

Minutes of Sheffield Climate Alliance Meeting , 16 February 2016, at Quaker Meeting House

Present : Jenny Carpenter (Chair), Sean Ashton, Gen Ashton, Phil Daly, Dave (new), Jenny Patient, Chris Tremblett, Liam Hardy , George (new, from Sheffield Uni), Celia Mather, Julie Graham

Apologies : Janet Paske, Kate Stott, Anna Brook, Joan Miller, Richard Souter

1. Matters Arising from previous meeting : (This refers to the December meeting - the January meeting was a special event and notes are on the SCA website).

a) Contact with City Council: Cllr Terry Fox had said that the Green Commission report would respond to our last petition. This is now expected imminently. Meanwhile, Cllr Ben Curran has agreed to meet SCA Divestment campaigners.

b) Sheffield Plan: Jenny C explained that the Council had held a public exhibition in the Winter Gardens on the Sheffield Plan, inviting comments. This plan will revise local planning guidelines and is largely aimed at ensuring more housing is built. Chris B said it will also set guidelines for dealing with energy, including fracking planning applications. Meanwhile, Julie G has been unable to locate current minerals extraction guidelines – that will apply to fracking. Chris B will try to locate and forward these on to her to look through.

c) Food and farming : We had considered screening the film “Cowspiracy” but this is now being shown at Regather on 18 February so anyone interested has been directed to that.

d) “This changes everything”. Anna Brook is looking into a venue for showing this film again and getting other groups eg local Labour Parties involved.

Feedback from divestment campaign: Sean reported that seven people, dressed up as cleaners, went to highlight the campaign at the S. Yorks Pension Authority (SYPA) AGM on 12 February. SYPA have responded to SCA’s petition, saying that they prefer to engage with companies they invest in, rather than simply divest. Next actions are being discussed with the national divestment network.

Sheffield Against Fracking feedback : Phil described the day of action in the city centre on 29 January. Campaigners dressed up in boiler suits and masks, whilst offering people “fracking water”. The public were supportive and many signed up to the mailing list. The film “Groundswell Rising” will be shown at the Void, Hallam University on 7 March. We are looking to get the film director to appear for a Q & A session on the night. “It all started with one well” is also to be shown on 24 March, as part of the Festival of Debate.

Nationally, Greenpeace have held a “Fracking Parliament” action outside Parliament and launched a petition calling for Minister, Greg Clark to respect Lancashire County Council’s decision to reject a fracking planning application by Cuadrilla. Jenny P will shortly put a list of local anti-fracking groups and their meeting dates on SCA website.

Phil said he was concentrating on Greenpeace work and Julie on SAF work.

University campaigns feedback: Last week, People and Planet held “Go Green” week, with lots of events. The highlight was a 2.5 hour occupation of Barclays Bank on Friday. There was plenty of interaction with the public, most of whom were supportive of the protest against shale gas funding. The police were friendly and the event was covered on local TV news bulletins.

Biofuelwatch speaker, Deepak Rughani also gave a talk on biofuels.

Building links with Labour Party: Jenny Patient ran a workshop on climate change at a recent event in Derby with John McDonnell, the Shadow Chancellor. In his speech, he did not mention climate change, though he did reply to a question on Warm Homes. McDonnell then spoke in Sheffield on 13 February and this time, did refer to climate change.

Jenny said she had also been in touch with Hallam Constituency and Broomhill Branch Labour Parties. She said the manifesto said little on climate change so she would continue to broaden contact. Note she is also working with her union, Unite and Sheffield Trades Council.

FoE update: The main campaigning lines this year will be on food – an on-line blog will be set up shortly - and air quality.

Upcoming Events

Global Justice Now will hold a food sovereignty event in the city centre on Saturday 16 April. This is in support of the International Day of Peasant Struggle on Sunday 17 April. Chris Tremblett agrees to be their SCA main contact.

National “Going backwards on climate change” demo, London 7 May : Janet Paske has suggested we organise support for this so any volunteers should contact her. But note this event is two days after the Council elections.

Debate on Climate Justice, 17 May, is being organised by SCA . Sarah Jane Clifton will speak on the LEAP manifesto and justice issues. Other speakers sought – ideas to Jenny Patient.

Summer Festivals : Peace in the Park will be on 11 June. We have been asked to organise an “Environmental Zone” with stalls and events. Chris Tremblett and Julie are interested in helping and Phil will ask Greenpeace in assisting. Family-friendly features would be especially welcome.

Volunteers are also sought for other summer festivals, eg

16 July – Sharrow; Tramlines- 22-24 July; Sheffield Pride – 30 July; Low Edges-14 Aug

Next Meeting : Tuesday 15 March, QMH, 7-9pm