

Notes from a meeting with Andrew Jones (AJ) MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough and members of Zero Carbon Harrogate (ZCH)

Present: Jemima Parker (JP) (spokesperson), Michelle Hayes (MH), Christine Jack (note taker), Malcolm Margolis (MM) and Peter Wright

Friday 2nd December 2016, 3.30pm. 57 East Parade, Harrogate.

In preparation for the meeting Andrew Jones had been given information about both Zero Carbon Harrogate and Zero Carbon Britain, their aims and objectives etc. The purpose of the meeting was to make these organisations known to Andrew Jones in his role as our local MP, and to encourage his support and endorsement of their work.

AJ: opened with a general statement about the lack of urgency in government and local government on issues relating to Climate Change; and that energy costs were also not a great priority. AJ asked the group about their engagement so far.

JP: replied that ZCH had been in touch with the local council, local businesses, Leeds University, and Professor Andy Gouldson (University of Leeds, School of Earth and Environment and Deputy Director of CCCEP) and personnel from the Priestley International Centre for Climate. ZCH now had 50 members on the mailing list.

AJ: actions and choices have to be made locally and with the broader government initiatives. There is a need for progress, and also the need to show the benefit. Air quality is one area which is coming to the front line currently.

JP: ZCH have been discussing home insulation schemes, and transport models.

AJ: commented on the part he plays in transport policy, nationally and locally, and that the project for greener buses which improve air quality are underway, as are electric buses. We need to look into ways to encourage these; such as providing places to plug in and charge batteries etc.

AJ: keen to encourage cycling: to normalise the language on social media, for example, so that cycling is a norm alongside pedestrians and motorists; to begin at a younger age; to increase road awareness. To increase provision in the business sector such as facilities to park bikes safely, and to shower and change.

JP/MM: suggested greater infrastructure development, cul-de-sacs as home zones, and electric cycles. In some cities electric vehicles can use bus lanes, are exempt from congestion charges, have good charging amenities; and the possibility to develop this for Harrogate. Plus continuing to encourage the development of bio fuels.

JP: suggested development in local energy generation, quoting some local schemes such as the hydro scheme on the Nidd, solar panels and solar farming, and bio gas. There could be some useful work done in developing renewable systems for councils; and contacting the Energy Officer for Harrogate might be fruitful.

JP/AJ: endorsed the need for sustainable housing, and the refitting of existing housing and look to encouraging such initiatives - ZCH to set up a sub-group for housing.

AJ: said that local enterprise partnerships were being developed, involving North Yorkshire County Council, in the areas of energy and transport. Skills are needed and two academies are underway to provide the necessary expertise.

All agreed that encouragement to move forward in these areas was vital.

AJ: agreed to provide endorsement for the work of ZCH, in the form of;

- a) a written short statement of endorsement which could be included in ZCH leaflets and ZCH website
- b) to speak at a future meeting of ZCH members

JP: asked if ZCH could present to the Conservative Council Group. AJ replied that this group presently did not encourage presentations. However ZCH could probably present to Harrogate Borough Council on request.

The meeting ended at about 4.15pm