



South East Climate Alliance (SECA) Steering Group

Planning meeting - Thurs 7th Feb 2019

Summary of discussion and Action Plan

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| Present: | Geoff Barnard | Steyning 10:10 |
| | Sally Barnard | Steyning 10:10 |
| | Pauline Cory | TTWorthing |
| | Carrie Cort | SussexGreenerLiving, Horsham |
| | Brian Gill | Worthing CAN |
| | Clive Margolis | Environmental writer Brighton and Horsham Repair Café |
| | Nicola Peel | Environmental educationalist, Horsham |
| | Ronnie Reed | Steyning 10:10 |
| | Tony Whitbread | Steyning 10:10 (ex CEO Sussex Wildlife Trust) |
| Apologies: | Emma Cameron | Worthing CAN |
| | Belle Hard | TTDorking |
| | Jay Mercer | Refill Horsham, Kinder Living, Horsham (ex councilor) |
| | Karen Park | St Marks Eco Church, Horsham. Billingshurst |
| | Pat Smith | Dorking Repair Café, People declare a climate emergency |

OVERVIEW

Name: Agreed that we will call our coalition of 'green' groups in the South East the South East Climate Alliance or SECA (to avoid confusion with the national Climate Coalition)

Focus: Agreed that SECA will focus on councils to Declare a Climate Emergency as its first big project, and that is the current focus of this steering group. There may be future projects and meetings of SECA, but we will put those to one side for now.

Set up: Agreed that SECA is a loose affiliation of groups. It is to be non party political, and inclusive and will embrace different approaches. Groups in SECA will make their own decisions - some may take traditional approaches, some may prefer direct actions eg along Extinction Rebellion lines. SECA is here as an umbrella group to offer centralized resources, share ideas and help coordinate action.

ACTION: Geoff We need a disclaimer on our website to say that we are an informal alliance of community groups and are not responsible for the actions of individual groups.

Linking with national action: there is a national website www.climateemergency.uk (call it CEUK) which is helping to coordinate national action on Declaration of Climate Emergencies. They are developing material for everyone to use, and we should be able to use a lot of this to save time and effort. Sally is in contact with them (Kevin Frea is a City Councillor in Lancaster)

STRATEGY

Main approaches:

1. Approach current local councils to encourage them to Declare a Climate Emergency
2. Use local election campaigns to focus on the issue and get candidates to commit to support a Declaration of Climate Emergency. After the elections focus on new councils to put message again and follow through

Direct actions can take part alongside both these, if local groups decide that is their preferred approach.

Concentrate on:

- District Councils first.
- County Councils later (*although a motion is now being put forward in West Sussex County Council which we can rapidly support by writing to our local councilors*)
- Parish Councils not so influential so less of a priority, but local groups may decide they also want to approach them.

ACTION PLAN FOR SECA

1. PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GREEN GROUPS TO APPROACH THEIR COUNCILS RE A DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY (DCE)

| MAIN IDEA | | |
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| That local groups contact/meet their local councilors to raise the idea of a DCE and gain support for it. Once a motion has been put forward for a DCE then groups organize lobbying of their local councilors to support it. The plan is for the SECA website to offer resources to help local groups with this. | | |
| | Who | When |
| Create a crib sheet on how local government works and how the public can interact with it. Put on website. | Wait for CEUK leaflet, or Jay may be able to help? Brian will look into how Worthing council works. | ASAP |
| Create a clear, brief 'Info pack for Councilors' for groups to use when approaching their local councilor or their council officer Put on website.eg <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Template of a clear message• An example of a council motion• A link to the map of councils who have declared | Sally to collate | ASAP |

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| https://climateemergency.uk/blog/map-of-local-council-declarations/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A document such as 'Preparing for Climate Change' | | |
| Store a collection of ideas/resources on the website to support councils and officers in preparing a motion - Eg one idea amongst many is for councils to create a citizens assembly after the declaration to help decide on priorities for carbon cutting | Sally to collate examples | |
| Offer ongoing help, support, resources to councils and officers in following through with action after a declaration - eg documents like Zerocarbon Britain and Planning for Climate Change, | | |
| Direct groups to the 'Write to Them' facility online to make contacting councilors easier. Offer guidance on writing eg give your local address, use your own words, main points to make | | |
| Do we need a groups liaison person to share advice/support on approaching councils? | Who? Jay? | |

2. LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GROUPS

NB Deadline for nomination of candidates is 3rd April 2019
Date of local elections is Thurs 2nd May 2019

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| MAIN IDEA: Local groups contact all their local candidates to ask them to pledge to support a climate declaration if elected. This is followed through by local groups rallying the public to write in large numbers to their choice of candidates asking if they would pledge to support a climate emergency declaration if elected. And if not, why not? | | |
| Political parties: Approach them in advance of election about including a pledge to support a climate emergency declaration in their campaign literature | ?who | Soon? |
| Create material to use in election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters • Leaflets | ? use CEUK material | |

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| <p>Create template letters/emails for groups and the public to send to candidates</p> <p>Offer guidance on writing eg give your local address, use your own words, brief list of main points</p> | | |
| <p>Share ideas on the website for activities during the campaign eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street stalls • Regular actions/link with XR • Hold hustings • Leaflet households • Letter writing events eg with tea/cakes • Contact other community groups to spread the word and help eg Eco churches, wildlife groups, gardening groups etc • Use young people | | |
| <p>Display a list of all candidates who would support a declaration. Where would it go? Hard to manage centrally</p> | | |

3. ORGANISING OURSELVES

| | Who | When |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| <p>Set up a Googledrive for use within the steering group to store documents</p> | Geoff | ASAP |
| <p>Set up a SECA website (possibly CEUK hosted)</p> | Geoff with Clive | ASAP |
| <p>Curate the SECA website resource store carefully- not too much stuff!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of council motions • A few useful websites • Useful documents 'Planning for Climate Change a Guide for Local Authorities', 'Zero Carbon Britain' • Lists of councilors and contact details? (but these are readily available on council websites) | Sally will collate | ASAP and ongoing |

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| <p>Contact lists: <i>NB Geoff and Sally have discussed further and suggest the following separate lists :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of affiliated groups with one lead contact for each, kept on the steering group Googledrive with logos displayed on the website • A list of all individuals who want to be kept up to date and receive newsletters, kept on Mailchimp , and confirmed for GDPR • A list of useful outside contacts kept on Googledrive for the use of the steering group • A list of groups we want to approach to join SECA, kept on Googledrive | <p>Geoff</p> <p>Carrie</p> <p>Geoff</p> <p>Geoff (CES) Tony wildlife groups etc</p> | <p>ASAP and ongoing</p> |
| <p>Joining SECA <i>NB this is Sally and Geoff's suggestion after discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals or groups contact SECA via southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com then Sally adds groups to googledrive list + 1 lead contact, and sends individuals details to Carrie to confirm for mail chimp. • Sally also informs them of facebook group and website | <p>Sally and Carrie</p> | |
| <p>Communication within steering group- agreed that email is ok, but avoid multiple cc 's where possible</p> | <p>All</p> | |
| <p>Communication with other green groups/SECA members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook • News updates • Email address- email address is southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com | <p>Jeanette Mercer</p> <p>Sally will receive these emails and pass on where needed</p> | |
| <p>Logo: we will use a modified version of the 'Declare a Climate Emergency' from CEUK prepared by Carrie (see header) for this particular SECA campaign . They have OK'd this. Put logo on website in various forms for groups to use</p> | <p>Geoff</p> | <p>ASAP</p> |

Next step: Clive has said he will produce a newsletter from these minutes of this meeting.

This will summarise how we have set up SECA, its aims etc and the action plan from the Steering group.

+ check with them about GDPR

+ let them know southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com email and facebook group

+ how to join SECA

Carrie will send the newsletter out to everyone who attended the Horsham SOS meeting + other groups she knows are interested .

Next meeting: ? Monday March 4th 7-9pm , to be confirmed after contacting people who couldn't be here today. Could be in Steyning or Billingshurst.