

## **The Horsley's Climate Action Network (C.A.N.) group**

### **Minutes of Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – 9.30am, Rubin Room, WHVH**

**Present:** Catherine Young (Chair) Claire Brown, Roy Proctor, Carole Mattock, Juliet Robinson, Sylvia Igglesden, Carol Wilson, Chris Harris, Jane Howard, Chris Jany, West Horsley Youth Council, Yendle Barwise.

#### **1. Welcome and Chair's opening remarks:**

Thank you to CB for taking the minutes.

CY welcomed Yendle to the meeting to give an update on work underway to combat climate change and preserve the natural environment at West Horsley Place.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence:**

Mel Beynon, Alex Veys, Sarah Parker, Antony Etwell, Pip Davis, Penny Whitlock

#### **3. Minutes and Actions from previous meeting:**

Minutes agreed – these have been sent to both Parish Councils to update their members.

Actions will be discussed under AOB.

#### **4. West Horsley Place Update:**

West Horsley Place Trust (WHP) now have an Environmental Management System which works out their Water/ Waste / Energy usage. They can monitor progress against their first year/baseline data (2022).

Currently classified as Carbon neutral for Scopes 1 and 2 - through 'insetting' (offsetting via the WHP estate). Still work to do on Procurement and Visitor numbers / travelling, particularly as visitor numbers are growing with the increased number of events held.

Funding secured from the Swire Charitable Trust to support improved energy and water use efficiency. This will include: cold roof insulation in the manor house (investigations into whether inorganic or organic insulation should be the way forward, and how to sensitively retrofit, are supported by the University of Surrey's Institute for Sustainability); rainwater harvesting devices where grade listing allows; installation of electric vehicle charging points (currently no EV charging (even for site vehicle), and Grange Park Opera require some too, so partnership may mean provision of more/better chargers than originally hoped).

Four new ponds funded by the Newt Conservation Partnership, improving habitat for amphibian and reptile conservation; also 'slowing the flow' with natural flood management work (leaky dams, overflow ponds, ditch work) funded by SCC, to hold water on the estate to prevent floods in other parts of Horsley and provide irrigation on site.

Woodland management plan nearly complete, which will enable active management of existing woodland (coppicing, ash removal, etc.), and will inform woodland creation plans.

'Vision' for estate will be presented at a future Horsley's CAN meeting and other events for local community feedback.

## **5. Active Travel Briefing:**

Juliet provided a discussion document on the implementation of the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure SCC initiative. An 'East Horsley Core Walking Zone' has been identified for phase 1.

Most present had not heard of this and requested that villagers be kept up to date and be able to contribute to the plans. The consultation has closed, but Parish Councils and Local Councillors are still able to input. It would also be beneficial for the PCs to share progress and prioritised improvement plans e.g., cleared pavements, routes for walking.

Useful link for info: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/cycling-and-walking/plans>

Discussion about cross paths from West to East Horsley e.g., could West Horsley Place allow a permissive route to cut walking times from the villages (in addition to Footpath 99). Current routes are excellent for dog/exercise walking, but not necessarily the most direct.

CY mentioned the HART Trail which she is pushing GBC to install on behalf of both PC's.

CM mentioned Friends of Horsley Station who are putting up an Information Board to promote areas and facilities across The Horsley's – e.g., where to walk.

Reasons for continued car use need to be found out from all village groups e.g., Churches/schools/groups. Regular reminders would help via social media posts and PC updates/publications. More to be discussed in social media meeting (CY, CB, SI, SP).

## **6. AOB/Project Updates:**

### **6.1 Youth Council update**

Clothes swap organisation ongoing - 6 volunteers for each session for receiving clothes. On 13th and 20th. CY suggested more might needed on standby. Youth council to liaise with EHPC clerk and Nikki W if additional communication of event required. There is a rota for the Sunday Clothes Swap session.

### **6.2 Churches Update**

St Martin's looking at installing solar panels - DAC support agreed. The Church is Grade 2 listed and will research to find out what other Churches have done before putting into GBC planning. CY advised request a pre-app with GBC. Chris to find link for Nicola(?) - for Crowdfunding support.

St Mary's are doing an Eco tip each month and promoting Active travel to Church. Plus, wildflowers in graveyard, and a photography competition for the Big Green Week in June.

### **6.3 Repair Café update**

Plans coming along. Proposed start 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June. Team being assembled. AV helping with volunteer rota. Catering rota to be drawn up. Admin/Forms to be completed. Cy helping AF with this. Will take place in the Canterbury rooms, St Martin's. Parking hopefully at Horsley Towers. SI to help with marketing and posters.

#### **6.4 The Great Big Green Week (organised by the Climate Coalition)**

8th-16th June – CY to make a list of easy “swaps “that could be made and ask Parish Councils to promote and get people to pledge to swap five things that week e.g., go vegetarian for one day.

#### **6.5 Zero Carbon Guildford update**

20th April is now opening date. Lots planned. Water lab now available upstairs with a team to monitor samples that people bring in. The ‘Water Ranger’ Scheme is up and running. Great interview on Radio Surry this week.

#### **6.6 Thermal Imaging Update**

Chris had been busy with her energy surveys - 538 completed across Guildford. The target had been 500. The current project is now ending. As a result of this SCC are looking at a further project on the emptying of attics so more insulation can be added, which was an issue raised by the heat surveys - particularly for elderly/widowed residents.

Moving on from home energy surveys, CY asked Chris to find out if there is capacity for Village Assets energy surveys e.g., for our Village Halls. Chris will ask Ben at SCC if there are companies that do this and grants available to PCs.

CM asked to follow this up with WHPC and Sylvia/Juliet to do the same for EHPC.

With S106 money available to spend it would be good to ensure that this is being used to make our village assets more energy efficient for the future.

#### **6.7 Blue Heart Verges update**

CY has identified several sites across West Horsley to start us of and logged these with SCC – x8 sites initially. She has asked for a site visit from SCC to assess suitability and will contact residents/organisations that border the sites for support. WHPC to be asked for a small area to grow wild on the Village Green where a Blue Heart can be placed and The Orchard.

Hearts to be purchased from the Fetcham Team. CY with CM to prepare a Briefing Note for WHPC to request funds to cover sign purchase and wildflower seed/plugs.

#### **Proposed Locations:**

1. Entrance to Weston Lea from East Lane, left hand side where it is quite wild already – wildflowers.
2. Entrance to The Wheelhouse, left hand side near the bus stop – a small bee friendly zone.
3. Around the Youth Council Noticeboard towards the back – wildflower area.
4. Small area towards the back of the Village Green – wildflower area/nectar point.
5. Small area in the Orchard – it already has plenty of wildflower planting, but we would like to recognise this with a Blue Heart and maybe have a specific nectar point/bee friendly zone.
6. Butler’s Hill verge – opposite the Village Pound, already some wildflowers there – a small bee friendly zone.
7. Verge at Cranmore School – we believe they did their own planting last year, so this would be a no mow area (1m in is mown to preserve the site line).
8. Opposite the entrance to Cranmore School by the water pump, already a wild area – wildflowers.

9. Verge between Farleys Close and Woodside – wildflower area.

10. Opposite the entrance to West Horsley Place – wildflower area to disguise the concrete posts.

Note: Following the meeting CY is arranging to meet with Lead for Village Appearance at EHPC to look at areas also suitable for the Blue Heart Campaign.

If you want to read more: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/trees-grass-and-hedges/grass/the-blue-campaign-increasing-biodiversity-in-grass-verges>

### **6.8 Other Points**

EHPC are putting up banners in the Village to encourage ‘Shop local/eat local/live local’ to help boost the local economy.

**Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am WHVH Rubin Room**