



## Collaboration and action 2020

### Building on success

In November 2019, David Middleton of DMC and Jacqui Staunton of CCS again combined forces to present the fifth annual, not for profit, free to attend annual conference in the Making Places Last series, this time with an emphasis on the practical consequences of climate change and solutions to the challenge.

**The event was the largest multi-sectored conference on climate change to be held in the West Midlands in 2019.**

A capacity 200 delegates signed in for the event which was applauded for:

- > the opportunity to network, share knowledge and exchange experience in tackling the climate crisis
- > highlighting the need for collaboration
- > the line-up of speakers giving a wide range of views from multi-national companies, to micro businesses, ngos and voluntary organisations
- > the lively final words and challenge to delegates of Chris Crean (FoE)
- > it's greater interaction with delegates (compared to the previous four events)
- > highlighting the potential of the West Midlands to be at the vanguard of the post fossil fuel, zero carbon revolution.

The 2019 event was sponsored by the RSA; Walsall Housing Group, Commercial, and the Energy Institute at the University of Birmingham. It was officially opened by Deputy Lieutenant to the West Midlands, Professor Rashid Gatrad, OBE.

### A 2020 event + more?

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, a post 2019 event review meeting agreed the 2019 event had been the best to date and to try and capitalise on that. The meeting agreed a 2020 event:

- > would need to move forward from its traditional early November date so as to avoid clashing with the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 26) meeting in Glasgow from November 9<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>;
- > should focus on and encourage greater collaborative action;
- > should seek to bring together as many disparate organisations and projects to enable greater understanding of what action is happening across the region;
- > should develop a closely related series of bi-monthly workshops used to highlight good practice; innovative solutions; action arising from the conference. These might be held alternatively in Walsall and Birmingham. A host for Birmingham events would be needed and preferably from the professional services sector;
- > should seek to encourage the involvement of the 70 + businesses so far to have interfaced with the conferences;
- > should try to capitalise on the 2019 involvement of the Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands and through the office of the Lord Lieutenant extend an invitation to HRH Prince Charles to speak at the 2020 event;
- > in the event of a decline from HRH, the Rt. Hon. Claire Perry O'Neill, Chairman of COP 26 be invited;
- > we also note the Commonwealth held a significant climate meeting in London last October. Is there a connection to be made to Birmingham 2022?

### Project Advisory Group

A Project Advisory Group for the 2020 event has been formed currently consisting of Abigail Campbell (RSA); Richard Baines (MEBC); Chris Crean (Regional Campaigner, FoE); Steven Davis (Health, Safety and Environment Manager, whg); Paul Dockerill (Director of Energy and Programme Management, whg); Professor Martin Freer (Director of the Energy Institute and the University of Birmingham); Professor Rashid Gatrad, OBE (Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands); Richard Haynes (Innovation Manager, whg); Tony McNally (Founder, Climate Change Solutions Ltd); Paul Nicol (Director of AMC, whg); Jacqui Staunton (Director, Climate Change Solutions Ltd); Julian Todd (CE, Climate Action Network West Midlands); and myself.

### The 2020 Conference (draft)

#### Evidence of the magnitude of the challenge

##### Conference Chairman

Professor Martin Freer, Director, Birmingham Energy Institute, University of Birmingham and director of the Energy Research Accelerator

**confirmed**

##### Jonathon Porritt, CBE

Known to many of us as the doyen of sustainability, Jonathon Porritt, Co-Founder of Forum for the Future, an eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator on sustainable development and Chancellor of Keele University was formerly Director of Friends of the Earth and Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission. His latest book, Hope in Hell, due to be published in the summer of 2020, totally reflects this year's conference. In it he explores reasons to be hopeful – new technology; the power of innovation; the mobilisation of young people; a sense of intergenerational solidarity as older generations come to understand their own obligation to secure a safer world for their children and grandchildren.

**confirmed**

## The Commonwealth Climate Change Office

**Invited**

In this opening part of the conference we seek to understand the scale of the impact climate change is already having on people. The Commonwealth represents 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the world's population and many of its states are already facing the consequences of climate change. In October 2019 in London the Commonwealth launched its Common Earth project - an international consortium aimed at collectively creating and harnessing strategies to restore the damage caused by climate change and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The involvement of the Commonwealth in our event is made especially poignant because many countries impacted by climate change will be represented in Birmingham in 2022 for the Commonwealth Games.

Additionally, the population of the West Midlands prides itself on its ethnic mix with many originating from or having close historic connections to Commonwealth countries.

### Evidence of action now taking place

#### Sir James Wates, Chairman, or David Allen, CE, Wates

##### Business – the main engine of change

The Wates Group is one of the leading privately owned construction development and property services companies in the UK. The Group has recently committed to eliminating waste and carbon from its operations by 2025. David Allen says: "By committing to something extraordinary we can achieve something extraordinary. Together with our partners we will improve the natural environment for generations to come."

**Confirmed**

#### Paul Dockerill

Director of Energy and Programme Management, whg

**Confirmed**

#### Speaker to be announced

Innovation Developments

University of Birmingham Energy Institute

**Confirmed**

#### Presentation – reserved for sponsor }

we are in contact with the following as potential core sponsors:

#### Presentation – reserved for sponsor }

Cadent/HyDeploy – Chetwoods - Commercial

#### Presentation – reserved for sponsor }

Rambol - Reconomy

#### Presentation – reserved for sponsor }

Suez

**Invited**

#### WMCA – activity update

**Invited**

#### Councillor Waseem Zaffar

Chairman, Birmingham Climate Taskforce  
Progress report

**Confirmed**

#### GB&S LEP – activity update

**Invited**

#### Speaker to be confirmed

Climate Action Network West Midlands

**Confirmed**

#### Birmingham Campaign against Climate Change trade union committee

**To be Invited**

#### Transition Towns West Midlands

**To be Invited**

#### Bob Sherman

##### Local community developments

Bob founded and is leading a local community initiative in Harbury and a new low carbon initiative connecting rural communities across south Warwickshire. He says the project was "catapulted into a new phase" at our 2018 conference.

**Confirmed**

#### Afternoon – What needs to be done

Open debate involving everyone

Summary and call to action – Chris Crean (FoE) (why change after the success of 2019?)

*David Middleton*

*191, May Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 4AW*

*0121 444 2683*

[davidm@dmc-sd.co.uk](mailto:davidm@dmc-sd.co.uk)

[www.davidmiddletoncommunications.uk](http://www.davidmiddletoncommunications.uk)

[www.davidmiddleton-author.com](http://www.davidmiddleton-author.com)