan at 96%.

It was felt by all partners that the engagement work undertaken had been well done and effective given the increased number of responses in comparison to the previous consultation.

The Partnership felt it important to try and keep engagement going with the small group of climate sceptics/deniers. The Partnership agreed that it was important to have a safe space/platform that enabled mixed views to be shared amongst all sections of the community to enable recognition of differing views and to limit the feeling of certain views being marginalised. It was felt that maybe Torbay Climate Action Group could support the TCP with this.

**Action: Rachel Geary to discuss with Torbay Climate Action Group.**

### **3b: Greener Way for the Bay Framework and Action Plan - Approval**

Jacqui Warren stated that following a review of the consultation responses and results, the Framework and Action Plan document had been updated to reflect the latest consultation results. Areas that do not help tackle climate change, but that were prevalent in some consultation responses, are acknowledged but not included as beyond the scope of the work (i.e. littering, town centre regeneration and safety, water quality, sewerage).

David Edmondson asked for the approval of the Framework and Action Plan or for any further comments from partners.

Melanie Board stated she would have to seek approval from the Geopark Board.

**Action: Melanie Boarder to seek approval by 21 June 2024**

Matt Green stated that South Devon College were happy to endorse the Framework and Action plan.

TCP representatives from the NHS, Torbay Communities and SWISCo also need to seek final approval by 21 June 2024.

**Action: Joanne Brimblecombe, Davina Luther/Liz Muir, Matt Reeks/Dan Vickridge to seek approval by 21 June 2024**

Emma Magee stated that the Environment Agency supported the plan in principle, however, queried as an example, the nature-based actions for protecting sea grass and how this would be measured.

**Action: Jacqui Waren to query the status of the Marine Forum and actions on protecting sea grass with Rob Parsons.**

Chris Gunson stated that it was important to move forward with the Action Plan. Chris stated it would be valuable to have an action on the bulk purchasing of solar panels. Tara Bowers supported this and has experience of this through a CIF funded project.

**Action: Jacqui Warren to add a new action to the Action Plan that explores the bulk buying of solar panels for local communities.**

The consensus from partners was support for the framework and action plan, which subject to further comments received by 21 June, it was agreed that the Partnership would collectively approve the document. If no individual partner responses are received by 21<sup>st</sup> June, it will be taken as a sign of approval from their organisation.

**Action: Partners have until Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June to provide any further comments on the Framework and Action Plan at which point it will be deemed approved.**

#### **4: SWISCo Presentation**

Matt Reeks gave a presentation on SWISCo and their services including waste and recycling collections, highways and management of green spaces. He highlighted work to improve recycling rates. Further educational work is planned to tackle waste in line with the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle. SWISCo is also reducing its carbon emissions within its operations fleet, through adding EV road sweepers.

Matt highlighted the SWISCo mobile application allowing members of the public to report littering and other problems in their areas. The application enables teams to be more efficient in their response to incidents, saving on time, money and fuel.

Matt stated that if any partners had any ideas or opportunities that they thought would support SWISCo's future recycling education work, to get in touch with him. Matt Green and Melanie Border confirmed they would be interested in collaborating on this work.

**Action: Melanie Boarder and Matt Green to meet with Matt Reeks on the recycling education work that SWISCo is developing.**

Daniel Vickridge introduced his role and responsibilities as the Green Infrastructure Manager at SWISCo. He outlined the I-Tree Survey which was a software tool that had been developed to measure the importance of trees, giving figures on the value of trees in a specific area, the amount of CO2 they sequester and the number of species of trees in an area for example. The current canopy cover for Torbay is 18.2% with there being over 458,800 trees in Torbay, with over 62 different species.

Emma Magee highlighted flood risk funding available through the Environment Agency that may fund more tree planting. Davina from Torbay communities was also interested in this potential funding given the current ARSINOE project and Miyawaki Forest project being progressed by Torbay Council (formerly TDA).

**Action: Emma Magee and Davina Luther to meet with SWISCo to discuss any potential funding and support for future tree planting projects.**

#### **5. EEESafe Presentation by Robert Alexander**

Robert Alexander presented on his EEE Safe project. The mission of EEESafe is to create a circular economy model for the repair, reuse and recycling of white good appliances within local communities.

Robert stated that local citizens would be able to sign up their white good appliances on to the EEESafe register, which when they broke down or needed repairs, would enable EEESafe certified repairers to be able to contact and make the required repairs to registered appliances.

As part of the launch of the programme, a new website is currently being designed but a link to the current website can be found here:

<https://eeesafe.com/about-us/>. Robert asked for any comments and if any partners were interested in this project to contact him directly.

**Action: Partners to reach out to Robert if they are interested in finding out more/getting involved.**

#### **6. South Devon College Sustainability Degree/Apprenticeship Presentation**

Marie Hale, tutor for the new Level 4 Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability practitioner course presented on their new course. Marie highlighted that the course enables learners to get a comprehensive understanding of the role that sustainability can hold within all manner of industries and businesses. The course would enable learners to develop skills relating to sustainability that would encompass projects that look at strategy design, internal and external

communications, research and horizons scanning. The course would give students practical experience through sustainable role placements, giving them skills and experiences in green roles.

Marie stated that upon completion of the level 4, students could progress to a Level 5 course on Global Change, Sustainability and Society course, enabling them to expand their knowledge further and increase their opportunities to secure a green role following completion of the course.

Emma Magee queried if the course had looked at professional memberships such as the Chartered Environmentalist Registration or IEMA to further support students to progress into green jobs and roles following completion of their studies? Marie said that it would be helpful to discuss these professional memberships.

**Action: Emma Magee and Marie Hale to meet to discuss the professional memberships which may be helpful to sustainability students.**

## **7. Membership and Chairperson Update**

David Edmondson updated the Partnership on initial discussions with two candidates. More meetings are planned.

Jacqui Warren highlighted that there were a few people and organisations wishing to join the Partnership. She asked if members were happy for these people to join the Partnership. In addition, Gary Calland, the General Manager for the National Trust has also asked to join. If any current partners are not happy with these new proposed partners joining the TCO, they should let Jacqui know as soon as possible, else all proposed will be invited onto the Partnership.

**Action: Partners to contact Jacqui Warren with any concerns.**

## **8. Roundtable updates/ AOB**

Davina Luther stated that they had just completed a national heritage application.

Joanne Brimblecombe mentioned that the next stages of the solar farm at Nightingale Park was moving to the next stages of the project. Work was continuing developing the Trust's Biodiversity Framework with support from the Devon Wildlife Trust. The Trust is also working with the Good Things Foundation to reuse its old IT/Electronics appliances, enabling these to be distributed to patients, staff and the local community to help breach digital inequalities.

Tara Bowers stated that she didn't have any major updates to provide expect to remind members that ECOE's services were year-round.

Matt Green asked if it would be possible for SWISCo to be able to give a presentation at the Colleges upcoming sustainability meeting, to which Daniel Vickridge agreed would be possible.

Jacqui Warren stated that the Council had received funding to help decarbonise Paignton Library and Brixham Harbour Offices.