

## BEDFORDSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

### Steering Group Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 13 February 2008 held at Mid-Beds District Council offices, Priory Park, Bedfordshire

		Action
	<p><u>Attendees</u></p> <p>Tony Mitchell – Chair  Hazel Mitchell – Treasurer  Sarah Wells – Energy and Environmental Officer, University of Bedfordshire  Gordon Glass – Milton Keynes Energy Agency  John Crookall-Greening  Andy Blowers  Lynda Aylett-Green  Jackie Groom – Carbon Management Plan for Mid Beds District Council  Stephen Mooring – Bedfordshire County Council  Janet Millar – Bedford College  Sandra Einon – Mid Beds District Council  Steve Tomlin – Bedford Borough Council</p>	
1	Welcome and introductions by Chair.	
2	Apologies: Paula Judd (BCC), Obafemi Okusipe (LutonBC), Sarah Williams (CrED) and Jane Hawkes (National Energy Foundation)	
3	Agenda review – Group agreed to an extra item from Jackie Groom on Carbon ReD Mid Beds	
4	Minutes 28 November – agreed as an accurate record	
5	<p><u>Matters arising:</u></p> <p>a. All previous members had been contacted  b Nottingham Declaration. Informed re 2-year “window” for submission of plan. Agreed nonetheless to “nudge” Bedford Borough as planned, after 3 months.  c. Nuclear questions had been submitted to BoS for an article. No news on this.  d. ToR – motion to amend, circulated to members, with papers for AGM.  e. Co-op Bank – Chris Dumont has approached the Bank but has not had a response.  f. Funding – Patrick Hall MP contributed £55, and the Mayor of Bedford gave £60 towards the costs of the Film Event on 12 February.  g. “Skills for Energy” COVE report – was seen at last meeting. TM to circulate again. JM to e-mail copy to him.  h. Brad Hook had fed back news to the EC on his attendance at GoEAST meeting.  i. Zero Carbon Castle Group – LA-G reported on progress.  j. JC has prepared an application for a grant award (Awards for All).</p>	TM/JM
6	<p><u>Chair’s Report</u></p> <p>a. Previous evening’s public meeting showing the film “An Inconvenient Truth” was successful. The film worked well, and SW was thanked for the venue at University of Bedfordshire. About 80 people attended. TM asked audience where people had heard about the meeting and found most had seen the article in BoS.  b. Mayor of Bedford Borough has offered (not formally confirmed yet) a market stall opportunity for groups involved in sustainability work. TM to contact GG re a banner for this.  c. Contacting media - TM has been in touch with BoS Editor, Steve Lowe, who is willing to take articles on various aspects of climate change. TM asked for 300-600 word articles, eg the questions on nuclear power. SLowe wants “positive” articles. TM has produced a draft of alternatives to nuclear power for comment.</p>	TM  All

	<p>d. Articles generally – it was established that those in the name of BCCF should go to TM before submission, and have a disclaimer attached that they do not necessarily represent agreed BCCF views. Collective statements would not need the disclaimer as this would result from consultation.</p> <p>e. Website meeting – GG, JC-G and TM met in Milton Keynes. Heading for this is “bedsclimatechangeforum.org.uk”. It will be up and running soon. This was felt to be a good main heading and the graphic new logo would be included. List of events will be included. Background of organisation, questions on nuclear power and ToR already there. More activities are now required in order to promote the organisation. Links page – useful as they supply huge amounts of information.</p> <p>f. Membership forms – members were asked to complete these and return to LA-G if not already done.</p> <p>g. Meetings reported – list attached.</p> <p>h. Future plans – Chair outlined main items in detail, especially Energy from Waste meeting scheduled for 17 March with 3 speakers confirmed. First choice of venue was Stewartby, then Forest Centre. TM to pursue this, with costs in mind.</p> <p>i. AGM – papers have already been circulated and motions and nominations for the EC called for. The venue will be Friends Meeting House in Lansdowne Road, Bedford. TM will draft another motion to clarify the position of LA representatives.</p> <p>j. Summer meeting – in Any Questions format? Involving AB, David Green, Patrick Hall and James Crabbe? Discussion followed on format including Moral Maze model, involvement of audience and opportunity for a statement from panel members.</p>	<p>L-AG</p> <p>TM</p>
7	<p><u>Treasurer’s Report</u>  HM reported balance of funds in total now £201.97 after all debts paid. Balance at last meeting £39.34; donations £60.00 – then hiring costs £80.00 (£24.58 owed).  Collection at end of Film evening - £147.46 (including donations from P Hall and Mayor)  HM suggested adding a further signatory for Forum cheque book.</p>	
8	<p><u>Membership Report:</u></p> <p>a. Fundraising Ideas: Various ideas discussed. A membership levy? HM reported 3 donations from individuals received amounting to £60. Joel Carre has applied for an Ward for All Grant, and Mayor of Bedford has agreed to act as referee. Chris Dumont approached the Co-op Bank but no reply yet. SW – in kind donations are easier for the University. JCG – request for donations at bottom of membership form and ask local authorities for funding? SE – Local Strategic Partnership might be interested.</p> <p>b. Committee make-up: Beds Local Authorities to be offered a place on the Executive. TM to propose at AGM that any member should be able to attend a Steering Group meeting but Exec. Committee will be more prescriptive.</p> <p>c. Past members: LA-G – members from more than 2 years ago who have not responded to mailings will not be posted material in future.</p> <p>d. Total members: TM – some 70 at present.</p> <p>e. Membership sales: SE – benefits of membership need to be clearly identified?</p>	
9	<p><u>CRed:</u>  JG – Mid Beds DC has embraced CRed as a vehicle for encouraging residents to reduce carbon emissions. See <a href="http://www.cred-uk.org">http://www.cred-uk.org</a> for information. Will this be effective? Comment to <a href="mailto:Jackie.groom@midbeds.gov.uk">Jackie.groom@midbeds.gov.uk</a>. Initial feedback: HM – looks good for activating students. AB – key is in targeting big consumers. Mid-Beds contributions, of course, subject to member approval. Jackie Groom asked for comments by 22 Feb.</p>	
10	<p><u>Future Plans:</u></p> <p>a. 17 March, Energy From Waste Event: Speakers confirmed (Geoff Brighty from Environment Agency, Peter Davis of British Plastics Federation, Mary Edwards of</p>	

	<p>Friends of the Earth). Venue – TM to ask re Stewartby Village Hall.</p> <p>b. 2 April – AGM: Venue – Friends Meeting House, Bedford. Speakers confirmed (Ian Rowland of RSPB on work in Sumatra rainforest; Hannah Thorogood on Permaculture and Climate Change).</p> <p>c.</p>	
11	<p><u>COVE (Centre for Vocational Excellence) Report:</u></p> <p>JM – course development for summer at Bedford College will include Rainwater Harvesting, Heat Pumps, BioDiesel Boilers and more. An EU project with SEEDA is underway involving plumbers and electricians. Recycling bins installed at College.</p>	
12	<p><u>MKEA and EEACs:</u></p> <p>GG – explained role of Milton Keynes Energy Agency (<a href="http://www.mkea.org.uk">www.mkea.org.uk</a>) and the Beds and Herts Energy Efficiency Advice Centre. The Advice Centre is run by MKEA under contract from Energy Saving Trust. It provides literature and free phone energy saving advice for residents on 0800 511 511. Brochures on energy saving and renewables available now. MKEA’s Cocoon Insulation Grants and Discounts service also provides access to quotes from at least 2 insulation installers and information on local council and government grants on 0800 8048 777.</p>	
13	<p><u>Publications:</u></p> <p>J-CG – “The Hot Topic” is recommended. The Green Business Network is worth investigating.</p> <p>Zero Carbon Castle Group have produced an interesting leaflet. Group are active in decreasing plastic bag use, selling linen bags. Currently creating a herb garden on a roundabout.</p>	
14	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>LA-G – raised concerns at costs being incurred by TM and HM as group co-ordinators. Agreed that essential travel and postage should be covered by BCCF funds were incurred on BCCF business. TM thanked group – happy to continue as is, but will flag up if it becomes difficult to sustain these BCCF related costs.</p>	
15	<p><u>Date of next meeting:</u></p> <p><b>14 May 2008: TM to confirm venue, possibly County hall in Bedford, or Luton venue.</b></p>	