

Havant Borough Council meeting 8th December 2020.

Hi. Thanks for inviting me. I'm Sally Barnard – I'm a retired GP, I live in West Sussex and I'm coordinator of the South East Climate Alliance (or SECA). <https://seclimatealliance.uk/> . SECA formed 2 years ago, we are a loose alliance of now around 90 community groups across Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire. Havant FoE and Havant Climate Alliance are 2 of those members.

What first brought us together 2 years ago is that we all saw the huge scale of climate action that is needed and it felt as though things were moving very slowly. So we wanted to urge/encourage our local councils to take on the leadership for this and also to find ways that community groups can support them to do this.

So we've been monitoring what is happening in all 56 councils across the region, gathering it into a live survey <http://bit.ly/SECAclimateactionsurvey> and sharing information with our members and councillors and council officers – generally its being received positively – helping to share ideas.

Its good to see that you're convening meetings like this in Havant. And we're seeing that this kind of collaboration is getting going across the region. Everyone is making it up as they go along, so there may be some ideas to pick up from others.

I thought I'd just give a couple of examples of how other councils are engaging with communities (these both happen to be Conservative councils):

Canterbury has set up a 3 pronged approach that might be worth a look : they have a council climate board, a Partnership Board of the top carbon emitters in the district (hospitals, schools, businesses) helping each other and others to reduce to zero; plus a forum of local community groups that acts as a 'critical friend' to the council, and also helps get the messages out. Here's a blog about it:

<https://seclimatealliance.uk/engaging-stakeholders-in-climate-action-the-canterbury-model/>

Then there is **Adur and Worthing council**

They managed to organise an online citizens climate assembly this autumn which is reporting back in January. Im not suggesting you organise one in Havant necessarily. But they have put a lot of very useful resources online, and also I think it will be very interesting for us all to see their outcomes in January. They tackled some really knotty questions.

They phrased their task like this:

“How can we collectively tackle climate change and support our places to thrive? What does this mean for our environment and way of life?”
Might imagine there could be similar responses to those questions in Havant, especially being a coastal community. Could be useful. Heres the link:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/climate-assembly/>

Other points: Hampshire County Council seems on the ball with climate change and proactive compared with some of the other county councils. That should be good for Havant.

Overall, seeing whats happening now I feel positive.

Compared to where we were 2 years ago, the climate emergency is widely recognised now and climate action in councils is becoming mainstream. Hopefully there will be more funding and back up for you soon from national Government..

Thanks for having me and good luck in Havant ! If we can be useful let us know.

Sally Barnard
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NB Postscript:

Havant BC is one of only 3 out of 56 councils in the South East not to have set targets for carbon reduction in their climate statement. It was good to hear Jane Devlin talking at the meeting about setting targets for the next 5 years in their strategy

<https://seclimatealliance.uk/councils-make-a-strong-start-on-climate-action-plans-despite-covid>

