

Ian Gunner – Town Councillor – Friend of Hagley
Deb - Zero Carbon Rugeley Ambassador
Sarah - Zero Carbon Rugeley Ambassador
Judith – Zero Carbon Rugeley Ambassador
Adam Peacock – Keele University - Zero Carbon Rugeley
Niamh Mahon - Rugeley Town Councillor
Olivia Lyons – Rugeley Town Councillor
Sam Bird – Development Manager Town Council
Hilary Goodreid – Town Clerk
David Evans – St Augustines
Christine Martin - Rugeley Town Councillor
Rob Hughes – Rugeley Town Councillor

Zero Carbon Rugeley - ZCR

Zero Carbon Rugeley developed out of the power station redevelopment initiative. Looking for feedback from the community to understand what is needed so they can design a local energy system for / and with, Rugeley. It is a two-year project with one year left to run.

Why Rugeley? ZCR is a separate project to the power station redevelopment even though both projects are managed by Engie.

Rugeley is an interesting place as we have two railway stations, how we can retrofit the buildings, significant supermarkets and distribution hub for Amazon.

SLES – Smart Local Energy System – using energy as effectively as possible – reducing energy waste. It is a local scheme – what works best for Rugeley. All types of energy are being looked at including heat, power, transport etc. How do we link those three things together and remove energy wastage? This is a design project but looks at how we can make it a real thing in the future.

Community tells the ZCR consortium what they want and then the consortium looks at possible solutions / ideas for the future to implement these ideas. Looking at ZCR work becoming a new layer within the heritage of Rugeley.

Friends of Hagley

Friends of Hagley – began in 2018 as a fundraising group to support one aspect of heritage. Since then, more research has been done exploring the industrial heritage of the town and especially the area around Hagley field. Looking to showcase the information to the public. Creating a list of the disparate landowners around Hagley field area. Looking to develop a Charitable Incorporated Organization. This will give more power to the group to seek support and develop projects.

ZCR Ambassadors

Deb is one of the ambassadors for ZCR – not got out into the community as much as they had wanted owing to covid. Letting people around Rugeley know what's been happening and trying to get ideas from the community. Rugeley is surrounded by green spaces but not all are accessible. People of a similar mind set have been brought together. Been looking at transport around Rugeley. – Looking at cycle paths, getting bikes on and off trails, getting people to use trains, footpath access – can be problematic to access via pushchair / mobility scooter.

Adam – two-pronged approach needed: smart energy systems is one, but want to build community momentum and engagement. @engagezcr engagezcr@keele.ac.uk if you would like to join movements locally.

David Evans – is there negotiation around building standards on the new homes on the power station site – will they be eco-friendly? Alternative energy? Ground heat energy?

Ambition on the development site is as low carbon as possible – can we retrofit existing buildings?

Cannock Chase Council has a zero-carbon policy – whole of Cannock Chase will be carbon neutral by 2030. This has been incorporated into the planning applications that are being considered e.g. the houses to be built on the Aelfgar school site will be carbon neutral.

All of the Engie power station site is scheduled to be a sustainable development. Two pilots for Passive House Standards – international recognised environmental standard that is carbon neutral.

Zero Carbon project is the design project. We need people in Rugeley to help to get grants and take this forward. To look at what is feasible. Can we find a group of houses that want PV panels etc? Need to keep feeding back to the people who have engaged so that the community are aware of what is happening with their ideas.

Can we get a programme for Rugeley to create their own energy – also sell and buy energy locally – community profit from their own energy. Appreciate where Rugeley has come from in the development of energy and build on that.

Sam – what can we do immediately? How can we encourage people to get involved? Judith developed a Carbon Buddy manual which gives ideas of small ways to help for residents. There is a cohort in Rugeley trying to push from the ground level looking at what you buy – can you buy from the local fruit shop? Can you buy local food that hasn't done many miles?

Friends of Hagley and ZCR are highlighting the heritage throughout the landscape. Generating posts that highlighting the rich culture and heritage of the town and its links to energy.

Linking the Old Chancel and possibility of developing this as an energy museum / opportunity/ Energy Arts Project / possibility of other elements of energy interpreting in the Old Chancel.

Deb: looking at energy systems in your own home – looking at green energy suppliers so you know that your energy is coming from a zero-carbon source.

Linking of the ideas that are gaining momentum in the town is important. We need to keep this going.