**PACT meeting – Wednesday 20th January 2021**

7.30pm via Zoom

**Present:**

**Directors:** John Bodger (Chair), Christine Sutherland (Secretary), Frances Bell,

Geoff Rockliffe-King, Lucy Teather, Malcolm Carruthers

**Members:** Ali Ross, Chris Cant, Jaki Bell, Joan Robinson, Julie Stebbings, Nigel Jenkins

**Non-members:** Anthea Jones (Industrial BID), John Forbes (ZCC Project manager),

Viv Tunnadine (Penrith Town Council)

**1 Apologies**

Philip Sturgess (Treasurer), Peter Simpson, Richard Waller

**2 Declarations of interest**

Chris declared an interest re payment for work on the website.

**3 Minutes of last meeting**

Agreed: Proposed by John, seconded by Chris

**4 PACT Admin**

**a) Finance update**

Current total: £6071.50

Gardening fund: £2,738.71

Zero Carbon Cumbria: £750.00

Repair café fund: £24.46

Refill fund: £12.41

Unallocated: £2,545.92

**b) Purchase of hi-vis jackets**

We agreed to buy new branded hi-vis gilets for litter picks and other PACT activities. A range of sizes including a few for children. Penrith Embroidery were recommended – good quality and local. Viv suggested a grant might be available from PTC.

**c) PACT website**

Chris, Jaki and Richard are having a meeting later this week to discuss what we need from the new website. Also the local Freegle blog site needs updating – perhaps we could use some ZCC money for this?

**5 Updates**

**a) ZCC (Geoff)**

The first instalment of the grant has arrived. Work is ongoing on the terms of reference for the ‘officer’, with help from John Forbes who has been researching HMRC requirements and discussing with CAfS colleagues. Because we want a self-employed contractor we have to be careful how the advert is worded. Eg a ‘contract for delivery of services’, not a ‘contract of service’. We hope to get this sorted in a couple of weeks and start advertising.

New staff on ZCC: Tim Gale, ZCC partnership manager and Natalie Nesbit, CCC climate coordinator.

**b) Meeting with other sustainability groups (Jaki)**

A successful first meeting with 11 or 12 groups represented from all over Cumbria as well as CAfS and Freegle. Fascinating to hear what is going on. Maggie Mason from SLACC raised awareness of the crowdfunding bid re the Workington coal mine. Regular meetings are planned and we are looking to find things to work on together eg the run-up to COP-26.

**c) Town Futures Group (John B, Geoff)**

A small informal group with a variety of interests, not just environmentalists. They are close to going public with their ideas for Penrith – aiming to produce a plausible vision with rationale.

Viv mentioned the Town Working group facilitated by CCC: CCC, EDC, PTC and a stakeholder group which includes the BIDs. The Town Futures Group could get involved with this. Money might be available from the Borderlands Project (www.borderlandsgrowth.com).

**d) Tree Group**

Meeting next week. They are focusing on the Gilwilly path as first project, Frances is preparing a planting plan. Anthea offered to liaise with Kevin Scott of Cumbria Wildlife Trust and invite him to the meeting next week.

Chris offered damson and oak saplings. Joan is picking up some cherry trees from Helton.

**e) Appleby Edibles (Lucy)**

They are waiting for their lease from EDC - £100/year payable in June. New fence. Lots to do! They are registered as a Transitions initiative and are applying for various grants. The rest of the site is still closed. Speaking to the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line re a possible partnership.

**f) Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan (John)**

This had been developed with sustainability right through – insulation, renewables etc. But now the inspector is querying this as it goes beyond current regs. We want to ensure that new builds are built to a high standard. There may be precedents where people have fought this eg St Ives?

**g) Community Gardeners (Joan)**

The gardeners are not meeting at the moment, however other things are happening.

* They have been asked to represent Cumbria in Britain In Bloom. PTC will produce the evidence and take photos and a video will be commissioned. Joan has asked about other gardening/tree planting projects to include: UCC has responded with their Community Garden and so has Blue Jam with their poetry garden.
* The 1000 crocus they planted in Coronation Garden are beginning to come up. They are to meet with EDC and others about the future management of the garden. They hope to continue to work with 4 Eden and nursery schools to build bug hotels and bird boxes. PTC is getting the garden registered as a community space to protect it in case EDC start to encroach once they move into the adjacent building.
* Hoping to have some kind of Seedy Saturday in March? Have a lot of seeds to give away.

Chris – community nature reserve project in Felixstowe, in people’s back gardens:

<http://littlegreenspace.org.uk/features/Felixstowe-nature-reserve.html>

**h) ‘Bounce Forward’ Visioning exercise**

To discuss next time

**6 Green Travel (Ali)**

The government is keen to promote active travel ie walking, cycling (skateboarding?) and has produced useful resources. CCC is co-ordinating. Barrow has already got a project, using BAE money. Penrith will be the focus in Eden with funding mainly from EDC. Hoping to make off-road walking/cycling routes eg from housing estates to town centre, schools. Should work with schools – CycleWise scheme.

Anthea –footpaths to the industrial estate are muddy which puts people off using them.

**7 AOB**

**a) Penrith Town Council (Viv)**

* They have agreed their Climate Change Strategy, helped by CAfS. Not raising the precept – funding from resources and crowdfunding. Will appoint a sustainability officer for 24 hrs a week – their role will include networking with PACT and CAfS.
* They now own the Thacka Beck area behind the hospital which will have a path to Carleton Hall. They want it to be a community amenity.
* Community hub – the new person will look into this. Ideally on the High Street but maybe at Thacka?

**b) Dark Skies (Anthea)**

The industrial BID is looking into ways of reducing the lighting on the industrial estate. Part of a CWT project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lftsD1Q2YwY&feature=youtu.be>

**c) Cold to Cosy Homes (Jaki)**

Could we take over an area of Penrith to promote this CAfS project? NB this is to promote small changes – advice and draughtproofing etc. What could we do that CAfS haven’t already?

To discuss next time.

**8 Dates of future meetings**

**Tree Group**: Wednesday 27th January, 7.30pm on Zoom.

**Monthly Meeting**: Thursday 18th February, 7.30pm on Zoom.

**ZCC Subgroup**: to be arranged.

**Glossary**

BID Business Improvement District (2 in Penrith: town centre and industrial estate)

CAfS Cumbria Action for Sustainability

CCC Cumbria County Council

COP-26 26th UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Glasgow 1-12 Nov 2021

CWT Cumbria Wildlife Trust

EDC Eden District Council

PTC Penrith Town Council

SLACC South Lakes Action for Climate Change

ZCC Zero Carbon Cumbria