



Established 1894

Angmering Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE KING SUITE, ANGERING VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 9 JULY 2024 AT 7.30PM

- Committee:** Sylvia Verrinder (Chair), Bill Hall (Vice Chair)
Paul Bicknell, John Oldfield, Norma Harris, Carey Bennett and Nikki Hamilton-Street (as Chair of APC)
For the meeting to take place 3 committee members need to be present, this is known as quorum and is a legal requirement.
- Present:** Councillors; Sylvia Verrinder, Bill Hall, John Oldfield, Norma Harris and Paul Bicknell
- In attendance:** Tracy Lees (Committee Clerk)
- Acronym:** Planning and Infrastructure Committee: PI; Angmering Parish Office: APC; West Sussex County Council: WSCC; Arun District Council: ADC; South Downs National Park: SNDP; Conservation Area: CA; Environment Agency: EA; AFAS: Angmering Flood Alleviation Scheme. Construction Management Plan: CMP;

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTE NO.		ACTION FOR
1	24/042	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received and approved for Cllrs. Hamilton-Street and Carey Bennett.	
2	24/043	DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. None.	
3	24/044	APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the committee from Tuesday 18 June 2024 were agreed by all and signed by the Chair.	
4	24/045	THE CHAIRS REPORT ON ANY MATTERS OF INTEREST AND THOSE OUTSTANDING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING, BUT NOT INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. TO ALSO INCLUDE AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE ACTION LIST. A copy of the Chairs report had previously been sent to all committee members and was accepted with no questions being asked. The report was also uploaded onto the APC website.	

The following additional items were added:

- 1) **Sports Hub** – The office asked for comments from Councillors regarding the proposed draft site plan for the Angmering Sports Hub. Comments were received and a report was put together for ADC. There is to be a public consultation between 12th July and 2nd August. The public face to face consultation events will be held at the ASRA Sports Pavilion on 18th July between 2pm and 6pm and then again in the King Suite of the Angmering Village Hall on 25th July between 3.30pm and 7.30 pm. The date for plans to go to ADC Planning Committee is during November 2024. This was discussed and no further comments made.
- 2) **“McCarthy Stone” Construction Management Plan (CMP)** – An application (A/119/24/DOC) has been received by ADC with a revised CMP and Dust Management Plan, as requested by Environmental Health. This may appear on the P&I agenda for 30th July 2024. Councillors are asked to view this new application, compare it with the previous one and view, particularly the vehicle movement element of the plan, the number of movements/trips per day and its impact on the village and conservation area.
- 3) **National Association of Local Councils (NALC)** – There is to be a zoom meeting given by the NALC Climate Emergency Network on Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance on 12th July 2024. The Chair said she was hoping to attend.
- 4) **Councillor Training Events** – In view of the proposals by the new Government that will affect planning matters, Mulberry are updating their training programme to consider changes affecting planning. Councillors are asked to view these events and dates and to contact the office if they want to attend any.

Action List – None

- 5 **24/046 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**
No members of the public were present and no questions had been sent in.
- 6 **24/047 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
To consider Arun District Council File Lists 175, 176 and 177 of 2024:

FILE LIST 175: Observations to Arun District Council by 11 July 2024

<p><u>A/106/24/HH</u> Two storey side extension DECISION: No Objection COMMENT: Materials and design to match existing design code.</p>	<p><u>ADDRESS</u> Steinheim 2 Nanson Lane Angmering</p>
<p><u>A/101/24/NMA</u> Non material amendment following the grant of A/137/23/HH to change from solar tiles to 6 No inset solar panels to south-west elevation, removal 2 No skylights to north-east elevation and ASHP relocation.</p>	<p><u>ADDRESS</u> Chilston Cottage Ham Manor Way Angmering</p>

<p>Already approved by ADC on Wednesday 26 June 2024.</p> <p><u>A/102/24/NMA</u> Non material amendment following the grant of A/283/22/PL for the change in position and type of boundary fence at the junction of Dapper Lane and Water Lane to improve road junction visibility.</p> <p>Already approved by ADC on Wednesday 26 June 2024.</p> <p><u>A/103/24/DOC</u> Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under reference A/64/21/PL relating to condition 23 - electric vehicle charging.</p> <p>DECISION: Objection COMMENT: APC concurs with the comments by Environmental Health regarding type of installation and charge unit, together with the lack of and placing of charging units especially in relating to units 9 to 40.</p> <p><u>A/105/24/NMA</u> Non-material amendment following the grant of A/132/23/PL relating to the rewording of condition 5.</p> <p>DECISION: No Objection COMMENT: This application was discussed at length and agreed that there was concern as to whether the power supply would be sufficient and able to cope.</p> <p><u>A/107/24/CLP</u> Lawful development certificate for a proposed single storey rear extension.</p> <p>DECISION: No Objection COMMENT: Consideration to be paid to Dark Night Skies/Light pollution policies. Design & materials to match main building and the Design Code.</p>	<p><u>ADDRESS</u> Broadlees Dappers Lane Angmering</p> <p><u>ADDRESS</u> Former Shrublands Roundstone Lane Angmering</p> <p><u>ADDRESS</u> Highdown Nursery Littlehampton Road Ferring</p> <p><u>ADDRESS</u> 9 Nanson Lane Angmering</p>
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FILE LIST 176 – Observations to Arun District Council by 18 July 2024

<p><u>A/109/24/CLP</u> Lawful development certificate for a proposed rear extension.</p> <p>DECISION: No Objection COMMENT: Consideration to be paid to Dark Night Skies/Light pollution policies. Design &</p>	<p><u>ADDRESS</u> 4 Kinleside Way Angmering</p>
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materials to match main building and the Design Code.	
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FILE LIST 177 – Observations to Arun District Council by 25 July 2024

<p>A/108/24/A Installation of 1 No. sign. DECISION: No Objection COMMENT: None.</p>	<p>ADDRESS Land at Roundstone Lane to the North of (Main Site) Worthing Rugby Football Club Angmering</p>
<p>A/112/24/DOC Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under reference A/11/23/PL relating to condition 6 - electric vehicle charging. DECISION: Objection COMMENT: APC reserves the right to make comment when a report from Environmental Health has been published. There is a need for clarity as to how many VC1/VC2 units will be installed as it is not clear from the paperwork provided.</p>	<p>ADDRESS BMW House Chandlers Garage Ltd Water Lane Angmering</p>

- 7 24/048 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOT ON A WEEKLY LIST**
None.
- 8 24/049 **WEST SUSSEX COUNTRY COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
None.
- 9 24/050 **SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
[SDNP/24/02261/PA3R](#)
Conversion of agricultural building to flexible commercial use under Class R of GPDO. The combined area of buildings to be converted will not exceed 1,000 sq. m
ADDRESS: Priors Lease Farm, Dover Lane, Angmering, BN18 9PX
COMMENT: Whilst APC has no objection to this conversion it does however have concerns regarding the amount and impact of traffic and types of vehicles this will generate on a country lane.
- [SDNP/24/02260/PA3R](#)
Conversion of agricultural building to flexible commercial use under Class R of GPDO. The floor area to be converted does not exceed 1,000 sq.m
ADDRESS: Lee Farm, Michelgrove Lane, Patching, West Sussex, BN13 3XJ
COMMENT: Whilst APC has no objection to this conversion it does however have concerns regarding the amount and impact of traffic and types of vehicles this will generate on a country lane.
- 10 24/051 **PLANNING DECISIONS – NOT APPROVED**
The refusals were noted by the committee.

11 24/052 LICENSING MATTERS

None.

12 24/053 CONSERVATION AREA REPORTS

Nothing new to report.

13 24/054 SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

The next planned meeting is to be held on Thursday 11 July 2024.

Awaiting publication of the agenda.

SDNP Local Plan Review:

Information has been received from the NPA that the South Downs Local Plan Review is underway and asking everyone to get involved to make sure it's up to date and addresses important issues including nature recovery, climate change and supporting local communities to thrive. NPA says that from **8 July to 16 September** they are undertaking an early participation stage in the Local Plan Review by inviting feedback on the scope of the review and how people would like to be involved in preparing the new Local Plan

There are three project documents inviting comments on at this stage:

- **Project Initiation Document (PID)** – this defines the scope and issues for the plan, the resources needed to deliver it and the risks associated with the project.
- **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** – this includes a timetable for the preparation and adoption of the Local Plan.
- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** – this sets out how we will consult with all stakeholders, including local communities, business, and public bodies, on planning matters. We are proposing changes to the SCI on how we consult on draft plans, including key principles and introducing the preparation of bespoke 'Community Involvement Plans' for separate planning policy consultations.

These documents are available to view and comment on at:

<https://sdnplocalplanreview.commonplace.is/> Here you can also complete the **Local Plan Review survey**. This asks for feedback on the scope of the Local Plan Review and what important issues it should address.

They are also seeking feedback on the National Park Vision 2050, which will be considered as part of the Partnership Management Review later this year.

Councillors were asked to view these three documents and report via the survey to the SDNP and to APC. This was discussed at length. To get this information out to the Residents of Angmering, it was agreed that the Chair would write a few words for the APC Website etc.

ACTION The Chair to write a piece advertising the SDNP Local Plan Review.

SV

14 24/055 COMPLIANCE

ENF/236/22 – An Enforcement Notice (EN) has been issued against Sigma Homes (Angmering) Ltd. This site is the land at the former Shrublands Nursery, Roundstone Lane.

The approved application is for the demolition of existing infrastructure and construction of 40 dwellings (including 12 affordable dwellings) and associated infrastructure, landscaping, public open space, parking and means of access to and through the site.

The EN has been issued for what appears to be a breach of conditions 12, 14, 25, 26, 28 and 29 of application A/64/21/PL and therefore a breach of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 section 171A (1) in that they have begun and continued to develop and permit occupation, without the required conditions having been approved by ADC. These conditions relate to ecology and environmental issues, appropriate levels of provision of housing accommodation for an ageing generation, surface & drainage construction and management matters.

This enforcement takes place with effect from 2nd August 2024 with a compliance time of 13 months from that date, however, the developer has the right to appeal within that time.

15 24/056 APPEALS

None.

16 24/057 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received from the owner of "School House" Arundel Road with WSCC & the Police, relating to a near miss outside School House. This was discussed at length and Cllrs were reminded that the office were liaising with WSCC on the measures being taken and that the owner of School House was aware. If any further information is required, please contact the office.

17 24/058 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The outstanding matters relating to the following are still being chased by the Parish Clerk: -

- Line Markings
- Speed Signs
- Parking
- Planting, Foliage and Trees
- Flooding
- Road Condition

18 24/059 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEES

Planning Committee Meeting

Next meeting to be held on: Wednesday 10 July at 2pm

Agenda now published however nothing on the agenda relating to Angmering.

Planning Policy Committee

Next meeting to be held on: Thursday 26 September at 6pm

Awaiting the agenda

Meetings are held at the Council Chamber, Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF.

19 24/060 MATTERS REQUIRING CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS OF:

1. This Committee:

- The road sign on the village green - update (brought to a previous meeting by a member of the public) – Clerk is in touch with WSCC.
- Junction of Dover Lane with the A27 – because of previous incidents at this junction, to discuss the site and how possible improvements

to the exit out of Dover Lane could be made. Construct a possible report to WSCC Highways.

ACTION Clerk to chase response and report back

ACTION Cllr. Bicknell to write a report to present at the next meeting on Tuesday 30 July with photographs.

KH
PB

- 2. Full Council:
None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee's next meeting is on Tuesday 30 July 2024 at 7.30pm, King Suite, Angmering Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at **20:43**

..... Date.....
Chairman

DRAFT



Planning & Infrastructure Committee Chairs Report 30th July 2024

1) **Future Dates of Authority Planning Applications and Matters that could affect Angmering**

Members are requested to view the following agendas, planning matters and websites then make comment where necessary.

Authority & Committee		Date	Comment
ADC	Planning Committee	7 th August	Awaiting Agenda
ADC	Planning Policy Committee	26 th September	Awaiting Agenda
SDNP	Planning Committee	12 th September	Awaiting Agenda
WSCC	Planning & Rights of Way	3 rd September	Awaiting Agenda
WSCC	Community, Highways & Environment Scrutiny	16 th September	Awaiting Agenda.

2) **Applications - Part Approved, Withdrawn, or Permission not required.**

None received

3) **Roundstone Level Crossing - Outcome**

As stated in last meetings Chairs Report, Councillor Alison Reigate and I attended the meeting at East Preston Infant School on the 10th July 2024. See my report attached. It must be understood that there is no easy solution to this problem, by closing the Roundstone Level Crossing, will only pass on and worsen the problem/situation at the Angmering Station crossing and the surrounding roads, it will certainly not make any difference or improvement to the holdups on the A259. A report is attached.

4) **NALC -Online meeting**

I attended a zoom meeting given by the NALC Climate Emergency Network on 12th July 2024. There were two items on the agenda of possible relevance to Angmering and one for information (see attached): -

Carbon Literacy Toolkits for Local Councils (Parish/Towns)
Barriers to Community Energy Projects
Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance

There is to be a Community Climate Action Planning workshop in Worthing in either September or October this year – “focus on food resilience with Sussex Resilience Forum & funding from Sussex Police”. If any Councillor is interested in attending, please contact joolz@communityclimateaction.uk and let the Clerk know.

5) **Angmering Sports Hub**

The public consultation is now live and at a face-to-face meeting with the public at the sports ground on 18th July 2024 was attended by 50 residents who gave a very positive and supportive response to the scheme, with the main objection being the location of the car park.

6) **Parking in the Village Square**

The survey for the potential to amend the parking restrictions outside of the shops in the village centre is now live and will close on 31st July 2024. Once the data has been collected, this will complete the Traffic Regulation Order request on WSCC and go from there. If there is not strong support for the stated changes, WSCC will not approve the request.

Links: <https://forms.office.com/e/GMxejYckUJ> <https://www.angmering-pc.gov.uk/news/entry/parking-survey>

Sylvia G M Verrinder

Councillor Sylvia Verrinder TD

Chair: Planning & Infrastructure Committee

Angmering Parish Council.

22nd July 2024

3) ROUNDSTONE LEVEL CROSSING – MEETING

Report by Cllr Sylvia Verrinder 11th July 2024

On the evening of 10th July 2024 Cllrs Alison Reigate and Sylvia Verrinder attended a meeting on behalf of Angmering Parish Council. This meeting was called by the residents of East Preston, and East Preston Parish Council. In attendance were representatives from Network Rail, Stagecoach, Charlotte Weller from West Sussex Highways and Cllr Roger Elkin County and District Councillor for East Preston. The new MP Beccy Cooper (Lab) was to attend but was delayed in Parliament, however it was pointed out that her representative should have been there instead.

The meeting was very well attended with a full house in the East Preston Infant School. At times it became very vocal and needed control. Residents were able to relay to the audience and panel their experiences and ideas for this crossing.

The site of the railway crossing is on the B2140 (Old Worthing Road) which runs from the A259 at the junction of the A259/A280 roundabout, over the rail line and west towards the roundabout on Station Road south of the Angmering Station rail crossing. The other minor roads leading off this B road at the point of the rail crossing, are Roundstone Lane and North Lane. Without the rail line this would be a normal highway off set crossroads which would function as any other highways crossroads, but with the added rail line crossing directly through the centre of the cross then there is added movement pressure when trains are given priority, meaning that road users are then barred from movement on any road by the controlled barriers.

Because of the ever-increasing population in the whole area and the dependency on the motor vehicle, the pressure on the highways and railways to enable travel throughout the southeast has risen without, apparently, any thought as to how the various “ways” can be improved to cope with this pressure. Even though the A259 has been upgraded, there are still holdups on this road due to the rail barriers at Roundstone and Angmering Station being down, in some cases it has been reported that the closure has been up to 15 or more minutes. This has affected the movement from the roads off the A259 that experience long waits to join the A259, such as Station Road at the “Blue Star” roundabout, traffic will then back up along Station Road and into the Village centre, traffic that wants to turn left onto the A259 at this point is prevented from doing so by traffic that wants to travel south over the Angmering Station crossing. Anger and frustration constantly happen – human behaviour.

A few years ago, WSCC introduced the “Active Travel” concept which was meant to get people out of their cars and onto other means of transport, i.e., cycles, trains, buses. What has happened to this? Network Rail say that they are experiencing an increase of passengers therefore more trains are now travelling along that line, this in turn adds to the need to lower the barriers more often preventing the free flow of road traffic, which in turn increases the number of holdups on the B2140 and A259 because of the increase in motor vehicle usage.

Possible Questions: -

- Why do the barriers have to stay down so long, especially when there is no immediate train? – [it is reported that Network Rail has increased the load to twelve trains per hour – probably 6 east/west direction and 6 west/east direction, that is equivalent to 1 train every 5mins based on only one train movement at a time, if crossing trains \(2\) then this would be 5-10mins.](#)
- Why cannot Network Rail have more signallers with less shift hours? [To be considered and worked on.](#)
- What is Public Transport bus companies doing to service the new areas with a view to complying with and encouraging the Active Travel concept? [Representative from the bus company \(Stagecoach\) had nothing to say. No other operator was present.](#)
- What about a bridge? [Due to land availability and cost this was no longer a viable option.](#)
- Should Roundstone Lane be one way only from south to north direction.? [To be considered and worked on.](#)
- Should the Arundel Chord be re-considered? – [The Network Rail Rep stated that there is still that possibility, and it was certainly not off the books.](#) However, would this help resolve the Roundstone Crossing problem?

Both the WSCC Highways Rep and Cllr Elkin said that they had received many constructive questions and ideas and would now be taking them for discussion at County and with the various transport representatives. The audience were assured that they would be kept informed.

Ms Weller stated that the West Sussex Transport Plan will be out for review in 2025. [Something for APC to await and work on at the appropriate time.](#)

[Extract from the Minutes of the East Preston Parish Council Meeting on Monday 3rd June 2024](#)

[The Clerk advised the new Southern Rail timetable had gone live on the day of the meeting, meaning an increased number of train movements along the West Coastway route which would, inevitably, increase the downtime at the village’s two-](#)

level crossings. He had, just, managed to get some modelling information from Network Rail on the impact the new timetable should have on the level crossing timings.

Hello Simon,

My apologies. Yes, we have this modelling information, which as expected does show an increase in barrier down times at these locations at certain times under the new timetable due to the increased service provision. For the level crossings we have assessed selected hours in the day; one in the morning peak, one in the mid-afternoon off-peak, and one evening peak. As a reminder, this is how the service provision (Monday-Friday) has changed at those times compared to the Dec23 timetable and compared to pre-pandemic:

Roundstone & Angmering	June-19 (Covid)	Dec-23	June-24
0800-0859	11	11	12
1300-1359	8	7	12
1700-1759	13	8	12

For both crossings our modelling shows an increase in barrier downtime of around two minutes and 45 seconds in the morning period (0800-0859). We expect longer downtimes in the mid-afternoon period (1300-1359) of around 07:30 and 09:26, respectively. This is because the number of passenger services traversing these crossings is rising from the present seven to 12 in the off-peak. There is a longer expected increase in downtimes for the evening peak (1700-1759) of 09:18 (Angmering) and 07:28 (Roundstone). Interestingly, this is a decrease (by -2:15 and 1:49 respectively) compared to the pre-pandemic timetable within those hour periods.

I hope that this information is useful to you, and please do let me know if there is anything else I can help with at this juncture.

William AJG Knighton - Senior Public Affairs Manager - Network Rail Southern Region

Cllr Elkins had asked for similar information from WSCC Highways and had again chased earlier in the day; he congratulated the Clerk on having got some information from Network Rail as WSCC Highways had received nothing from Govia Thameslink Railways. The Chairman asked whether now would be a good time to have Network Rail reinstall cameras at the Roundstone Level Crossing as he suspected increased downtime at the gates would lead to increased instances of driving taking a chance at crossing when the lights had started to flash; the Clerk said he would raise this with Network Rail

Report by Councillor Alison Reigate 17th July 2024

A very clear report by Sylvia on the public meeting for the above on 10th July.

Yes, it was a very vocal meeting and there were people who should have been ejected.

Obviously, a major point with most attendees was the lack of structure and signage at the junction and the time that the barriers were down.

All manner of fixes were suggested that were untenable such as: -

- traffic lights,
- mini roundabout at junction and a bridge. The land for a bridge was gone,
- the junction too close to the crossing gates.
- Different types of barriers were suggested such as flashing lights and no barrier as in other countries but were deemed too hazardous with the number of trains through the station.
- Also automated barriers not manually controlled were deemed the same.
- Any change of course to the barriers would not change the structure of the junction which is so difficult to navigate.

However southern rail said they would look into their timetable and the lengths the barriers are down and get back to us. Most residents are experiencing anything up to 18-minute waits with maybe 3 trains going through. This is greatly increasing the build up at both Roundstone and Blue Star roundabouts of traffic trying to navigate through these, and the heavy build-up of vehicles trying to exit or enter the A259 from all directions and also bringing the dual carriageway down to 1 lane at these roundabouts with the build-up.

There was quite a bit of reference to making the traffic at Roundstone lane going northbound only from the level crossing there which was a proposal that East Preston Council put forward after their traffic monitoring exercise a few years ago and a proposal they put forward which was put aside until completion of the A259. This would be severely detrimental to residents on the Downsway estate whose only option then would be to join the tail backs on the A259 at the Blue Star roundabout or exit when westbound at the A280 roundabout and join the queue going down the Old Worthing Road.

Depending on your locality would obviously colour your views on the subject.

The Southern rail offer to look into the barrier times would alleviate slightly the traffic build up but there seems to be no insight into the problems with the junction itself at Roundstone Lane.

4) NALC – CARBON LITERACY PROJECT

What is Carbon Literacy? – “An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis”.

Abby Charlesworth, local authorities’ coordinator at the Carbon Literacy Project, provided an overview of carbon literacy training and the toolkits the Carbon Literacy Project offered.

Carbon literacy training involves understanding the impact everyday activities have on climate change and carbon emissions.

The Carbon Literacy Project has five toolkits for local authorities: generic staff, leadership and management, elected members, local (parish and town) councils and community leaders.

The local council toolkit has been developed with assistance from Speak Carbon, Save our Shropshire, Manchester Metropolitan University and Centre for Sustainable Energy and Lorent Training. Case studies from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) showcasing local councils' efforts to address climate change have also been integrated into it.

The toolkit contains four main elements: knowledge, values, learning and methodology and commitment to take action and includes seven to eight-hours of training that could be customised to suit the trainee, with the first part covering climate science, policy, and their relevance to the trainee's specific context.

Toolkits were available for three years, during which time unlimited training could be conducted. They included customisable slides and The Carbon Literacy Project’s in house accreditation team can also help build unique courses. They examine the levers local councils have to exert pressure on lowering carbon emissions and also contain a section on the integral community relationships local councils have, as well as how to have difficult climate conversations.

Local councils can access the local council toolkit free of charge, with the only cost being the certification fee per participant, which is capped for the public sector at £10 per head. The Carbon Literacy Project also offer their community leaders’ courses free to local councils.

The Carbon Literacy Project is an accreditation body, meaning they obtain evidence from learners and help to certify them, but don’t deliver training themselves. Instead, trainers are either internal to the organisation being trained or external, but with expertise in the sector

All off the shelf material is updated by The Carbon Literacy Project every October to ensure it remains relevant, with updates this year likely to include embedding biodiversity net gain into the materials and around Section 106 legislation.

In terms of next steps, local councils interested in carbon literacy training could:

- Have a look at upcoming events run by [The Carbon Literacy Project](#) and [partner organisations](#).
- Look out for open courses for local councils.
- Check out The Carbon Literacy Project’s [local authority carbon literacy webpage](#).
- Sign up for The Carbon Literacy Project’s newsletter, which is filled with tips, tricks and ideas for action to tackle climate change.
- Following The Carbon Literacy Project on [LinkedIn](#).

A summary of the discussion relating to this item is as follows:

- The Carbon Literacy Project’s focus is on making sure that trainers have experience in the sector they are delivering training in. They hold a catalogue of local authority specialists, which CLP could provide to local councils.
- Off the shelf toolkits are also updated by The Carbon Literacy Project mid-year to coincide with party conferences, but those running a unique course need to update course materials themselves.
- The [WWF Footprint Calculator](#) is good and free to use. There is other more in depth calculators available, but they come with charges attached.
- Looking at procurement contracts and where pension money is going is a powerful way to lower emissions.
- Local councils should contact their principal authority to see what they are doing about procurement.

Protection of nature is one of the biggest motivations for people wanting to act.

APC Questions:

- Would this be of interest to Angmering?
- Should APC encourage a Community Leader?
- Should APC obtain one of these toolkits and investigate further.

4) NALC - BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS CONSULTATION 4 JUNE 2024

Introduction

We are writing in response to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero consultation on barriers to community energy projects.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is the national membership body that works with the 43 county associations of local councils to represent and support England's 10,000 local (parish and town) councils.

Local councils and their 100,000 councillors are the first tier of local government, closest to the people, and play an essential part in delivering hyper local services, building strong communities, and strengthening social fabric.

Local councils cover more than 90% of the geography of England and over a third of the population and invest over £3 billion per year to improve and strengthen communities.

Summary

NALC has worked with its Climate Emergency Network and Policy Committee to frame this response, framing a bespoke snapshot sector survey which elicited 94 responses.

NALC is a fervent supporter of community energy projects and considers that many of the 10,000 local councils it represents have a huge role to play in delivering such projects, to improve biodiversity and reduce carbon consumption in their place. The sheer array of such projects can be seen here in the NALC [Climate Change case studies](#) publication from 2020.

In general, government should bring planning laws and guidance in line with government policy by making it conditional for energy saving and carbon neutral measures to be included in all relevant planning applications and building control matters.

NALC has signed up to the proposition that there is a climate emergency and will therefore, as a general principle, promote and support moves and policies which help to mitigate it. For instance, NALC supports the need for Local Plans and large developments to be subject to environmental appraisals and it supports energy efficient homes and more trees.

NALC believes that improvements to the current regime of government support and investment in electricity transmission infrastructure could be made by facilitating action by communities to undertake small-scale projects themselves.

In general, any incoming government should ensure that England's 10,000 local councils have fair access to all appropriate direct funding for community energy projects and should support and empower the 6,000 smaller local councils (with budgets of under £25,000 per annum) to feel that they can confidently deliver small community energy projects, which will have impact.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS - NALC's responses to the consultation questions in the consultation document are below:

Introduction

Question	Answer
Q1. Which type of stakeholder is responding? a. Community Energy Group b. Non-Governmental Organisation c. Private Company d. Local Authority e. Individual f. Other	A1. Other – we are the national membership body for England's 10,000 local councils
Q2. Where are you, or your organisation, responding from within UK?	A2. England.

Barriers

Q3. What are the barriers, financial and non-financial, preventing the establishment, development, and scaling of community energy projects? Please include any relevant quantitative and qualitative evidence.	A3. In response to the NALC sector snapshot survey on barriers to community energy projects, most local council respondents stated that lack of funding, lack of technical expertise and a lack of political support from principal authority were the main barriers financial and non-financial, preventing the establishment, development, and scaling of community energy projects in their areas. This does reinforce the need (see summary) for the government to make it much easier for local councils to apply for specific funding to deliver community energy projects, to source specific technical guidance for them (and in partnership with other community groups), as well as removing the broken, unworkable mechanism of local councils having to apply for any such funding at all through their principal authority.
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Regional differences

Q4. Please indicate whether the community energy scheme(s) you typically work with are urban or rural? a. Urban b. Rural	A4. NALC does not work directly with urban or rural community energy schemes as it is a national representative body for England's 10,000 local councils. However, most of the local council respondents to this question in the NALC barriers to community energy projects sector snapshot survey stated that the community energy schemes they work with are largely rural. This is probably because it is estimated that around 70% of local councils are based in rural areas, where the schemes they work with, are located.
Q5. Are there any regional issues impeding community energy projects? Please include any relevant quantitative and qualitative evidence.	A5. Around three quarters of local councils responding to the NALC barriers to community energy projects sector snapshot consultation stated that they were not aware of any regional issues impeding community energy projects in their areas. The remainder stated that they were aware of such regional impediments.

Suggested changes

<p>Q6. Where you have identified possible or actual barriers, do you have any proposals for how these might be reduced or removed, and why do you think the actions you propose would be effective and appropriate? Please include any relevant quantitative and qualitative evidence.</p>	<p>A6. Various proposals were suggested for how local councils could remove actual or possible barriers to delivery of community energy projects in their areas, reflecting the sheer complexity and diversity of some grassroots schemes. Some of these are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Make funding available to parish and town councils to make their buildings energy efficient and sustainable. * There should be a local team (county council level) with a budget and hiring can do experts. * Knowledge of community energy projects in the area would be beneficial and grants to support local community groups provide energy efficient environments. * Need to connect with local organisations that have suitable locations to look at how we can progress potential options. * Main issue is land for community energy projects. <p>Some of the reasons provided for why general proposals suggested for removal of actual or potential barriers to community energy projects would be effective and appropriate are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Identifying and securing a suitable location for a community energy project is the first step. * Trying to solve the problem of EV charging for residents without off road parking - as pavements are owned by county councils, no current traction is being gained. * Funding being made available for parish and town councils would allow them to use their land for solar farms etc. * Town and parish councils often lack the time and expertise to take projects forward. * There needs to be proactive legislation calling specifically for sites for community energy projects, and requirements on the grid to support such projects with extended links.
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Government support for the sector

<p>Q7. Which existing or past government support mechanisms and policies have been most helpful in implementing community energy projects and why? Please include any relevant quantitative and qualitative evidence.</p>	<p>A7. Local council respondents to the NALC snapshot sector survey on barriers to community energy projects stated that the three most popular past government support mechanisms and policies which have been most helpful in implementing community energy projects were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National priority made of environmental action. * Solar panels & FITS (Feed in Tariff) payments. * Energy usage reduction – insulating homes. <p>This does not mean, however, that there are still not huge structural and other barriers to delivery of community energy projects, as highlighted in earlier answers.</p> <p>The benefits of community energy</p>
<p>Q8. Could you share any evidence, either quantitative or qualitative, demonstrating how community energy projects are supporting the delivery of the UK's national net zero targets and providing additional benefits (e.g., reducing fuel poverty and improving community well-being).</p>	<p>A8. Clearly this answer applies to community energy projects supporting the delivery of the previous government's UK national net zero targets. However, NALC received the below answers, also stating how additional benefits are being provided to the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Holding a green festival and one presentation will deal with the benefits of solar power, electric vehicles and air source heat pumps. * Local sustainability group highlights options and shares information to make the parish more sustainable. * One village has an Archimedes screw, and there are many houses with solar panels, ground-source heat pumps, air-source heat pumps and small wind generators. * Some farmers have digester plants, biomass heating for poultry units and solar panels. * One area supports the net zero targets via the development of both offshore and onshore wind turbines, the three gas terminals at Easington.

Wider system impacts

<p>Q9. Could you share any evidence, either quantitative or qualitative, of the wider system impacts (positive and negative) of community energy schemes and how any negative impacts can be mitigated.</p>	<p>A9. Below are the main points provided by local council respondents to this question in the NALC snapshot sector survey on barriers to community energy projects:</p> <p>Having engaged with the principal local authority regarding installing electric charging points in the community - none of the departments seem to know enough about what is available at the moment.</p> <p>Small parish councils have insufficient funds to complete a local project, there would need to be links between parishes and towns to enable group projects to flourish.</p> <p>Dealing with energy suppliers on the export of solar electricity provided, is not an easy process to navigate or employ.</p> <p>Community funds available for householders to obtain support for solar panels and batteries regardless of income would be fairer and more beneficial for the community as a whole.</p> <p>Negative impact of fields of photovoltaic panels. Focus on fit to building to provide energy where it is used rather than fields of panels, which many do not like, and greater infrastructure costs to deliver the power. For further information on this response contact Chris Borg, policy manager, on 07714 771049 or via email at chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk.</p>
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4) NALC - BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN - Draft local council response to planning applications April 2024

BACKGROUND

The Environment Act 2021 incorporated a broad principle of enhancing biodiversity. Proposals for biodiversity net gain of at least 10% on existing site levels in England are now required as part of the following:

- * Generally, any planning applications for a single dwelling or more (but not housing extensions), submitted since 12th February 2024
- * Commercial development of more than 1,000 square metres or 1 hectare
- * Minerals or waste related development
- * Nationally significant infrastructure projects (*thresholds are defined under Sections 15-30A of the Planning Act 2008*) – but not yet, date to be confirmed.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has published a statutory biodiversity metric (see www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-metric-calculate-the-biodiversity-net-gain-of-a-project-or-development) for calculating biodiversity value, as a baseline for a 10% increase.

(This requirement for biodiversity net gain applies to England only, there is a separate approach to biodiversity within the planning process in Wales.)

POINTS TO CHECK IN PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Further to Government guidance for planning authorities (which can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain-what-local-planning-authorities-should-do) the following points in a developer’s application may be looked for:

Planning application detail	Potential response
Confirmation that biodiversity net gain is applicable.	<i>If not, why not? See definitions above</i>
Calculation of the biodiversity value of the site	<i>Have they missed anything - including saying there is none? NB If unauthorised degradation has taken place, calculations can be based on a previous value as far back as 30 January 2020.</i>
Description of any irreplaceable habitat	<i>Is there really no alternative to destroying a habitat?</i>
A habitat plan of the whole site	<i>Is it accurate? See considerations below.</i>
To what extent the net gains are to be provided on-site and off-site	<i>It will be important for local councils to take a view on these points, as developers may be asking to buy “statutory biodiversity credits” rather than enhance local biodiversity.</i>
A draft habitat management plan for on-site biodiversity	
Plan for any off-site biodiversity gain	

There will also be a biodiversity net gain plan (the Government template for which is not mandatory), but this is usually only agreed AFTER planning permission has been given, and local councils are not asked to be involved in those discussions. It will be appropriate therefore to make any comments on that plan as soon as the planning application comes in.

The agreed and signed plan is intended to be enforceable by the planning authority for 30 years, so some points to review:

- * If the plan includes a biodiversity credit for an area outside the planning authority’s jurisdiction, that may make future monitoring difficult.
- * If the plan includes biodiversity net gain within the gardens of new houses, that may prove difficult to enforce on future householders.
- * The potential for using the same off-site location for biodiversity net gain for more than one development should be prevented by a planned national database of such locations.

CONSIDERATIONS

Local councils may like to consider:

- * contacting local wildlife or conservation groups for their advice
- * identifying local experts in either habitats or locations
- * noting areas outside development sites that might benefit from enhancement, to potentially add to the local planning authority’s credit list.
- * building up over time a biodiversity map of the council area, adding in the details discovered for each development proposal.
- * including such site information in a **Neighbourhood Development Plan**.

See also guidance on responding to planning applications and a model biodiversity policy at www.slcc.co.uk/climate-action/

Meeting Date	Agenda No:	Minute No:	Title	Action Required	Action to be taken	Comments & Next steps	Delegated To	Completed Date
09.07.24	13	24/054	SDNP	The Chair to write a piece advertising the SDNP Local Plan Review	Piece to be written to post on Facebook, Website etc.	First drfat submitted	SV/KH	15.07.24
09.07.24	19	24/060	Matters Requiring Consideration	The road sign on the village green	Clerk to chase response and report back	The Clerk has chased this but as of 3.07.24 is still awaiting a reply	KH	
09.07.24	19	24/060	Matters Requiring Consideration	Junction of Dover Lane with the A27	Clr. Bicknell to write a report to present at the next meeting on Tuesday 30 July with photographs.	The APC office is awating the report	PB	

Key

Task has been started
Task to remian on the list - placed on differed tab
Task not yet started
Task completed