

Parish Network Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP

Friday 29 Jan 2021 at 10.00 via Zoom

Attendance:

Heather Stallard	Chair, Hemyock parish rep	Graham Long	Upottery PC
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator	Ken Pearson	Clerk to Stockland PC
Mike Canham	Otterford PC		
Alison Weekes	Clayhidon PC	Apologies	
Daniel Lazar	Membury PC	Roger Habgood	Cllr Monument, SW&TD
Bob Nelson	Broadhembury PC hosted mtg,	Alex Stevens	Upottery PC

internet lost at 10.05

1. **Apologies** received from RS & AS. BN internet connection lost following meeting start, unable to phone in due to external circumstances.

2. **Minutes of Zoom mtg with MPs 08 01 2021**

- a. Agreed the minutes as previously circulated together with summary.
- b. Agreed to send summary with minutes to the MPs, with circulation to DALC, SALC, chief execs of the four LAs and all PC clerks **CB**
- c. Agreed to add the summary to the website with a link to the full minutes **CB**

3. **Items for which to request direct MP follow up in covering email :**

- a) Climate: Additional statutory power for PCs with attached funding for specific climate action.
- b) Rural Strategy: What is being done now to improve monitoring of failing SSSIs.
- c) Broadband: request feedback from Devon MPs meeting with Leader of DCC Cllr John Hart. Can Airband schedule be expedited with BDUK/ministerial influence? Otherwise unlikely to see a start on roll out for another year while subcontracts with contractors and landowners are negotiated.
- d) Transport: Mandatory HGV satnav for all such vehicles using an approved data set.
- e) Other: Ask for feedback from Environment Minister Pow as to the contribution that 39 parishes of BHAONB can make for the international COP 26 talks in Nov 2021.

4. **Report from Rural Strategy sub committee mtg Tuesday 26 Jan**

DL demonstrated the carbon footprint tool developed by Centre for Energy and the Environment (Uni of Exeter) with Bristol’s Centre for Sustainable Energy. This generates an estimate of a parish carbon footprint based on data derived from a number of sources; many of these are generic, or paid for, therefore the output must be taken with a degree of caution. It is possible to compare neighbouring parishes and the Stg Gp has offered the BHPN group pf parishes as a test base for a tool to offer results over a larger area. However, further work on this depends on additional funding.

This tool is being evaluated and feedback collected. If it proves to be adequately meaningful at a parish level then it may prove to be a useful way for parish councils to engage their communities in working on reduction of overall carbon emissions and contribute to the Devon and Somerset climate declarations.

DL shared the presentation slides and a household carbon footprinting tool (to be found at zero.giki.earth) which offers a fun way of estimating an individual household carbon footprint, although there are many other similar tools available. The NFU has also developed a specific tool for the farming community.

CB to enquire of CEE when the tool may become generally available with a view to making it the discussion topic for the AGM which might be held in May/June, **CB**

depending on the pandemic situation.

The individual household tool (Giki) to be shared with parish clerks for dissemination among their parishioners.

5. Vouchers vs cash for rural children receiving school lunch assistance

The implications for rural families in receipt of lunch vouchers, as opposed to food boxes or cash, were discussed. The scheme relies on voucher exchange at supermarkets and ignores local independent shops. This was considered not to be an issue that the BHPN Stg Gp could take up, being a nationwide programme, however the MPs will be alerted to the local issues in terms of accessibility from rural areas.

6. Extension of remote meeting protocols for PCs after May 7

The protocol for remote meetings to replace face to face Local Authority and PC meetings ends on May 7. NALC, and the county ALCs are already lobbying for an extension as it is thought that many older participants will remain reluctant to attend meetings in person.

7. Finance:

- Agreed to purchase a Zoom licence for BHPN CB to arrange
- Parish contributions for 2021-2022 year have started to come in. Agreed to offer a three year associate membership to parishes with an AONB footprint less than 10% for £20 pa and free membership to the three Parish Meetings.

8. GL suggested that PCs be alert to opportunities to use/share finance arrangements designed to assist businesses with cash flow as the pandemic recedes e.g pay forward for car servicing/MOT tests to account for the much reduced mileage driven in the last year.

9. Date of next mtg tbc in the week beginning 8 March 2021