

Torbay Climate Partnership

Minutes

12th December 2024

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Parkfield House

Attendees: David Edmondson (Chair), Cllr Chris Lewis, Cllr Fox, Emily Reed, Jacqui Warren, Kevin Dixon, Melanie Boarder, Alex Carter, Bethan Huntley, Tara Bowers, Chris Gunson, Sam Swann, Rachel Geary, David Stewart, Gary Calland, David Hodson, Steve Nash, Davina Luther, Gary Calland

Apologies: Chris Gomm, Cllr Billings, Tom Dauben, Emma Magee, Joanne Brimblecombe, Helen Warren, Louise Marshall, Kirsty Parker-Callard, Matthew Green, Liam Montgomery, Jake O'Donovan, Alison Bayliss

1.Welcome

David Edmondson (DE) as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Announcements:

- Sadly, Hannah Beaumont and Jordan Pierson are both no longer able to attend meetings. Hannah will continue to receive the minutes and keep a watching brief. DE thanked them both for their input and support.
- **Good news: DE welcomed new members** David Hodson from Torbay Christian EcoAction, Alison Bayliss from ER BID Communications Manager, Steve Nash from the Wild Planet Trust and Gary Callard National Trust

2.Previous Minutes / Actions

DE ran through the actions from the TCP's 12 September 2024 meeting:

Action	Owner	Update at meeting
Rachel Geary (RG)/Torbay Climate Action	RG talk to TCA about climate denier engagement.	RG to look at other options for keeping engagement work going across Torbay. Including aligning with the new NHS joint communication strategy. KD and RG to discuss. Keep action open.
Jacqui Warren to query the status of the Marine Forum and actions on protecting sea	Jacqui Warren (JW) / Marine Forum	JW to pick up with RP replacement. Keep action open.

grass with Rob Parsons (RP).		
Action: Melanie Boarder and Matt Green to meet with Matt Reeks on the recycling education work that SWISCo is developing.	Melanie Boarder, Matthew Green, Matt Reeks	Open– No update
Action: Emma Magee and Davina Luther to meet with SWISCo to discuss any potential funding and support for future tree planting projects.	Emma Magee/ Davina Luther	Open – No update
Emma Magee and Marie Hale to meet to discuss the professional memberships which may be helpful to sustainability students.	Emma Magee/ Marie Hale	Open – No update
Speak with Tara Bowers about possible energy solutions for Torbay Council Estate Buildings.	JW/ Alex Carter (AC)	AC and JW currently reprioritising decarbonisation plans for the Council estate. AC to get back to TB once this work is complete as there will be an opportunity to tender for such work in 2025.

Other actions agreed

Action	Owner
Emily Reed and Adam Luscombe to discuss shared EV charging facilities	ER
Emily Reed and Davina Luther to meet and connect on regional schools support available	ER and DL

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 12 September 2024 were approved as an accurate record and signed off.

3.2024 – A year of Climate Action

Rachel Geary presented on some of the good news stories throughout 2024 and thanked all partners for their ongoing action across Torbay.

DE went straight to item 7 of the agenda.

7. Climate Resilience Update

Dave Stewart, Flood Risk Manager for Torbay Council and Mehdi Khoury from the University of Exeter presented on a new opportunity to develop a serious, community focussed, climate resilience game. The aim of the game is to help communities understand complex cascading impacts that arise from a changing climate and what they can do to better protect their communities.

The TCP were happy to support development of the game. Mehdi will set up a meeting for those interested in 2025. **Action: Medhi/ Dave to set up meeting**

Melanie Boarder stated that the Geopark would be very interested, and the game may be of interest to all Geoparks.

Emily Reed said that the regional Climate Impact Group (CIG) would also be interested. **Action: Emily to engage with the CIG.**

Due to time, Item 4 was not discussed. The TCP were asked to note the progress as outlined in the report.

Item 5. 2025 Forward Plan

Rachel Geary facilitated a set of discussions aimed at getting the TCP to prioritise areas for the forthcoming meetings in 2025 to focus on.

Appendix 1 summarises the results.

April 2025 - meeting to focus on 1) Increased collaboration and 2) Comms and Engagement including schools.

June 2025 – meeting to focus on 1) Businesses and Tourism support and 2) Adaptation.

September and December themes to be agreed at April 2025 meeting.

6. Peoples Parkfield Update

Chris Gunson summarised recent work happening. Including:

- Energy Audit completed and shutters being installed
- Tailblazers are creating a walled garden and raised beds for local growing schemes
- Aspiration to be a Net Zero Hub

- Cycle repair shop
- Forest School is operational
- Renovating the House and making it watertight
- Exeter Community Energy are moving in and will run their Pulse Hub from the House.

8. Roundtable updates / AOB

Exeter Community won 2 awards at the National Community Energy Awards. They continue to deliver support in Torbay. Their community grant fund is now open.

Bethan Huntley attended South Devon College's Freshers Week .

Rachel Geary is exploring a series of engagement sessions for 2025

Gary Calland(GC) is installing ground source heat pumps and will be planting 30,000 trees in 2025. David Edmondson expressed an interest in the Place Directorate of the Council volunteering to help plant these trees. **Action: DE and GC to discuss this.**

Steve Nash is really happy to be part of the TCP. Recently installed 5 Seagrass interpretation boards across Torbay.

Keving Dixon inspired the group with an idea to promote the New Union Square re-development as a radically improved, high-quality, European-style, high density, geopark themed space.

Councillor Fox update the TCP on the working being carried out to develop a new Torbay Local Plan. Meeting new housing targets and balancing environmental issues will be challenging. More to follow in 2025

Appendix 1: Forward plan ideas

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Comms

- Get the comms sorted
- Comms and engagement group (more publicity)
- Community Education
- Sort the comms – good news and resources
- Continue to expand publicity about good events, actions and stories
- Achievable actions via socials
- Make information resources available
- Good News stories
- Top Tips/Do's and Don't
- Use SDG's as visual tool Work on winning the argument -there are opposing voices
- Retrofit: Awareness/education, talks, open home events
- Develop a climate adaptation communication campaign
- Find ways to maximise info from the ARSINOE data and translate for public
- Promote green assets/geopark/seagrass
- Seagrass

Focused public engagement

- How do we include the local community on this journey – enlist their help
- Area wide engagement bid (building on CAF approach)
- Eco hub wheel and spoke effect @ Parkfield
- Workshops or/and events all together
- Expand opportunities and support for practical action (resilience)

Schools

- Agree core topics for schools and youth groups
- Educational opportunities
- Support for schools and young people
- Collaborate to increase education opportunities

PRACTICAL ACTIONS

Retrofitting housing stock

- Retrofitting existing developments to save energy use
- Scale up retrofit housing
- Develop a retrofit strategy with others in the area
- Retrofit: Co-op, streets idea, hub (✓)
- Domestic energy usage

Flooding

- Reduce surface water runoff from new developments
- Make new developments increasingly floodproof

Transport

- Further explore organisational fleet charging infrastructure sharing
- Sustainable transport
- Transport Poverty and childhood transport independence

Energy

- Renewable energy – Do we know how much in Torbay and where the opportunities are?
- Increased harnessing of solar and wind power

INCREASED COLLABORATION

Profile

- TCP to provide 'a voice' at important events/meetings
- Define image – what are we asking people to sign up to? le use each other's #

Collaboration

- Utilise the committee – which decision making and community for a are we on?
- Silo breaking and utilising all our resources – e.g. Paignton library
- Linkages across organisations
- Subgroups/workshop for individual objectives – to develop pathways to achievement
- Combined funding opportunities
- Collaborate on climate resilience and adaptation – esp. health
- Climate action and Torbay anti-poverty strategy
- Regularly review what actions have been achieved and barriers to others

ADAPTATION

- Produce updated local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Torbay
- Look at flood alleviation schemes using nature-based solutions and environmental benefits they bring
- Green infrastructure
- Prepare for future shocks
- Adaptation agenda

BUSINESS AND TOURISM

- Business involvement
- Enable businesses
- Collaborate to support career paths in Green Industries highlighted by Davina
- Green resort credentials
- Long term sustainable city status
- Promote green assets/geopark/seagrass