

JERSEY CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 29th December 2009 at La Source, Mont Vibert, St. Ouen

Present: Mark Forskitt, Jeremy Harris, Nigel Jones, and Nick Palmer.

Apologies: Francis Binney, Hazel Jones, and Roger Jones.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

2. Copenhagen Conference 7th-18th December: update

The Committee discussed the activities that had taken place to mark the Copenhagen Conference, including the following –

- (a) London demonstration: Joy Thomson had attended this event in London on 5th December and had subsequently given an interview on Radio Jersey;
- (b) JEP Notice: A full-page notice about climate change and the significance of the Copenhagen Conference had appeared in the Jersey Evening Post on 5th and 7th December, and this had been funded by the Channel Islands Cooperative Society. The notice had been prepared in cooperation with the Guernsey Climate Action Network, and a similar notice had also been placed in the Guernsey Press;
- (c) J-CAN Petition: Deputy Daniel Wimberley had presented the J-CAN petition to the States on 8th December, and this had received good media coverage. The Council of Ministers was required under Standing Orders to present its initial response within eight weeks;
- (d) Vigil in St. Helier: A candlelight vigil had taken place in St. Helier on the evening of 12th December. The event was organised by Maria Barnicoat and was attended by about 50 supporters. It was agreed Jeremy would contact Maria to see if she would like to become more involved in J-CAN activities; and
- (e) Talkback: Mark had represented J-CAN in the 'Talkback' programme on Radio Jersey on Sunday 13th December. This had been a lively programme with plenty of questions from the public, and with Deputy Sarah Ferguson representing the opposing viewpoint.

The Committee agreed these activities had been successful in helping to focus attention on the Copenhagen Conference, and in giving a higher profile to concerns about the impact of climate change. It was disappointing, therefore, that the results of the Conference had been so inconclusive, with agreement being confined to a 'recognition' of the scientific case for keeping the global temperature rise to no more than 2° centigrade, but without any specific commitments to emissions reductions to achieve that goal. The next major meeting on climate change would take place in Mexico in December 2010, and in the meantime a number of commitments have been made, e.g. Obama had undertaken to bring climate change legislation to the U.S. Senate.

Given the disappointing results of the Conference, it is difficult to see at this stage how matters will progress, although the situation should become clearer in the next few weeks. J-CAN will continue to support international events such as Earth Day, which have helped to draw attention to climate change, and it will also plan to initiate a range of activities during 2010 - it was now more important than ever that the pressure for change should be maintained.

Several possible campaigns and activities for 2010 year were discussed, and it was agreed these would be considered further at the A.G.M. in January. Suggestions included the following

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- Transport: This was felt to be a natural focus for campaign work, with the potential for significant change at a local level, e.g. an improved bus network, better cycle facilities, reduced car usage etc;
- Carbon Credits: Carbon credits were felt to offer a viable alternative to conventional ways of valuing natural assets, and it was agreed that further consideration should be given as to how they could be promoted at a local level;
- States of Jersey: A range of opportunities were available for highlighting the need for the States of Jersey to take action on climate change. These included the planned debate on the J-CAN petition (likely to take place in June/July 2010), together with a number of public consultations;
- Bottled Water: This was a good example of where individuals could take positive action to reduce energy emissions. Alternatives were readily available and these should be investigated; and
- Energy meters: J-CAN could consider purchasing some energy meters to help people monitor their domestic energy consumption.

3. Film Evening: The screening of 'The Age of Stupid' on 1st December had been well-supported, with around 35-40 people attending the event at St. Paul's Centre. The costs of the event had been paid for by the Channel Islands Cooperative Society, and it was agreed Mark would write to Jim Hopley to thank the C.I.C.S. for their support.

Given that 'The Age of Stupid' had now been shown on Channel 4, it was decided not to arrange another screening of this film, but to plan for an evening of shorter films, as previously discussed. This could possibly take place during February/ March, or alternatively during the summer months at an outdoor venue.

4. Tree and Hedge Planting: A local organic farmer would be interested in organising a session of tree and hedge planning in February/March. The Committee agreed to support this proposal, and Jeremy will obtain further information.

5. Draft Island Plan: The Committee confirmed it would prepare a response to the draft Island Plan, and noted the deadline for replies had been extended to 31st March 2010. Nick and Jeremy would seek to obtain hard copies of the draft Plan, as this was a bulky document that was difficult to refer to in its electronic format. More detailed consideration to this subject could be given at the February J-CAN meeting.

6. Jersey Gas: It was noted that Nick would be in contact with Jersey Gas to discuss alternative methods of energy generation involving anaerobic digestion.

7. Website update: Nigel reported the J-CAN website was now receiving 2,100 page views per month, and was therefore proving to be an effective means of communication. It was agreed to add a section on 'frequently asked questions' to respond to some of the more commonly-made arguments against climate change.

8. Annual General Meeting: It was noted the next Annual General Meeting would be held at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26th January 2010 in Room 3, Arts Centre, Phillips Street, St. Helier.

9. Monthly meetings: It was noted that monthly meetings would be held at the One World Centre, Seale Street, St. Helier at 8.00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month on the following dates –

- Tuesday 23rd February 2010
- Tuesday 30th March 2010
- Tuesday 27th April 2010

10. Newsletter: It was decided the next edition of the J-CAN newsletter would be circulated in January, in advance of the A.G.M. (Mark to arrange).

JMEH/ 3.1.10