

## Minutes of **Basingstoke Area Sustainability** meeting 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Present: Sam Taylor, Alan Cox, Keith Oborn, Richard Carrow, Alison Zarecky, Vanessa Richards, Barbara Bedford.

There was no guest speaker present, so this meeting was given over to updates from our last meeting in June.

### Item 1 – BDBC updates.

Sam started the meeting with about **Grants**. Keith raised the issue, which most members present confirmed, that the grants expiry time is too short – by the time the necessary information has been gathered, the grant application date has passed. Keith used the Green Home Grants scheme as an example – too much red tape, and a lengthy application process, meant that far less vouchers were issued. The LAD scheme is now in phase 2 with applications welcomed from Local Authorities.

The **Basingstoke Green Week** is going ahead this year, with many exciting and inspiring activities – from a ‘car free’ day to a visit to a Community Garden. Green Week is from 18-26 September and the programme is available online.

**Bead Recycling** was mentioned, but both Alison and Barbara commented that they had not found it easy to get responses from Bead, and they seemed to be unreliable – this could of course be due to COVID but at the moment, neither would recommend.

### Item 2 – Members’ updates

The question of whether we should be able to take **recycling back to supermarkets** (or if home deliveries, that supermarkets collect it when delivering the next shop) was raised. Alan mentioned that it is a fairly long round trip for him to go to his nearest supermarket to take recycling back to source. Richard suggested removing all packaging at the checkout and leaving it there, but this might be unpopular with a large queue behind.

Alison spoke about the Overton Cup, the Overton bag, and the introduction of ‘no engine idling signs’. All these initiatives, as well as the overall reduction in single use plastics, are helping make Overton an example in our local area of how to create a greener environment. Alison also mentioned that they had received funding from different sources – for example to create a nappy library.

Alan gave details of the FLIR monitors – that turn a mobile phone into a thermal camera. You can get them either for Android or Iphone and they cost around £180 each. Alan kindly provided this link:

<https://www.flir.co.uk/products/flir-one-gen-3/?model=435-0004-02>

Alan then gave a presentation on Solar panels and use of batteries. Using his sister’s need for a new roof as an example, he explained why a battery could be necessary, what sort of return you can get if you supply excess power back to the grid, and how charging an electric vehicle could affect the decision. There is apparently a lack of chips for the PV arrays at present. The presentation was sent to all invitees to the call but please contact Barbara ([oakleydeanepc@gmail.com](mailto:oakleydeanepc@gmail.com)) and I can forward you a copy.