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Patrons: Rosie Duffield MP; Rt. Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin; Cllr Robert Thomas

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2020

'Covid-19 has accelerated the shift towards a new urban paradigm towards inclusive, green and smart cities' (OECD, July 2020)

Introduction

CCAP was created in June 2019 with close links to the Canterbury Society and the Canterbury Sustainable Development Goals Forum; it held a number of formative meetings during the course of that year. This coincided with Canterbury City Council declaring a Climate Emergency. Among the high-profile events held in 2019 was a keynote address on the Climate Emergency by the CCAP Chair at the annual UN Peace Service, Canterbury Cathedral in October). By early 2020 CCAP had consolidated its partnership and had been formally incorporated as a Community Interest Company (CIC) with its own legal status and Board of Directors and executive committee (**Appendix 1**).

Initial funding has been provided by generous donations from partners and local councillors; it was also possible to attract funding under the LoCASE grant scheme administered by Kent County Council (KCC).

It is pleasing that the CCAP partnership is fully inclusive and representative of the community. It brings together diverse community, women and youth groups (including Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations, ACRA), faith organisations, local government (Canterbury City Council, CCC and Kent County Council, KCC), universities (University of Kent, Canterbury Christchurch University, University for the Creative Arts), business (Canterbury Business Improvement District, BID) and others. It has also been successful in attracting prominent honorary patrons, the Bishop of Dover, the MP for Canterbury and the (former) Leader of CCC (**Appendix 2**).

2020 brought major organisational and other challenges on account the Covid-19. Prior to the Covid lockdown, CCAP had organised its first Board and full partnership meeting in March. Regular Board, partnership and executive meetings were subsequently held by zoom in April, May, July, September and November so there was no overall disruption of the work. CCAP had further co-organised a well-attended and lively public meeting on Climate Change in February.

Implementing the CCAP 10-Point Action Programme

CCAP has agreed a 10-point Action Programme to guide its work and that of its partners. During the course of 2020, the following key activities and results were achieved (bullet points):

1. Inform, Educate and Change Behaviour

The Covid-19 experience has changed people's behaviour and it has taught us that building connections locally leads to resilient communities.

As we tackle the Covid-19 recovery, we must not lose sight of the even greater, existential threat of climate change from which a recovery may not even be possible.

We should seek to build on changes to people's attitudes towards the environment in areas such as clean air, improving provision for cyclists and pedestrians and supporting home working and the value we have placed on our green open spaces, our food supply and our community cohesion.

CCAP should pursue this by addressing the wider public, and especially those disadvantaged groups affected most negatively by Covid-19; it is likely the same social groups will also be hit by job and income loss post-Covid. What is required is to what the Local Government Association has termed building more inclusive economies.¹

To do this, we need to marshal the extensive network of all our CCAP partners and ensure coordinated approaches to the production and distribution of public information, whether it relates to media, especially our social media and our respective websites, publications and leaflets, and holding of public events, including around a Climate Action Day on 22 April 2021. This will also mean working closely, where appropriate, with CCC and KCC communication teams.

In our endeavours, we should be constantly aware of, and learn from, national and international examples of covid-19 recovery plans and how these relate to the reduction in carbon emissions and environmental improvement here in Canterbury.

- **Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations, ACRA, member of CCAP Board**
- **Co-organising of public meeting on climate change, February**
- **Establishment of CCAP website with regular updates/contributions**
- **Publication/distribution of CCAP pamphlet 'Canterbury City Council has declared a Climate emergency: What does this mean and what can you do?'**
- **Publication/distribution of CCAP pamphlet 'What have learnt from our Covid-19 experience?'**
- **Media releases (various)**
- **Support for proposed Canterbury-Entebbe (Uganda) civic partnership with focus on climate action**
- **Coordination/support for CCAP partner activities on climate change including Transition Town Whitstable and XR)**

2. Campaigning/advocacy

Our aim is zero carbon usage by 2030 locally within the overall national target of 2050.

Given that local government -both CCC and KCC- have committed to dealing with the Climate Emergency, and have key responsibility for driving local economic and environmental development, most of our advocacy work will need to be directed at influencing their strategies and policies. Our close existing cooperation with leading councillors, officers, including with the CCC Climate Change Champion and lead officer, our membership of the CCC Climate Emergency Board and our close engagement with KCC notably in respect of the Kent Resilience Forum should facilitate this work.

We should engage more with our young people, both school pupils and those in the Y4C movement to promote ECO schools and universities. This will also add to CCAP's own campaigning capacity.

We should build on the rise of, and enthusiasm for, video conferencing and webinars. We should thus organise webinars on a regular basis targeted at various groups according to our message. Use of our own CCAP website and social media will be another key tool.

- **Close interaction with CCC and its Climate Change Working Party (notably its Lead, Cllr Dan Watkins and CCC Climate Change Officer (Nicholas Thurston) as well as attendance by senior CCC councillors of all parties at CCAP meetings**

¹ LGA Building More Inclusive Economies, 24 June 2020

- Close interaction with senior KCC councillors and officers and attendance at KCC Environmental Strategy Conference, November
- CCAP submission to CCC ‘Issues and Vision: A Local Plan led by Climate Action, Sustainable Development and Covid-19 Recovery’ in respect of the Local Plan review (Appendix 3)
- CCAP submission to CCC and Kent Resilience Forum ‘Lessons from Covid-19: The Need for a Green-led Recovery’)
- Initiation of contact with local schools and participation in schools’ group
- Participation in relevant national and international webinars/events (including UN, OECD, EU and international local government organisations such as United Cities & Local Governments, UCLG, Local Governments for Sustainability, ICLEI, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, CLGF)

3. Economy and Business

The LGA has stated that ‘a key component of clean growth is the creation of green jobs’ and has estimated that nearly 700,000 low-carbon jobs could be created in England by 2030.²

Our own local economy in Kent will be badly hit. We will need to support our local economic recovery, but that recovery must be a Green Recovery, supporting the concept of a Green New Deal and the creation of green jobs. In this respect, developing joint strategies through our partnership with BID and its members is crucial as is linking to other local institutions such as the Kent Business School³. CCC and KCC should accordingly use their public procurement and other policies to favour, where possible, local businesses ventures in Kent.

As part of this strategy we should promote home working and the development of local “work hubs”. In Antwerp, for example, the council is providing professional learning local businesses to facilitate this. We will require a serious rethink how and where businesses and homes are located to encourage tele-working and reduce commuting.

Likewise, many businesses, including those signed up to the UN Global Compact,⁴ have committed to achieving a low carbon economy and promoting sustainable development in line with the SDGs. This means business adopting their own targets to achieve this end and encouraging the growth of the low carbon environmental goods and services sector.

The LGA has pointed out that ‘localising and devolving skills investment, back to work support and a job guarantee will be critical to ensuring that everyone benefits from these new local jobs’. We should therefore seek to expand local employment and training as a means of reducing levels of long-distance commuting and to encourage young people to stay in the area.

We should support sustainable tourism locally and look especially how Canterbury’s UNESCO heritage status and historical sites can best be enhanced, as well as promoting the sustainability of our coastal towns and countryside.

- **Canterbury BID member of CCAP Board**
- **BID member presentations at CCAP Board (July) and CCAP presentation at BID Board (November)**
- **Development of CCAP Corporate Partnership Scheme**
- **CCAP Chair represented on Kent Business School Advisory Boards/participant in January Kent Business Summit**

² LGA 2020 op. cit.

³ KBS is looking to see how issues of climate action and sustainable development can be further integrated into its work, including its MBA curriculum and the annual Kent Business Summit.

⁴ www.unglobalcompact.org

4. Sustainable Transport

As a sector, transport contributes to 33 per cent of UK CO2 emissions and during the Covid-19 lockdown there has been a significant drop in air pollution as a result of reduced road transport. This better air quality needs to be maintained and CCAP is working with its partner, CAST, to advocate for more sustainable transport strategies by CCC and KCC⁵. It is also able to draw on expertise by other local organisations such as Canterbury Clean Air.

In particular, social distancing has necessitated the establishment of temporary extensions to pedestrian and cycle routes in cities and we should aim to ensure that these temporary arrangements are made permanent, as has been the case in many UK and European cities.

We should prioritise the establishment of low emissions zones in Canterbury and Kent, establish more electric car charging points, prioritise bus lanes to increase punctuality and promote car free days and car sharing. Sustainable and green public transport, including enhanced rural bus services with low emission fuel can play a key role in ensuring longer-term green recovery⁶.

The recent Government endorsement for major airport at Manston in Thanet contradicts the Planning Inspectorate recommendations against such a development, notably as regards the negative effects on climate change. It is also contrary to the green-led recovery and green jobs strategy being advocated by KCC, the LGA and others and will seriously impact on residents in Canterbury District and beyond.

- **Canterbury Alliance for Sustainable Transport, CAST, member of CCAP Board and instrumental in detailed submission to CCC on sustainable transport strategies**
- **Active CCAP engagement with successful community-led campaign to oppose reopening of Manston airport (distribution of pamphlet 'The cargo pales are coming', participation in media and related advocacy campaigns including support for crowdfunding appeal raising c £80,000 for legal costs)**

5. Buildings and Infrastructure

The emphasis on working from home must change the way we consider development in the future and the relationship between the residential and business areas in our cities and towns. It is important that new development, including housing, is zero carbon in use.

Detailed proposals for new approaches by private developers and the deployment of both incentives and regulation by our local governments have been set out by CCAP's building group and these provide the basis for CCAP policy in this area.⁷ It is to be hoped that the recent announcement by the UK Government for funding home insulation and other energy-saving measures will provide an impetus.

- **Establishment of CCAP sub-group on buildings and infrastructure and CCAP submission 'Zero Carbon Buildings' to CCC (Appendix 4)**

6. Sustainable Food Supplies

We have experienced empty supermarket shelves during the crisis. Going forward, we should promote the use of local independent shops for our food and other goods.

With our fertile agriculture land here in Kent, there is scope to support local farming, for example through farmers' markets and buying local, fresh, produce. Our aim should be a sustainable local food supply and to also encourage farmers to adapt more environmentally sustainable farming methods.

⁵ CAST 'A Vision for 2030 and How to Travel There', June 2020.

⁶ The recent planning approval for the establishment of a hydrogen producing plant in Herne Bay, which will provide fuel for buses in particular, offers new opportunities,

⁷ CCAP 'Zero Carbon Buildings', April 2020

We should further push for the establishment of more community allotments, greenhouses and “edible gardens”.

- **Cooperation with Tree of Life Veganics (verganic farming), Kent Community Oasis Garden (sustainable food growing)**

7. Land Management

Covid-19 has taught us the value of green, open spaces, both for exercise and our psychological wellbeing. We need to ensure that these spaces are protected, enhanced and extended. What is needed is more green spaces and corridors and areas of ecological restoration and community use. This includes the planting of many more trees and hedges in association with Canterbury Trees and working with partners like East Kent Permaculture on wider ecological issues including the regeneration of coastal ecosystems.

We should support local farming so that we have a sustainable food supply and encourage farmers to adapt more environmentally sustainable farming methods. There also need to be sustainable approaches to water management to enhance resilience to flooding in coastal and river areas.

- **Partnership working with Canterbury Trees, East Kent Permaculture**
- **Support for initiative to establish local group to advocate for biodiversity**

8. Waste Avoidance and Recycling

We should build on our greater reliance on individual composting and recycling. Here we can draw on and seek to directly support the work of our various partners and relevant local community initiatives such as repair cafés and recycling initiatives.

In part because of more online deliveries, there has been some increase in single-use plastics and the existing efforts by CCC and other councils to reduce single-use plastics need to be redoubled working closely with partner such as Plastics Free Canterbury.

- **Partnership working with Plastics Free Canterbury, Eco-Cops and local recycling initiatives**
- **Support for local repair café**

9. Affordable and Clean Power

The Covid-19 aftermath will affect low-income groups greatly and could throw more families into fuel poverty. We should increase our efforts to help those families to switch to cheaper and greener energy tariffs as a number of Kent councils are already doing whilst helping them find the much-needed help to insulate their homes and improve draught proofing.

We should encourage the development of “street groups” to bulk buy solar panels for example and work with our partners to identify sites for renewable energy.

- **CCAP engagement with /support for green investments (Ryse Hydrogen Plant, Herne Bay)**
- **Support for Abbots Mill Project (sustainable waterpower)**

10. Monitor and Evaluate

We look to CCC to set formal 5- yearly carbon reduction plans for the District over a 15-year period with clear indicators to monitor progress and working closely with the Council through its Climate Emergency Board. As an initial step, we look forward to engaging in discussion on the formulation of the new CCC Local Plan based on the proposal submitted by CCAP.

We further encourage CCC to produce a Voluntary Local Review of SDG implementation, based on relevant SDG targets and indicators and drawing on national and international good practices, including the recommendations contained in the 2020 LGA/UKSSD guide⁸.

Likewise, we look to KCC to implement its Guiding Principles for a Green Recovery in Kent and incorporate green-led initiatives into its economic, environmental and other policy frameworks, together with monitoring and implementation of relevant SDG targets and indicators. As with CCC, CCAP would be pleased to engage directly with KCC in this regard and to input into the work of the Kent Resilience Forum and CV19 recovery work.

We have come to rely on expertise and scientific knowledge during the Covid-19 crisis. We now need to deploy the know-how of the University of Kent (including its Business School) and Canterbury Christchurch University and valuable local expertise in pursuit of climate action. Likewise, CCAP is able to draw on the practical know-how of its many community, business and other members within its partnership; it is also in a position to access expertise and advice from a wide range of external bodies such as international local government organisations.

- **CCAP appointed as member of CCC Climate Change Partnership Board and attendance at its first meetings, November/December (focus on mobilising and monitoring District-wide carbon emission reduction measures)**

2021 and Next Steps

When the current global health pandemic is finally overcome, which may not be until late 2021, the world will be a different place. There will be major consequences for our economic, social and political life and this will impact how we tackle the Climate Emergency and achieve Sustainable Development in Canterbury and Kent. It is also to be hoped that COP26 in Glasgow, November 2021 will provide new impetus for concerted climate action.

One scenario would see us revert to business as usual, driven by the enormous impact the health lock-down will have had on business and jobs. Business failure, mass unemployment, social insecurity and associated poverty and homelessness could be key factors in governments seeking to ramp up unrestrained economic growth to create jobs. This would however be highly negative for climate action and sustainable development objectives. There is also a question mark over how central government will respond to the huge gap in public finances which the crisis has necessitated and if it will revert to a policy of austerity with all its social and other consequences.

The Covid-19 crisis should teach us that business as usual is not a viable scenario. There are direct consequences for our individual lifestyles and choices as well as for the kind of engagement required of government – whether at local, national or international level.

Local government, private sector and other corporate plans will need to be drastically revised to take into account new realities post Covid-19. They will need to address climate change as well as the interrelated issues of sustainability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the *UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development*, which the UK has signed up to.

Most recently, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD, has highlighted key lessons from the Covid crisis to build back better cities. These include the conclusion that *‘The ‘Zoom effect; and the ‘Greta effect’ accelerated environmental awareness, making the transition towards clean mobility and circular economy more politically and socially acceptable’* and *‘Global agendas such as the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and the Sendai Framework are both timely and relevant to reshape planning, policy, strategy and budget from the ground up.’*⁹

⁸ LGA/UKSSD op.cit.

⁹ ‘COVID-19 and Cities: Impact, Lessons learned and Recovery Strategies’. OECD-Local, OECD 27 July 2020

There is a growing realisation that unrestricted consumption comes at the expense of the greater good. That a focus on short term profits obscures the need for long term investment aimed at tackling issues like climate change. That our global ecosystem is a fragile one and that green business and green infrastructure investment offer a better and more sustainable solution to post Covid-19 economic regeneration and growth.

The Local Government Association has asserted that *'It is essential that as a nation we tackle climate change and protect our natural environment. We need to improve air quality, protect against flooding, and ensure our transport, planning, waste and energy policies are sustainable'*. It notes that some 230 councils -including Canterbury- have declared a climate emergency , whilst two-thirds are aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030, and state that this makes *'local government well placed to support the transition to a low-carbon economy'*.¹⁰

Learning from the crisis provides an opportunity of new mindsets – such as a greater willingness to adopt green lifestyles, to collaborate collectively as a community, to strengthen the public sector and essential services, including at local government level here in Canterbury and Kent. A recent KCC study, undertaken with Hampshire and Hertfordshire showed that as a result of Covid-19, in the next 12 months 47% of respondents stated they expect more locally produced food, 42% would reduce their use of single use plastics and 20% would use their cars less by using more active forms of travel.

It must be the role of CCAP to promote learning from the Covid-19 crisis, drawing on relevant national and international experience, as well as from local partners This means that our mission to *educate, energise and empower* must be greatly re-enforced and all our partner organisations should aim to coordinate their respective activities in support of this mission. Our local youth, through our schools, universities and bodies like YS4C, also needs to be fully engaged.

Collectively, individually and in close partnership with CCC and KCC, and as members of the CCC Climate Change Partnership Board, CCAP will seek to ensure that our local government and District-wide carbon reduction strategies reflect the new realities.

There is much that can be done now to push our agenda forward locally. This relates not only to climate action but sustainable development in general as set out in the SDGs. CCC and KCC have responsibility for implementation of many of the specific SDG targets and need to be encouraged to follow the lead of other local authorities like Bristol to integrate the SDG framework into their local plans and strategies. In this we will continue to work closely with the Canterbury SDG Forum and other partners such as the Canterbury Society.

International organisations like the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, G-40 Cities, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, United Cities and Local Governments, the Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Development Programme have produced extensive materials and toolkits which we can use to measure and localise SDGs and advance effective climate action in our local community¹¹.

The adoption of green-led policies under a *Green New Deal* should be our overall concept for recovery. This needs to be reflected in the strategic plans being formulated by government at every level, including by KCC and CCC, for example in KCC's county-wide economic recovery work and in the forthcoming CCC Corporate and Local Plans and housing and transport strategies.

'Covid-19 bears implications for governance, with citizens' trust in governments increasing in some countries, especially for local politicians, and decreasing in others' (OECD, July 2020)

¹⁰ *'Post-COVID-19 recovery strategies that will contribute to a fairer, cleaner, and more sustainable economy'* LGA submission to House of Lords, 11 June 2020

¹¹ See www.local2030.org , www.globalcovenantofmayors.com , www.c40.org , www.clgf.org.uk , www.iclei.org , www.uclg.org , <https://doi.org/10.1787/23069341> (2020),