

Notes of the DERRINGTON LOW CARBON COMMUNITY PROJECT MEETING On Tuesday 24th November 2009 at 7.15 pm at the Village Hall

Thanks to everyone for continuing their support of this project!!!

1 Welcome and Introductions:

Rosemary offered to chair the meeting – many thanks! - and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Karen took notes.

2 Present:

Those present included: Alan Thomas, Rosemary Lofty, Sue Challinor, Karen Davies, Jules Hill from Beat the Cold, Rob Hine from Sustainability Matters, Sheena Davies, Lindsey, Colin Roff (Stafford and Rural Homes), Tom Proctor, Geoff Parry, Helen Sammons, Will Sammons, David Lowe (Catch 22 Solutions and works with Beat the Cold too).

3 Apologies: Apologies had been received from Ray Sutherland, Maggie Overton, Martin Chadwick and Roger Greenhalgh.

4 Note and actions from the last meeting on Oct 20th

The notes were agreed as correct. Actions/matters outstanding:

- Rosemary has contacted **Mark Winnington** re the Derrington bus service but has had no response as yet. **Jules and Martin** have been in touch with an SCC officer and will feed back any news at the next meeting.
- Properties with 50mm but less than 100mm insulation – one of the two properties in question has now been insulated; the second will be done shortly.
- 'The Wrights and Wrongs of Home Energy' DVD was found and shown at the last film night – it's quite effective at putting across the message of energy saving.

5 Low Carbon Community Challenge Funding Bid

This is a big pot of money from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. It is a two-year programme to provide financial and advisory support to 20 'test-bed' communities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that are seeking to cut carbon emissions. The information given says:

Possible projects might include, for example, smart meters, home energy audits, access to local demonstration homes, leadership from local schools, businesses and public buildings, and more hands-on support navigating advice and determining which energy efficiency measures and renewable technologies are right for them. DECC are looking for an integrated approach, involving technological solutions alongside community and household-level behaviour change, and delivered via new collaborations between local public, private and third sector organisations, will be critical to achieving the carbon emission cuts we need. However, as yet there is no blueprint for effective action or clear sense of how much can be achieved through this route – hence the Challenge, which is designed to test the success of different plans.

There have been 450-500 Expressions of Interest – and only 20 projects will be funded.....There are two rounds of bids – the first one is for projects in a position to spend money on capital works right now – so we are aiming for this one – but the deadline is very soon! (12 noon 27th Nov).

Summary of our proposals: energy measures at the Village Hall in accordance with Energy Report undertaken by Marches Energy Agency (including installation of solar photo-voltaics); create 35 show case homes with a range of energy improvement measures and including solar thermal/PV and targeting properties dependent on oil and electricity; energy measures at St Matthew's Church including porch and windows; install secure cycle parking and purchase and set up electric pool bike scheme; community food growing project. The Group commented on and advised on the bid and set about obtaining letters of support – *thanks for all your efforts everyone- we got 22 letters of support and emailed the bid at 11.40 am in advance of the 12 noon deadline!! No news yet....*

6 Home Energy Audits – update

Jules gave an update:

- More than 15% of households in the village have been surveyed, that's 54 houses!
- 12 energy monitors are currently out on loan
- 8 households have had energy monitors, one family has bought their own. Contact **Jules** if you'd like one on loan. They can lead to between 5-15% energy savings due to raised consciousness and awareness of energy use.
- The average carbon footprint per household in Derrington is 14.5 tonnes CO₂, average per person is 7.6 tonnes. Highest household use is 30 t and lowest is 3.4 t. Jules will be doing an evaluation exercise in December to find out what energy measures have been taken up, carbon savings, changes of tariff, active lifestyle changes etc. Using the evaluation information, which may be quantitative and qualitative (with some case studies), we hope to find out what's worked, what's made a difference, what hasn't worked – and use this to inform future work in other communities.

7 Village Hall Energy Audit

Marches Energy Agency (Jeremy Thorpe) had carried out the Energy Audit in October The survey has identified several opportunities to improve energy efficiency and will also advise on options for renewables installation. Several existing upgrade works are also in the pipeline and we will integrate any works with these. We need to settle payments and sort out grant funding asap. **Ray, Helen** to report back at next meeting.

8 Film Programme

An Inconvenient Truth (the Al Gore film) was shown on Thursday 8th October with 18 people attending. On Thursday 12th November 9 at 7.30pm 'The Eleventh Hour' was shown with about 20 attending. An evaluation sheet was also created for this, to get feedback on both the film and on whether people had been involved in Derrington – Way Ahead in general. Press and publicity c/o **Rob** Hine.

The next film is will be on Thursday 10th December at 7.30 pm and is entitled: 'The Age of Stupid'. Please come along!!!

9 Local Food Festival Follow Up

a) Fruit Trees

Around 40 people have ordered fruit trees for their gardens and these can be collected from the Village Hall between 12.30 and 1.30 pm. A local resident has also ordered additional fruit trees privately as a result of this project and these will be delivered with our order. We have also contacted Cooper Perry to offer some fruit trees for them to plant. They are keen and we have agreed to provide 15 fruit trees to create a school orchard (funded through Derrington-Way Ahead). We will be combining the school planting with the BBC 'Tree O'Clock' event on Dec 5th which is an attempt to plant a record number of trees on one day, between 11 am and 12 noon. In addition, around 40 trees were given out to organisations at the SBC Green Awards and Karen and Rob will also be planting about 30 fruit trees in the new field – all in all lots of tree planting in and around Derrington!

(Photos will be put on the webpages – and there was good publicity in the press and on BBC Midlands Today!)

b) Local Food Fact Sheet

Rob had produced a draft 'fact sheet' that can be posted on the web pages and be given out to all villagers too. This will be done after Christmas now and we hope to bring a near complete version to the next meeting (**Rob and Karen/Sebastian**).

c) Local Produce Sale

Helen reported that sale of local produce at the Village Hall had been discussed at the last Village Hall Committee Meeting. Ray Sutherland is looking into how to move this issue forward (**Ray**, can you feed back at the next meeting please?). Sheena had raised the issue with the PCC who were supportive of the idea of a produce sale and happy to use the Church if the Village Hall route didn't work out.

10 Fairtrade Village – progress

To become a Fairtrade Village the Fairtrade Foundation has set down 5 criteria:

- Parish Council support required, via a Fairtrade resolution
- A group (or sub group of this group) to be set up to promote FT
- Local outlets selling FT items
- Local press/occasional events and publicity
- Support from local businesses, school, church, pub

A letter has been sent to the Parish Council and we hope to hear back soon.

11 Awards for Derrington

The project has been awarded two accolades recently. On November 3rd 'Derrington-Way Ahead' received second prize in the Stafford Borough Green Awards (hope those of you who came enjoyed the evening!) and on November 17th the project was third out of 180 District/Borough Local Authority applications nationally, in the Green Apple Awards, presented at the House of Commons, with Rosemary, Sue, Karen and Norman Jones from SBC in attendance. **Karen to** forward any press cuttings to Jules.

Helen to erect the Green Award Plaque in the Village Hall. **Karen** to obtain a frame for the Green Apple Award Certificate. **Colin** said he had heard of an award run by the Energy Saving Trust and agreed to forward details.

12 Low Carbon Community Rollout

SBC and partners are looking at extending the low carbon community programme, inc trying to access funding from various grant pots, local and national. SARH are keen partners and we would hope to continue working with Beat the Cold and Sustainability Matters too. Watch this space!

13 AOB

Bank Account

We now have £100 prize money from the Green Awards but no bank to put it in!
Helen to find out about setting up a bank account at the Post Office.

Constitution

Helen to discuss with ray and bring back information or a draft constitution to the next meeting.

One Year Birthday Party

Karen to meet Red Lion landlord to discuss ideas.

***Date of our next meeting:
Tuesday 19th January 2010 at the Village Hall at 7.15 pm***

Any agenda items/ apologies or queries, please contact Karen 07967 328586 or 619408 or by email kdavies@staffordbc.gov.uk

News and info at www.derringtonvillagehall.btik.com and www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd