

**Notes and actions: 5th SECA steering group –Wednesday 10th July, 7-9 pm,
Quaker Meeting House, Worthing**

<p>1. Welcome /intros</p>	<p>Present: Geoff Barnard (chairing) , Sally Barnard , Pauline Cory, Tony Whitbread, Carrie Cort, Nicola Peel, Jay Mercer, Alison Marshall, Helen Whittington.</p> <p>Observing: Cree Tilbury (XR Godalming), Luke Berry (XR Horsham), David Johnson (CPRE Sussex), Nicky Scott (who is considering setting up a similar South West climate alliance)</p> <p>Apologies: Karen Park, Pat Smith, Catherine Edminson, Clive Margolis</p>
<p>2. National</p>	<p>120 out of 418 local councils have declared a CE. Its happening very fast. An additional 71 have not declared, but have passed motions and set 2030 target</p> <p>UK Climate Emergency Network has been launched recently to support local authorities who have declared climate emergencies. We are awaiting more info. Sounds promising.</p>
<p>3. County Council update</p>	<p>WEST SUSSEX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SECA is now represented on a WSCC Climate Advisory Group by Tony and Geoff, with Tony also playing a wider Wildlife Trust role. It is chaired by Cllr Kevin Boram, with Conservative, Labour and Lib Dem councillors, 2 Youth Cabinet reps, Steve Read (Dir of Env & Public Protection) and Margaret Enstone & Ruth O’Brien (WSCC Sustainability Team). The first meeting was encouraging and mainly about agreeing a TOR. Key elements are for the group to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Act as a critical friend to the Council regarding how information is best presented e.g. the proposed Carbon Budget for the ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. ○ Constructively challenge proposals to deliver carbon reduction and climate change adaptation. ○ Adopt an ambassadorial role for the Council to promote the ambitions around carbon reduction and climate change adaptation particularly with decision makers. • They plan to meet 3 more times this year. They are looking at where they want to be by 2030 and working back from that. Tony has suggested to the officers that they build on a lot of work already done by the West Sussex Environment & Climate Board prior to 2015. Jay advised our SECA reps to keep up the pressure/support by being in regular contact with the officers working on plans, offering to read drafts etc (GEOFF/TONY) <p>We discussed sources of expert advice for councils working on their carbon action plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Carbon Trust have a webinar for public sector organisations on 17th July that SECA has circulated. ○ Carrie suggested contacting UK100 ‘a network of...local government leaders, who have pledged to shift to 100% clean energy by 2050.’ She will email them (CARRIE)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Circular Economy - we have a contact with Peter Desmond CARRIE will contact him ○ Plus other resources we already have on the website eg CAT, FoE documents etc ○ (NB APSE, the Association for Public Service Excellence, has just published a report on local authorities and climate emergency declarations: https://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/news/articles/2019/new-apse-energy-publication-titled-e28098local-authority-climate-emergency-declarationse28099/) ○ We need to update the website with these (GEOFF) and explore them further. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WSCC Climate pledge – this is an initiative started in response to the climate motion. It would be good to support this to show WSCC that we can get behind their efforts. We agreed to ask SECA groups in West Sussex to encourage their members to sign up and join the facebook group (which gives ongoing tips about what individuals can do) https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/make-your-climate-pledge/ ALL GROUPS IN WEST SUSSEX + to go in next newsletter SALLY <p>SURREY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Surrey CC passed a climate motion on 9th July. This is encouraging given the lukewarm response they had in May. Well done Dorking Climate emergency for all their hard work ● Surrey Climate Commission has been launched, bringing together business, civil society and faith groups, universities, and local councils. Here’s a video of their launch event. <p>HAMPSHIRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hampshire CC passed a CE motion in June. <p>EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have no further news about East Sussex. Last thing we heard there was a possibility that a Labour councillor from Hastings was going to put a motion forward.
<p>4. District/borough councils update</p>	<p>There have been a raft of councils declaring recently – see the website for the latest progress update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mole Valley DC has declared a CE (<i>+ there are campaigns in progress in other Surrey councils</i> PAT- could you let Sally know which councils?) Also Dorking CE has approached all councils in Surrey with a Freedom of Information enquiry about which energy supplier they use. We could consider suggesting this to groups in the newsletter SALLY ● Horsham DC passed a CE motion. We discussed the debate. It was messy and confusing, but we agreed the outcome was encouraging. Since then Jonathan Chowen, deputy leader, has said it’s a ‘game changer’ and that a carbon audit will be done and plans produced to back it up. Kate Rowbottom (chair) has said she will push for a Year of Green Action and that she thinks a group will be set up to which SECA will be invited. ● Chichester City Council has declared

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester District Council has declared (9th July) • Rushmoor DC (Hampshire) has declared • Winchester City Council has declared • Eastbourne BC has declared (July 9th) • Worthing BC and Adur BC have both declared in a pre-emptive cabinet meeting . This was sparked by two Climate emergency motions which are due to be put to both councils shortly as a result of e-petitions. There will still be demonstrations at both of these full council meetings to show there is public support and encourage the council to go further and be as ambitious as possible on detail and targets etc (Adur BC meeting July 18th 6.45-9.45pm at the Shoreham Centre, meet outside for demo from 6pm. Worthing BC meeting Tues 23rd July, meet for demo at 6pm outside Worthing Town Hall,) ALL GROUPS IN ADUR AND WORTHING AREAS please spread the word if you haven't already done so! • Thanet DC (has now declared- a motion debated on July 11th has been passed) <p>We discussed how SECA can support local groups to influence other district councils who have not declared yet.eg Arun (now 21 Con 20 Lib Dem 2 Green) MICHELE offered to contact Bognor XR to see if they might set off the process with an e-petition in Arun. On the tactics front, it seems that e-petitions to the council can be effective way to set off the process. We can 'put legs on it' by encouraging letter writing, gathering the public to attend the council meetings and especially by talking to councillors to build personal relationships.</p> <p>We agreed that it is probably best that a petition is started by a local environmental / community group rather than a political party as the party in power will not see it as such a threat.</p> <p>Also, if an opposition party is putting forward a motion, that it comes from a party with a few councillors, rather than the main opposition- again it will be seen as less of a threat.</p> <p>Also we can put some general advice on these tactics in the newsletter and on the website GEOFF/SALLY</p>
<p>5. SECA in the future</p>	<p>We have made a lot of progress in the last 6 months, but the time feels right to consider where we go from here.</p> <p>Kalyan was asked to share some observations about our situation from his perspective (he is doing an action learning project as part of an MA at the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex Uni) – he suggested we need to clear in distinguishing 3 elements as we look ahead: Purpose (what we're here for), Process (how we do it), and People (who does what).</p> <p>The broad threads of our discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether to broaden our role or stay focussed on councils and climate emergency. i.e. Should we pitch at various different levels – focusing on personal actions, not just councils? Nicola made a strong plea that SECA provides guidance on individual actions and doesn't just focus on councils. She would like us to have ambition to do this on a large scale. • We talked about the power of the network that has emerged through SECA- it has the potential to both amplify actions and

	<p>consolidate them and to allow sharing of ideas. We all have different ways of helping that can contribute. Its important we don't dissipate our energy by trying to take on too much.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's important to focus on the next stage of how SECA engages with councils who have already declared an emergency. We have found a channel that is working and could pursue it further Michele noted that Climate UK was working in a similar way with councils 5 years ago, though it fizzled out when funding was cut. We could try to seek out and build on work that has already been done. <p>We agreed that we need to give ourselves enough time to air views and come to a joint decision on how we approach the next stage of SECAs life, and that we need to make this decision sooner rather than later.</p> <p>So.....we agreed on an AWAY DAY on the afternoon and evening of Weds 28th AUGUST. This was a date that everyone in the room could get to - we hope that as many others on the steering group as possible can get there too, at least for some of the meeting. Kalyan will help to facilitate this.</p> <p>It will be an afternoon of strategy discussion, followed by an evening with a more social focus.</p> <p>HELEN kindly agreed to look into a venue. The main possibilities are the Quaker Meeting House in Chichester, Muchos Nachos in Chichester or the Verda houseboat in Shoreham was also suggested.</p> <p>The meeting is open to all on the steering group, (ie all who have been receiving these minutes) and anyone who has attended a steering group meeting as an observer. We did consider opening it more widely, but felt it was important that everyone attending had a good knowledge of SECA and its background.</p> <p>GEOFF, KALYAN, JAY, HELEN and ALISON agreed to form a planning group to plan the day</p> <p>Please let Geoff know any issues that you feel we need to add to the discussion and any people beyond those listed that you think we should consider inviting. (Geoff@barnards.plus.com)</p> <p>We also discussed a full get together open to all SECA members. We agreed that this was important and should happen later, depending how discussions at the Away Day go.</p> <p>More detail will follow once the venue has been decided.</p> <p>Meantime PLEASE KEEP WEDS 28th AUGUST FREE IN YOUR DIARY- afternoon and evening.</p>
<p>6. Events</p>	<p>Coming up:</p> <p>Sat 21st Sept Unitarian Church Horsham, Open Day with Climate Emergency theme – SECA has accepted invitation to have a stall.</p> <p>Sat 5th October Shoreham Wordfest Climate Change Summit – info here https://www.shorehamwordfest.com/</p> <p>Sun 6th October Shoreham Wordfest Our Future, Our Climate –Young Peoples conference – David Johnson asked if SECA knows of young people who would be particularly keen to take part ALL</p>
<p>7. Membership list</p>	<p>Recently joined SECA member groups: XR Godalming, SCATE, Transition Bookham, XR Horsham, XR Worthing, Hampshire Climate</p>

	Action Network
8. Next meeting	This will be agreed at the Away Day on 28 th August