

JERSEY CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2009 at the Frances Le Sueur Centre, Les Mielles, St Ouen

Present: Francis Binney, Mark Forskitt, Stephen Harewood, Jeremy Harris, Nigel Jones, Stephen Le Quesne, Jo McAllister, Joy Thomson and Anna Wimberley.

Apologies: Vanessa Crispini, Simon Crowcroft, John du Feu, Hazel Jones, Roger Jones.

- 1. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 24th March, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- 2. Earth Hour:** Francis reported back on the Earth Hour event held on 28th March, which had been reasonably successful in drawing attention to the issues of peak oil and climate change. The group agreed it would support the event again in 12 months time, and in the meantime it would consider ways of highlighting examples of wasteful energy use, e.g. office lights left on overnight, and street lighting between 3.00-6.00 a.m. (one option in the latter case being simply to turn off alternate lights).
- 3. J-CAN launch event:** The group agreed that, given the time elapsed since J-CAN's establishment, it was no longer appropriate to refer to this proposed event as a 'launch'. As previously discussed, it was decided to invite Dr. Andrew Casebow to Jersey to give a talk on his recent publication 'Planet Guernsey' and its implications for all those living in the Channel Islands. Ideally the date of his visit could be timed to coincide with Environment Week (8th-12th June), with 9th June being suggested as a preferred date (Jeremy to invite Dr. Casebow).
- 4. States Strategic Plan:** Mark had been called as a witness to the Scrutiny Sub-Panel on Migration and Population on 27th April, and had drawn attention to the shortcomings of the draft States Strategic Plan in dealing with issues of sustainability, climate change, and peak oil. It was agreed that an article on the draft Strategic Plan should be posted on the J-CAN website (Mark/Nigel).
- 5. Transport:** The meeting approved the draft transport policy statement that had been previously circulated by Francis and agreed it should be added to the website. It was noted there had been a number of encouraging developments in transport in recent weeks, including the following –
 - Jersey Bio Fuels was now offering bio-fuel as an alternative for diesel-powered vehicles (contact: Nick Glover – tel. 07797 799707);
 - Jersey Electricity Company was offering free trials of electric cars, with a view to introducing them in the Island from 2010 onwards (contact: tel. 505460); and
 - Transport and Technical Services was launching a 'travel together' website to promote car sharing, with support from the Sustainable Business Forum. It was hoped that at least 3,000 people would make use of this service, thereby significantly reducing the volume of traffic.

6. Recycling: Mark volunteered to contact Nick Palmer to see if he would be interested in coordinating this area of the group's work.

7. Education/Awareness:

(a) Films: The group agreed it would still be interested in organising a screening of 'The Age of Stupid', possibly at the Arts Centre. It was understood the film would become available in the next few weeks, with a hire charge of approximately £50-£100 for voluntary/community groups. 'An Inconvenient Truth' was also suggested as a film for a public screening, possibly as a follow-up event to 'The Age of Stupid'.

(b) Public surveys: It was suggested that J-CAN could organise a survey of public attitudes to peak oil and climate change. This could be done through the J-CAN website, supplemented by on-street surveys, and repeat surveys could be organised in future years to provide a point of comparison.

8. Allotments: Stephen Le Quesne had been in contact with the National Trust, and the Trust had expressed support in principle to the proposed creation of more allotments in Jersey. It was agreed that Jeremy would contact Brian Adair to see if the newly-formed allotments group would like to follow this up with the Trust, e.g. by establishing whether it owned any land that could be made available for allotments.

9. Copenhagen Conference: The meeting discussed the U.N. Climate Change conference that would be taking place in Copenhagen in December 2009, when representatives from 190 countries would be meeting to discuss a new international agreement to follow on from the Kyoto Protocol. It was agreed this key event should be a focus for J-CAN's work during the autumn, and that one or more NGO representatives from Jersey should go to Copenhagen in December and report back on the event, e.g. as a representative of J-CAN or other voluntary/community organisation.

10. Website/Facebook: Nigel reported that the J-CAN website had now been established at the following address: www.j-can.org.je
Nigel had prepared a green and yellow logo for the site which was approved by the meeting, and it was agreed this should be featured on the site and in J-CAN correspondence.

The website included a facility that would allow committee members to upload articles and information, and committee members were invited to contact Nigel directly if they were interested in following this up – alternatively Nigel would be happy for material to be sent to him for inclusion on the site.

In line with J-CAN's aim to be a network for interested groups, committee members were asked to contact any relevant organisations of which they were members to see if they would like to be either linked to or featured on the J-CAN website.

11. Newsletter: It was agreed that Mark would coordinate the first issue of the J-CAN newsletter, which would be prepared and circulated in the next couple of weeks.

12. Fundraising: It was noted the group had yet to build up a reserve of funds to support its programme of activities, and it was agreed that a request for voluntary subscriptions/donations should be included in the newsletter. In addition, Jeremy would make an application to the Ecology Fund to see if funding could be made available to support J-CAN in its early stages.

- 13. 'Sisters on the Planet':** Joy advised the group that the Women's Institute was organising an evening on 'Sisters on the Planet' in which they would be looking at how climate change was affecting women in different countries. The event was to be held at 7.45 p.m. on 5th June at the Princess Royal Pavilion, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and admission was by ticket only – members would be welcome to attend.
- 14. 'The Turning Point':** The States of Jersey Environment Department had just published a report called 'The Turning Point', which examined the impact of climate change on Jersey, and had offered to give some copies to J-CAN – it was agreed that Jeremy would obtain three or four copies for distribution at the next meeting.
- 15. Meeting venue:** It was agreed the group should aim to vary its meetings between the Frances Le Sueur Centre and a town venue, i.e. to be more accessible to those who lived in the east of the island. The next meeting would take place at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26th May (venue to be confirmed). It was suggested the group could increase the frequency of meetings to once a fortnight, and it was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

JMEH/ 3.5.09