



**Full Commission Meeting**  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - 11:00 AM  
University of Huddersfield & MS Teams

## **Minutes**

### **Welcome and introductions.**

A full list of attendees is appended (see Appendix 1 – Attendees).

Apologies were received from: Bill MacBeth (BM), Karen Rispin (KR), Alistair Branch (AB),

Introduction and welcome to new commissioner Phil Sugden from Kirklees colleague

### **Minutes from previous meeting**

Professor Peter Roberts (PR) asked attendees to consider the minutes of the previous KCC meeting (21/11/22).

Tom Taylor requested some corrections, and these would be updated and circulated once completed by the secretariat.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to make correction and upload with correction agreed final version of minutes to website.

Minutes from previous meetings are available on the KCC website:

<https://www.kirkleesclimate.org.uk/meeting-agendas-notes>

### **Sub-group updates**

PR invited each of the sub-groups to provide an update to the wider Commission on recent activities.

#### Buildings & Homes

Chris Herring (CH) led the update.

#### **Key points:**

- The group have not met since the previous meeting.
- The group have not met since the last meeting, due to CH role on the Management group, and attending meetings to agree the KCC Articles and Rules.

## Community Engagement & Involvement

Tom Taylor (TT) led the update:

### **Key points:**

- Not had a formal meeting yet due to other commitments for the group
- A funding bid is being developed for Connecting Community and Nature to Community Buildings

## Energy & Waste

Gideon Richards (GR) provided an update.

### **Key points:**

- They are in conversation with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, with regards to having a large Retro-fit event on 7 March 2023. The event would bring together as many people as possible in the sector, to start and agree an action plan.

## Nature & the Countryside

Tony Newham (TN) led the update.

### **Key points:**

- No items to report. Arrangements are being made for the next meeting.

## Young People

Lisa woods (LW) led the update.

- Meetings have been held with high schools around Biodiversity.
- Meetings have also been held with primary schools – Eco' Fair & Funky'.
- Young people's Britain Award
- Eco Committees – Lisa is providing support to four other schools, with another meeting taking place.

## Business & Economic Activity

Bill Macbeth (BM) led the update:

### **Key points:**

- Some of the group went to an Enterprise Education Session, with a follow-up session on 28/02/2023. It was noted that the session was good, with a lot of input from the business community and students.

### Movement & Transport

Professor John Allport (JA) led the update.

### **Save Our Spen – Presentation**

Key Points:

- Judith Jonson and Mathew Breadsley – shared their screen and went through the '**Save our Spen Valley**' presentation.
- A planning application had been made to divert part of the public footpath at the land west of the M62 and south of Whitehall Road, Cleckheaton. The application has been made, on the grounds that it is required for a planning application to build a 265,000sq metre storage and distribution unit.
- The presentation outlined the 'Save our Spen' group's grounds for concern and objections to the proposed development.
- The '**Save Our Spen Valley**' Group are limited to how many professional consultants they can employ, due to financial constraints.
- The group have logged their protest with Kirklees Council and have been trying to get to a planning committee meeting, which has been ongoing for past 18 months.
- The '**Save Our Spen Valley**' group, has political support from local Kirklees councillors i.e., Kim Leadbeater - Mirfield councillors as well as regional councillor from Bradford, who would all use their support to raise the profile of the objections to the planning proposals.
- It was noted that residents are not included in the master planning stages.
- It was noted that if the planning proposal, was for the bottom field (10 hectares), there would be no opposition to it, however, the planning application is for all the sites.

### **Discussion Points**

- Biodiversity offset payment could be paid to the council, with a policy imposed on Amazon, insisting they develop electrification of their vehicles/lorries to make them quieter, and to see more of the car parking spaces with electric points.
- Park and Ride – a missed an opportunity to create a leading-edge climate change proposal?
- It was noted that access to the warehouse for workers, would mean driving through residential streets, electric cars are still dangerous to children.
- It was noted that a 'park and Ride' scheme would reduce the carbon footprint and would reduce the need for the large numbers of car parking spaces.
- AR – commented on the economic benefit versus the harm to the environment and what is being proposed for the impact of the development?

- Section 1.6 Liability – Section 106 has to be enforced. It is not clear, as there are 3 sets of plans and the proposals are not coming back with less structure, but with more added.
- It was noted that the applicant is coming back with differing numbers of jobs, however, there is not many details to go with the changes.
- It was noted that the Road Safety audit and the jobs uplift are all still missing from the plans.
- J Johnson (JJ) stated that the '**Save Our Spen Valley**' group would like support from KCC on the 'Air Climate', the 'Over ground water storage' and the Park and Ride scheme.
- KCC want the expertise to relay the issues on climate.
- G Richards (GR) asked if the group had seen the 'sustainable strategy' for the site?
- JJ stated that environmental assessment had taken place, and conversations with the applicant Carbon advisers are taking place. (ISG application).
- JJ stated that no conversations have directly taken place with Amazon. All communication about the plans are done with the agents, who believe in the planning agreements.
- T Taylor (TT) stated that the proposed development is large and unlikely to leave space for local businesses.
- Resilience and vulnerability – Amazon are known for changing their focus/business model after 5 years, this would have an impact on the community with job losses etc.,
- JJ stated that the '**Save Our Spen Valley**' group are laypeople who do not have much experience in this area. A job review of the area had taken place and showed that the jobs that the Amazon development offered, there is a surplus of those roles in the area.
- W Simpson (WS), Councillor/KCC commissioner – stated that the council planning office, can put in conditions with regards to the park and Ride and offer support with questions to ask the planning team.
- KCC can have a positive role in asking questions, however KCC are not able to support general planning matters. KCC can also make sense of observation in relation to good practice, building structure i.e., why the site is all concrete.
- It was discussed and noted, that at each KCC commission meeting, there could be a couple of local and regional planning proposals for the committee to comment on. KCC would give clarification (time plan) when KCC would intervene, which would be more specific as time develops.

**Points to Consider:**

- Heavy Goods Vehicles Movement
- Employee vehicle movement, going through the residential neighbourhood with 3 schools.
- Site Coverage
- Embodied Carbon in soil
- Building – socio-economic issues in the area, if development moves after 10 years.

**Action:**

- 'Save Our Spen-Valley' to ask if they can make a representation at a council planning meeting, to make recommendations on 'what is sustainable; 'what a busy site looks like in the future', with assistance from a climate change perspective.

- On behalf of KCC, P Roberts (PR) will write to the chair of the planning committee, outlining the material of the planning application, and asking questions on Biodiversity, and Carbon Footprint and Highway Movement.
- All commissioners to send their observations to PR, to be included in the letter to the council.

### **Quick update on upcoming Environmental Strategy and upcoming workshop**

Kat Armitage (KA) provided an update.

#### **Keys points:**

- The Environmental Strategy/workshops have been gifted with some extra time to complete the project.
- All partners were invited to the workshops, which covered 4 themes. The strategy has changed after the consultation process.
- It was noted that all items/areas that came up in the consultations, have been incorporated in the themes, within the strategy document.
- The previous community consultations highlighted that the communities who took part, was not representative. Due to the extra time frame, the community consultations, are going back out to do further consultations.
- A citizens panel will be established to consult with them on their views on the strategy, which will be given to them prior to the consultation.
- KA stated that the consultation survey was relatively good, however, community representation, did come up as an issue.
- It was noted that a workshop with KCC will be held to show how their comments had been incorporated in the strategy document.
- KA informed KCC that not no formal date for the official sign-off of the strategy has been agreed.
- KA would send further information on the dates of consultation workshop, which could go into autumn.

#### **Discussion points:**

- GR asked about the engagement with the different political groups.
- KA highlighted that it is a strategy it is not a plan and following on from these detailed plans will be developed.

The Chair (PR) suggested a change to the running order of the agenda, due to time constraints as follows: -

### **Incorporating The Commission – Report from the Management Group**

**Chris Herring (CH) provided an update.**

#### **Key Points:**

- The KCC Management Group are now and at the point of agreement for the Article and Rules for KCC, which had gone to the Management Group on a number of occasions.
- GR suggested taking out some items in the Articles and placing them into the Rules. There were previously 3 objectives, which is now down to 1, with the other items, placed into the rules.

- Part 1 – Limited company, cannot call KCC company limited by guarantee, due to having members.
- A 'Not for Profit' company refers to members, who are commissioners in the Rules. The Board of Directors are all members in the rules.
- The KCC management group tried to make the objectives in the rule as simple as possible and removed the list of what KCC do and incorporated it into the Rules.
- PR extended thanked Alison Goddard for her advice and support to KCC on the legal aspects of the Articles and Rules.
- The chair (PR) also expressed KCC Thanks to Paul Abba from HBS Law school for his advice on the Articles and Rules documents.

### **Comments and Concerns**

- Councillor Will Simpson (WS) thanked everyone for their work on the KCC documents and for the support into the next steps. WS stated that the Climate Change Team in the council, appreciate all the work being done, and want to continue working together in partnership.
- Stuart Sugarman (SS) thanked all who worked on the documents and stated he is happy to support KCC.
- Kiran Bali (KB) Thanked all who worked on the documents and said all looks good.
- It was noted that Abdul Ravat (AR) left the meeting to attend Friday prayers.
- It was noted that there were 17 commissioners in attendance at this meeting. so, there is a majority vote.
- Kathrine Armitage (KA), Shaun and John Atkinson (JA), representatives of Kirklees council, all contributed to the document and are happy with all the changes.
- The chair (PR) thanked John Lever (JL) and Emi Chiu (EC) who had been involved in all the meetings.
- It was noted that T Taylor, (CH) and (GR) are all signatures on the 'Memorandum of Agreement'.
- The 'Memorandum of Association' to be completed and require 3-4 people on this.
- It was noted that KCC require a postal address for the company to be added to documents before they can be sent to Companies House.
- KA stated that Secretariat sits with Kirklees Council, which means that the council address can be used on the 'Memorandum of Agreement'.
- It was noted that the KCC 'Rules' are not filed at Companies House, so they can be amended at any time when required.
- CH went through the 'Rules' document with commissioners.

The KCC 'Rules and Articles' documents, where approved by the commissioners.

- The University document – legally permits KCC to have a relationship with the university, and allows KCC access to rooms, facilities and minimal storage. Further discussion with the university to take place with regards to support.
- GR suggested to EC to have a 'Mem of Understanding', which would be a rolling renewable contract, which would confirm the ongoing relationship.

- PR (chair) expressed Thanks to CH, GR, TT, the University of Huddersfield and Kirklees council in the developing the organisation/documents.
- It was noted before the management team are disbanded, they will bring back to the commissioners, the process to be implemented.

#### **Action:**

KCC Management Team to consult with all commissioners who were not at this meeting if they agree with the changes to the Articles and Rules documents.

#### **Kirklees Climate Action Plan Update**

- KCC now have an 'action plan' with 200 actions. The next steps are to prioritise actions, stakeholder events across Kirklees and aligning with the council proposed transport strategy.
- A detailed business case of the prioritised actions, detailing funding required and costings to be developed.
- Version 2 of the action plan to be published, outlining the commitments of actions.
- There is a 3-year cycle to make revisions to the action plan, which is noted to be a realistic time frame to implement the actions.

#### **Place Base Prioritisation**

- Involve – Support organisations which development of Climate Change plans.
- Webpage – Climate emergency/Kirklees council
- Website – Speaking to citizens, business in the city, to explain to them what it means (Climate Change), and how they can help.

#### **Discussion**

- GR suggested establishing an oversight group for Climate Change, which would be independent from the council. The role of this committee would be to oversee 'actions.'
- WS and JA noted that the Council has an existing Scrutiny function that is robust and democratically accountable. WS suggested considering nominated people from KCC, who can attend the council's already established scrutiny committees.
- Discussions took place with regards to other areas, such as Bristol and Surrey councils who have partnership structures, which includes independent bodies on their committees.
- JA noted that the Commission's choice of structure (Limited Company) may influence what it is and is not permissible.

#### **Action:**

CH to contact Bristol and Surrey council to find out how their partnerships models work.

## **Community Retrofit**

- CH gave an update on his involvement in the 'New build and Retrofit' session, which presented on activities in the area, so of which are community based.
- TT, CH, Graham Taylor (GT) and Helen to have a meeting to look at Community Retrofit in Kirklees, which was not mentioned in the session. Marsden Community Trust are very interested in becoming a pilot/partner in Community Retrofit.
- The next step for community retrofit will be to focus and begin the action. A meeting will be taking place on Monday 6 February 2023, to start the process. Hopefully KCC would see community retrofit, as an area to support.
- Kirklees council consultation with communities on the Environmental Strategy, could also include community retrofit as part of the conversations. The community retrofit conversations can also take place in areas that have a neighbourhood plan.
- CH stated starting conversations on community retrofit, would start to create a demand, however, there is no one currently in Kirklees with retrofit skills.
- Naz Parker – 'Better Homes' would be the contact keeping the council involved with retrofit.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- CH gave an update on Kevin Pratt founder of 'Pure Haus' which is a new initiative, who have developed 2 housing developments and now setting up 2 Passive House best practice training centres.
- At the next meeting K Pratt is hoping to bring together more people (100) to be involved in the project. They are currently looking for a venue to hold the meeting.
- Phil Sugden (PS) had replaced resigned commissioner, however, there a still 2 vacancies for Climate Change Commissioners, which should be advertised. KCC management group to do the advert.
- Tony Newham (TN) Permission has been given for a 'Natural Habitat' lead by South Pennines Parks, to consider where biodiversity payments are given. This could also be included in the action plan for consideration.
- TT suggested having an item on funding on the next commissioners meeting agenda, to look at how KCC get the finances to support the work. Community Foundation, how to look at joining up the finances.
- KA stated that the council has funding pots that could be applied for.

### **Action:**

CH to contact EC at Huddersfield Business School with regards to a suitable venue for the meeting.

Meeting date forward plan:

- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 10.00 – 12.30 – University of Huddersfield



## Appendix 1 – Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Role</b>
Professor Peter Roberts	PR	Chair of the Commission
Abdul Ravat	AR	Commissioner
Chris Herring	CH	Commissioner
Phil Sugden	PS	Commissioner
Gideon Richards	GR	Commissioner
Kiran Bali	KB	Commissioner
Professor John Allport	JA	Commissioner
Stephen Moore	SM	Commissioner
Stuart Sugarman	SS	Commissioner
Tom Taylor	TT	Commissioner
Tony Newham	TN	Commissioner
Katherine Armitage	KA	Kirklees Council – Senior Officer Representative
Bill Macbeth	BM	Commissioner
Karen Rispin	KR	Secretariat
John Atkinson	JAt	Secretariat
Carol Peltier	CP	University of Huddersfield


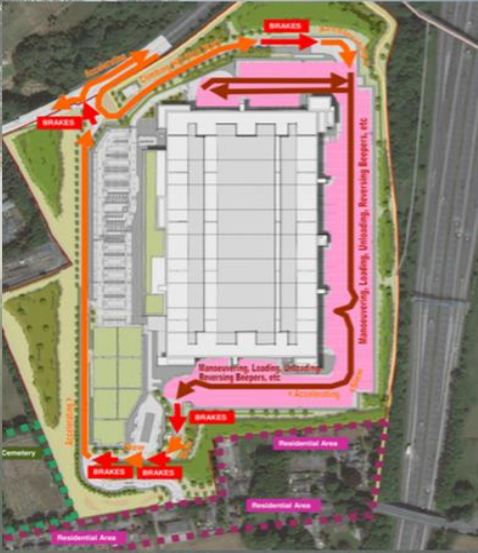
## Appendix 2 – Save Our Spen Presentation



# Save Our Spen Action Group - Introduction

**Climate Commission  
Presentation on Proposal for  
Amazon Distribution Centre in  
a Residential Area**

<https://saveourspen.co.uk>

<b>Park and Ride Scheme</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Attenuation Ponds</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Biodiversity Gain/Mitigation</b>	<b>X</b>

Over 4000 vehicles movements every 24hrs 364 days a year ✓

887 private car parking spaces and 96 HGV bays ✓

