

East Midlands
Carbon Action Network



Minutes East Midlands CAN Meeting and AGM

Thursday 3rd March 2016

Corby Borough Council, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG

1. Attendees and Apologies

Attendees:

Giovanna Bezzina (GB) – East Northamptonshire Council
Helen Chadwick (HC) – Harborough District Council
Darsh Chauhan (DC) – EMCAN Chair
Sharmila Dalal (SD) – British Gas
Sara Earl (SE) – Corby Borough Council
Rachel Hughes (RH) – Corby Borough Council
Sean Johnson (SJ) – Lincolnshire County Council
Rob Leeson (RL) – ALEO National Secretariat
Karen Lond (KL) – EMCAN Chair
Stephen Mirkovic (SM) – Corby Borough Council
Sharon Mutasa (SMu) – Corby Borough Council
Amy Plank (AP) – Corby Borough Council
Hilary Tanner (HT) – Local Government Association
David Young (DY) – Leicester City Council
Ruth Zoumides (RZ) – Nottingham City Council

Apologies:

Dave Bowskill – City of Lincoln Council
Justine Biggs – E.ON
Tom Veitch – Global Action Plan
Richard Chubb – Mansfield District Council
Mike Richardson – Leicester City Council
Steve Butterworth – Corby Borough Council
Nicola Holt – Leicester City Council
Vanessa O'Brien – Lincolnshire County Council
Robert Cartwright – eTech Solutions Limited
Jean Common – Bassetlaw District Council

2. Chairs Update

The presentation is available on the website (www.aleo.org.uk/em/meetings).

KL thanked SE and Corby Borough Council for providing the venue and the refreshments through the morning.

- **Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting**

The minutes from the meeting in November 2015, held at Nottingham Community Voluntary Service, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

- **National CAN Update**

CAN Executive meeting on 14 January:

- There was a vote to change the name of CAN to Association of Local Energy Officers (ALEO).
- Next ALEO conference
 - Looking at the North West as a potential location, Wigan was mentioned as a good location
 - Aiming for the second to third week of May
- Funding for the next ALEO magazine
 - Since the CAN Executive meeting ALEO has received funding for the next edition of the news magazine, so this will be a printed edition

ALEO Executive Away Day was on 8 February

- **OFGEM pilot – Park Homes Warm Home Discount**

This is for permanent residents of Park Homes in England, funded by the big six, and is for a one-off payment of £140. Residents must be on certain income related benefits to qualify.

Q: Where did you see the OFGEM – Park Homes Warm Home Discount?

A: I came across it on the website, just after Christmas. It has not been advertised widely. I am planning on contacting OFGEM to see if it was successful and if they will do it again.

Q: Was it funded through fine money?

A: Not that I'm aware of, OFGEM has done it as a one off pilot but it is funded by the big six

- **Independent review of consumer advice, protection standards and enforcement**

The results are due to be published in March 2016, however there may be a delay due to the elections.

- **DECC - Central Heating Fund**

Update from Sean Johnson on the Lincolnshire project:

Difficulties in getting a clear steer from legal and procurement around state aid regulations and contract type. The Fund is designed specifically for first time central heating so will be challenging

identifying recipients. Lincolnshire is trying to get legal round to agreeing to the fund being used to top up the ECO effectively. Hopefully DECC will learn from the legal and state aid issues.

- **National Energy Action East Midlands Forum Meeting**

Spending Review:

Consultation on the new ECO from 2018 will be later this year. There is only £640m per annum until 2018 for fuel poverty, which has been reduced from last year.

DECC review on Energy Efficiency Policy:

- Refocus ECO on low income post 2018
- Non levy funded incentives
 - o Support CHF
 - o Facilitate warmth on prescription schemes
- Reintroduce government funded incentives for private landlords
- New Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) – replaces FPAG (Fuel Poverty Advisory Group)
 - o Minutes of last meeting on CFP page - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-fuel-poverty>

Warm & healthy homes fund:

There are two strands under this fund: partnerships and small measures. For partnerships there is a £3.25 million fund for capital measures, of which there is £650,000 for the East Midlands. The maximum grant is up to £4,000 per household. They work on a heating first, insulation second basis.

The small measure fund is £250,000 for capital measures. This is funding for HIAs, and the NEA is providing training. This fund is £250 per household.

3. Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretariat

Rob Leeson nominated Karen Lond to be Chair, and Sara Earl seconded this.

Karen Lond nominated Darsh Chauhan for Vice Chair, Ruth Zoumidis seconded this.

Rob Leeson nominated David Young for Secretariat, Darsh Chauhan seconded this.

4. Treasurers Update

Pick Everard kindly sponsored the last meeting which covered the cost of the lunch. EMCAN currently has around £1,106 in the bank.

Any sponsor for lunch at future events would be good. DC has contacted OVO Energy and Smart Energy regarding sponsorship. KL has contacted Mitsubishi about providing a 30 minute CPD for the next meeting as well as sponsoring the meeting.

5. National reboot to ALEO, and the potential EMCAN name change

The Association of Local Energy Officers (ALEO) is the new identity of the Carbon Action Network. It is now up to the members to decide whether the region is to adopt the new identity, ALEO East Midlands, or the region stays as EMCAN.

So, should EMCAN change name?

- There are already a number of local energy officers' networks. Energy officers refer to people who look at the internal energy use as well as officers helping their local residents
- There are two types of energy officers. Hopefully some members will see part of their role as an energy officer
- It is important to keep with the national identity, as it is good for the collective voice up to the government
- What matters is that we are having regular meetings and discuss what's relevant. The local base has been eroded in the last few years with council cuts
- South East have gone for ALEO South East, instead of South East ALEO
- Is it possible to change the logo? By moving the name of the region to the bottom of the logo, so the region name is the suffix rather than the prefix
- RL will try but he needs to get all regions on board for the new logo
- There is a Panorama programme in March on fuel poverty, and John Kolm Murray, ALEO National Chair, has been interviewed for it

Members of EMCAN agreed to change their name to ALEO East Midlands subject to the logo being turned around (see above) and this change being acceptable to ALEO executive

6. Hillary Tanner , Local Government Association – LGA policy update on energy, fuel poverty and climate local

The presentation is available on the website (www.aleo.org.uk/em/meetings). The presentation was followed by a questions and answers session, please see below.

The potential follow up to Green Deal:

Q: Is government going to come up with a replacement for Green Deal?

A: DECC are keeping very quiet at the moment on any future news.

- One of DECC's priorities is to keep bills low, and LAs are starting to create their own energy tariffs. DECC needs to target financing towards the most in need, the funding has gone from funding the third sector rather than LAs

Discussion on the removal of the Zero Carbon Home legislation:

- There is nothing to improve legislation for new homes, since the removal of zero carbon homes
- There is still an EU directive where they still need to meet zero carbon homes by 2018.
- Government document says nearly zero carbon homes
- Zero carbon homes goes way past Fuel Poverty, and includes carbon savings

Q: Do you still want people to sign up to Climate Local?

A: Yes, we still want people to sign up, but no further resources will be invested in Climate Local.

Q: Is there scope for ALEO National and Climate Local to work together?

A: ALEO national has not thought of it before, but we could think about it.

- The LGA badge has been useful for councillors support for Corby Borough Councils projects in the past

Issues relating to the private sector:

- The private sector is where the problems is
- It is important to demonstrate savings on the NHS budget. Investing in one thing will make a saving elsewhere, such as the NHS
- Derbyshire are doing a project through GPs, and undertake action based on referrals
- Is it a funding issue?
- Funding is one issue, but there are not enough resources to regulate
- The landlords do not have to do anything
- Trading standards is led by the county councils, which is causing major issues as housing is with the district councils therefore not a priority for the county councils, meanwhile the landlords are still getting away with poor housing. The county councils will not prioritise housing as they are not a Housing Association; this is the problem of a two tier council system.

7. Electric Corby and Northants Warm Homes Partnership

The presentation is available on the website (www.aleo.org.uk/em/meetings). Contact Sara Earl on Sara.Earl@corby.gov.uk. The presentation was followed by a questions and answers session, please see below.

Q: Have you managed to get the Northamptonshire based Health and Wellbeing Boards on board?

A: Yes, they are in the process of coming on board, but being cautious. Fuel Poverty is not their priority.

Q: EU funding, going forward will that be an issue?

A: Yes, but there will be a 10 year phase out and projects don't stop.

8. Regional Updates

Harborough have finally got a project offering energy advice to local residents, and we have put solar panels on the market hall.

Robin Hood Energy have successfully set up, they are still waiting on a few legal issues relating to the prepayment tariffs.

Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council are looking to launch a white label for residents.

Our switching scheme in Lincolnshire has been successful. It has helped save over £600,000 in Lincolnshire since the start of the project.

9. Date of next meeting

The next ALEO East Midlands Forum meeting is planned for June/July 2016. Sponsorship and a venue are being sought.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.