

12th SECA Steering Group
Zoom Meeting
14th January 2021

Present: Tony Whitbread (Chair) Chair of Sussex Wildlife Trust, Your Better Nature
Dave Allen Brighton and Hove FOE
Gonzalo Alvarez UN Association, Climate and Oceans
Geoff Barnard Greening Steyning, SECA newsletter/website
Sally Barnard Greening Steyning, SECA coordinator
Tom Broughton Chichester XR
Sherry Clark Transition Hastings, Emerging Futures
Gaynor Cooper Horsham Eco Churches
Carrie Cort Sussex Green Living, Horsham Repair/Climate Café etc
Anne Davies CAGNE (Campaign Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions)
Viviane Doussey Your Better Nature, UN Association Climate and Oceans
Paul Hannam Your Better Nature, Greening Steyning
Wilf Hardy Yateley CAN
Danny Lee Petersfield Climate Action Network
Alison Marshall Transition Horsham
Jay Mercer Kinder Living (Horsham)
Nicola Peel Eyes of Gaia
Brenda Pollack Friends of the Earth, South East region
Lynne Salvage Divest East Sussex , XR Hastings
Ben Sampson Ardingly Climate Action
Liz Thorns Horsham XR, Transition Horsham

Apologies: Pauline Cory, Juliet Merrifield, Karen Park, Pat Smith

1. **Welcome** and introductions as above.

2. Local elections 6th May 2021

28/56 local authorities in the SECA area are due to hold elections this May for some or all of their seats (*see list attached*). This includes all 5 county councils. The elections may be postponed due to Covid, but its best to get any plans together now if we want to influence parties as they plan their manifestos. Sally introduced some thoughts about how SECA might add value to local election campaigning in the region. In 2019 SECA produced pledge cards and posters and a template for a letter writing campaign to candidates and disseminated these as options for local groups to use. We could try a similar approach this time.

A pledge card for candidates based on ABCD was floated: **Aim higher, Build partnerships, Communicate, Divest pensions from fossil fuels** (*see power point attached*)

Discussion comments: Might we need different pledge cards for county and district/borough councils as they have different focuses? This is very similar, and compatible with, the 12 demands of XR. 4 things to sign up to might be too complicated, candidates may not feel able to sign up to them all. Keep the pledges simple, but put detail in small print on the back. Could we include something about baselines? Including divestment might muddy the waters for the big divestment campaigns like Divest East Sussex? On the other hand, calls for divestment from different organisations could work together to build up the pressure. We need to concentrate on adding specific value from SECA's contribution. Should we be producing our own original material, or concentrate on sharing resources from others? Include aviation in emissions calculations. *Points from after the meeting: could we have tick boxes so people don't have to sign to all 4? Pat says Dorking are probably going to organise a letter writing campaign for Mole Valley DC. Nicola sent a link to '6 Principles' CAT and others have developed in Wales*
<https://www.sixprinciples.org/>

ACTION:

SALLY will liaise with LIZ and LYNNE and try to refine the pledge card for the next meeting with all this in mind. They will liaise with Divest East Sussex and Friends of the Earth (who are likely to produce their own material)

PAT – could you share your letter when the time comes?

3. SECA and COP26

Geoff introduced COP 26. How is SECA going to approach it? We are one amongst a huge number of players thinking about this, and again we need to look at where we can add value in our particular role as an alliance. There are various resources appearing on the COP 26 website <https://ukcop26.org/> including '[Count Us In](#)' that we may be able to promote/disseminate.

Gonzalo and Viviane gave a presentation about the UN Sustainable Development goals and the UNA campaign 'From Paris to COP26' which aims to bring global UN and national commitments down to the local level. They want to "sign up the original 2015 Paris Climate Agreement with as many individuals and local councils as possible" and "to engage with leaders and individuals across all sectors to focus on their latest carbon commitments set out at the UK Climate Ambitions Summit in Dec 2020". They want to use COP26 to create links and synergy from local to global and back again. They are hoping that SECA may be able to help them to approach councils and also help to disseminate their materials and proposals to our member groups to take up some of these ideas.

See presentation attached

Contacts: For anyone interested in the work of the UN Association Climate & Oceans
Viviane Doussy viv.doussy@outlook.com. Mob 07796 261-29
Gonzalo Alvarez unaukhandb@gmail.com Mob 07552 690-519

Discussion notes: There were positive responses to the UNA approach. If the UNAC&O could produce a 'TED talk' or presentation/posters, local groups could use them. Might help make council action plans less 'wishy washy'. The UN branding is well recognised and trusted. Using the logo could help to make the link to COP26. It's important to help people see links between what they can do themselves and the global picture. It's important to have a clear focus. Sherry might use the UNDG 'doughnut' concept in the Emerging Futures event planned in Hastings on 23rd Feb.

ACTION:

GONZALO and VIVIANE plan to produce some materials on UNA and 'Paris to COP26' that can be used by local groups and share with Geoff.

ALL: please send any ideas/content that you spot on COP26 to Geoff (geoffbarnard2@gmail.com) or via SECA gmail.

GEOFF will create a focus on COP 26 in blogs/newsletters this year.

We will make COP26 the focus of our annual gathering (see later).

SHERRY will send details of the Emerging Futures event to Sally at SECA gmail.

NB Here is a link to a very useful Local Government Association guide "UN Sustainable Development Goals for Councils" that Jay has forwarded:

https://30312f94-9adb-4918-80dd-708c590bada3.usrfiles.com/uqd/30312f_79b08331d11e44bc888e1ee08c05474e.pdf

4. Friends of the Earth/Climate Emergency UK "Local authority climate plan checklist for developing and reviewing action plans" (see the attachment)

Brenda introduced this checklist (which is **still a draft**, so please don't share it!). It is designed for campaigners and councils to assess how robust their climate action plan is. It focuses on quite 'high level' aspects. For example: Have emissions been quantified? Does the plan relate to the wider council area as well as the council estate? Does it rely on mitigation rather than offsetting? Is there a commitment from senior staff, is there political leadership, is there transparency over funding?

It could be used by community groups as a means of challenging their council to firm up their plans. Groups could invite other allies, get together to divide up the tasks, draft a series of questions, share with the council and meet to draw up a list of priorities.

Training on this is taking place on Tues Feb 2nd 1-2pm . Register on the FOE website <https://takeclimateaction.uk/training/training-join-webinar-and-brush-your-campaigning-skills>

5. Gatwick 2nd runway

Anne flagged up that the French owners (VINCI) have agreed to invest in rebuilding the emergency runway into a second runway – the planning process starts this summer. This would add 34,000 flights a year, and an additional 1Mt CO2 on top of anticipated 0.95MtCO2 by 2028. Plus increased noise, emissions & pollution, congestion, lack of infrastructure, urbanising of green space. In 2015 Crawley Council voted 25:11 against the second runway – the mood is different now as all local authorities ignore CO2 & NOx produced by aviation. To oppose Gatwick, CAGNE are looking for financial support and experts. Do we know of any businesses or individuals who wish to help? Also Anne urged everyone to join the CAGNE mailing list which is free, annual supporters pay £4 a year, and there is a legal fund awaiting donations at PayPal CAGNE

Discussion notes: We agreed this development would produce huge infrastructure and operational emissions. Society is geared up to talk about GDP and FTSE, but doesn't have a ready gauge for the impact of developments on emissions. Job losses at Gatwick are a huge concern, we need to be ready with persuasive arguments about the green job agenda. Aviation should be included in council emissions calculations, not omitted as at present.

ACTION GEOFF to include Anne's article in the SECA newsletter. To join CAGNE go to www.CAGNE.org

6. A SECA gathering

Alison and Viviane have volunteered to gather a group to organise a SECA gathering this summer. It is very likely to be online. COP26 could provide a focus. There was general support for this. It's possible it could be partially physical /partially virtual depending on circumstances. Date to be confirmed.

ACTION: VIVIANE, ALISON and JAY will form a planning group. Please let us know via SECA gmail if you are interested in joining the planning group.

7. Greening developments

Geoff reported that Terena Plowright has been in contact with SECA about whether we might work together in some way. Terena set up the Greening Campaign 10 years ago, it's a community engagement model that grew to about 140 groups and then fizzled out when funding was withdrawn. She has re-launched the initiative in 2020, this time targeting parish councils as the route of delivery. A 'package' is provided of simple steps for parish councils to put into action to engage the community on climate issues. In Hampshire this is being promoted/funded by the county council as a route to climate action at parish level and they are looking for parishes to get on board. Terena is approaching various other counties, including West Sussex. Can we see a way that we might work together?

Discussion points: There are 'gaps' in the system where some parishes don't have any active green group – in these situations a toolkit/action plan might be very useful. How does it sit alongside the FOE guidance for parishes? There was some scepticism about how deep the impact might be. Also some concerns about it being a business rather than a charity/CIC and whether SECA should therefore promote it. SECA could invite Terena to present to the Steering Group and respond to any concerns.

ACTION: consider whether to invite Terena to a future SG meeting. CARRIE might contact her to find out a bit more about the package she is offering.

8. AOB

Dave (Brighton FoE) flagged up the Climate Emergency Centre movement <https://climateemergencycentre.co.uk/> , which is identifying empty spaces and finding ways of using them as community spaces to 'meet, plan, educate, train and adapt' eg holding meetings on climate action, bike workshops etc. He also let us know that there is a bike ride to Glasgow in planning, similar to the Paris one in 2015 and coaches being planned to Glasgow from Brighton for £40 each.

9. Date of next SECA Steering Group meeting: 11th February 2021