

**North Yorkshire County Council**  
**Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee**  
**16 March 2023**

**Update from the Climate Sub Group**  
**Information report of County Councillor Arnold Warneken**  
**(Chair of Climate Sub Group)**

After a successful first meeting of the Climate Sub Group with interested parties, I contacted all but the local authority representatives to canvass their views as to where we, the H and K ACC, could focus our attention. This feedback (below) will be the subject of discussion for the sub group's next meeting along with those actions the sub group identify at that meeting. I am suggesting that from that meeting we will prioritise what actions we feel the H and K ACC should focus attention on and discuss this at another meeting with the stakeholders and from that report back to H and K ACC with some recommendations.

*Dear Arnold*

*Zero Carbon Harrogate is pleased to have this opportunity to contribute to your thinking as a climate change sub-group. The approach underlying the list of potential projects in this note is as follows:*

- They should use proven technologies and methods but choose those that would benefit from a small-scale pilot project and learn how larger-scale application can best be undertaken;*
- We should focus on investment that 'pays its way'. In other words, investing to make a saving should be an important driver, in particular investment that saves energy and/or reduces waste;*
- Every project should have an identified greenhouse gas saving associated with it;*
- Projects should be preferably capable of early implementation, and not have a long planning period.*

*I would want to make it clear that what follows is not an exhaustive list. Rather it is a range of 'representative projects' that your committee could narrow-down into a list of properly scoped and costed actions which were both fundable and would draw cross-party political support. Some of our ideas have benefitted from some initial development, other require significant fleshing out of the detail. There may be yet other areas that you and your sub-group believe need to be tackled and yet the ideas are not coming forward. We would welcome some steers from your colleagues on such areas and it is quite possible that we have expertise with ZCH that we could draw on to develop from the 'idea' to the 'project outline' stage. There is such a wide range of projects that, implemented in an appropriate way, can demonstrate a sustainable, value-for-money outcome, that contributes to the management of climate change.*

*We don't regard this as being the close of a conversation with the Area Committee, but as a staging point along the way. We would be delighted to maintain a dialogue as you seek to establish your new role as part of the new unitary authority.*

*With these general thoughts in mind we would suggest the following for consideration:*

- Passive infrared detection-based street lighting: Street lighting is only required when vehicles and pedestrians are on the move in the vicinity during the hours of darkness. If each column had movement detectors installed, then lights would only be switched on when they were needed.*

- *Implementation of some local energy grids: if communities both generate and distribute energy locally, then costs are reduced and there are clear incentives for energy to be used sparingly. This could be tackled as part of new housing development or in association with a small local solar farm or wind turbine. Those people that bear the visual 'costs' on new generating infrastructure should be those that benefit most from it. If developers want to erect significant numbers of new homes, they should lay out their properties with a view to maximising generation capacities, particularly using roof-mounted solar PV, also maximising the scope for winter solar gain and summer passive cooling. Environmental objectives need not clash with commercial requirements.*
- *Temporary (or perhaps even permanent) housing construction workshops should be established with larger new housing developments, using timber-frame methods and timber and boarded (rather than brick) cladding. Early discussion with developers should encourage such manufacturing methods and this would reduce transport requirements, build a local skill-base and lead to higher quality building methods. (The Citu development in South Leeds is an excellent example of this approach in practice and leads to lower energy use for property owners and reduce embodied carbon.)*
- *Incorporation of natural solutions as part of new development, including greater use of trees within the streetscape, creation of new habitats and reduce 'urban heat island' effects, which is going to be increasingly a concern with higher summer temperatures. Greater use of water features should be encouraged within new development, providing new wildlife habitats and reducing flood risks.*
- *Use of (electric) cargo delivery bikes around the town for 'last mile' delivery. These could be developed around small local hubs, such as out-of-centre shopping hubs to provide efficient delivery services and reduce the number of white van deliveries.*
- *Having been in the forefront of car clubs in the town, we would love to see a wider network of places where shared car use could be developed, including in villages outside the town.*
- *Local low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) to reduce car and van traffic on residential streets to a minimum are needed, but they can be very divisive. We suggest that identification of neighbourhoods needs to start with local residents, facilitating them in sharing their ideas with those planning the schemes.*
- *Pavements are for people! But on narrow streets, cars often end up being parked over the kerb. To make pavements navigable for those with disabilities and carers with small children, we should be promoting responsible parking, and empowering local communities to protect their walking routes.*
- *We are concerned that whilst some twenty mile an hour limits have been introduced, these only apply on limited lengths of road and the lower speed limits are rarely enforced. We propose a local pilot with an area-wide (of a size to be agreed) and adequate enforcement.*
- *As more and more new homes continue to be constructed to inadequate energy standards, we believe a relatively simple Supplementary Planning Document would address the important shortcoming. We cannot continue to build these homes until a completely new replacement Local Plan is approved.*

*I trust this list provides a useful basis for further discussion.*

*Kind regards*

*Tim Lerner*

*Vice Chair, Zero Carbon Harrogate*

*Hi Arnold,*

*Thank you very much for your e mail. I agree it was a really good meeting.*

*The areas I think we should focus on is getting as many of the local authority buildings to reduce there energy consumption and to have energy monitoring installed, and then to generate their own green electricity.*

*If we can also look to providing some assistance for business in the county to do the same thing.*

*Also to look at creating as many local community energy schemes as we can to facilitate energy generation and local energy security.*

*I look forward to hearing from you in due course.*

*Good afternoon Councillor Arnold,*

*Thank you for asking for our feedback. If we could do one thing which is realistic, reduces carbon consumption, makes cost efficiencies and positively impacts on the environmental, then it would be to upgrade all public street to LED bulbs with motion sensors.*

*Kind regards,*

*Danny Wild*

*Chair of Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition*

*Principal Harrogate College.*

#### **Officer Comment**

As agreed by the Executive, there is currently a public consultation on a draft climate change strategy for North Yorkshire Council <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-council-climate-change-strategy-2023-2030>. The closing date for comments is 7 April 2023. External partners are encouraged to respond directly to the public consultation so that the officers undertaking the consultation receive all views and comments directly by 7 April so that these can considered and reported together.

#### **Recommendation**

That this update be noted.

Arnold Warneken, County Councillor for the Ouseburn Division  
Chair of the Climate Sub Group of H and K ACC