

Derrington – Can we become a low carbon community?

Notes of the meeting held on Wed 25th Feb 2009

1 Present:

Helen Salmons	Mike Clements
Mike Paling	Geoff Parry
Sue Challinor	Roy Wood
Mark Winnington	John Watkins
Ray Sutherland	John Dunning
Karen Davies	

2 Apologies:

Rosemary
Reg Booth
Rev Peter Ashby

3 Welcome and Introductions:

Karen welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending. Karen had talked to just a few people at the end of last year about the possibility of obtaining funding to establish projects in Derrington to promote more sustainable lifestyles. This would especially concentrate on energy efficiency measures, in households as well as in other buildings eg village hall. Only a few people had been approached, since the funding was not guaranteed. Those people had now been invited to this meeting, but Karen emphasised that any other interested person/group was very welcome!

4 Background – our planet needs help!

The group discussed the increasing pressures we are placing on our environment and agreed that, at every level from global to local there was a need to make a concerted effort to respect and protect our planet. There were several discussions including what actually is ‘sustainable development’ as well as discussions around issues such as food growing, the role of the supermarkets, people’s attitudes towards their cars etc!

5 Sustainable and Healthy Communities work at the Borough Council:

Karen explained the background to her work, which is explained on the website at <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/live/welcome.asp?id=157>

The Council has a wide ranging series of projects and programmes that aim to contribute to sustainable development (ie “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”). It’s all about achieving social, economic and environmental wellbeing. Please visit

<http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/live/welcome.asp?id=156>

6 Derrington to the Rescue!

a) Why Derrington: keen and enthusiastic people, lots of existing activities, good track record of setting up and maintaining excellent projects, accessible

both as a compact community of around 350 households as well as to Stafford town via various transport links.

b) Funding – we have some! Karen has bid into two pots of money and there is approx £15K specifically to support projects in Derrington plus £12K to support Derrington and thereafter to extend into two further communities (poss Castletown and Swynnerton, but not yet confirmed).

c) Ideas so far and available support: Karen had drafted some ideas already and circulated these at the meeting, but these are not set in stone. She explained that there were a number of agencies that we hope to work with who have expertise in certain areas. Stafford and Rural Homes are also very interested and supportive. The group discussed several possible projects that they felt might work. There was a particular interest in food growing eg community gardens. It was felt we need to ask everyone in the village what they might get involved with.

Mike, Mike, Roy and Geoff to draft a questionnaire, **Karen and Helen** to do the same – construct final version at next meeting to distribute. Keep it simple! We agreed that there needs to be an incentive to return the questionnaires and an event at the village hall was suggested, with people returning questionnaires receiving low energy light bulbs/powerdowns/smart meters etc. or a free energy 'make over', the event could be a high profile launch type event. Everyone seemed keen to get involved and willing to help eg circulate fliers down their street etc. **John D** was happy to help with promotion/PR eg via Village/Church magazine. We would also hope to develop web pages.

Karen to invite the following to the next meeting: Beat the Cold (Martin Chadwick) <http://www.beatcold.org.uk/site/> and Sustainability Matters' Save Your Energy project (Rob Hine and Rob Horton) <http://www.staffordarea.saveyourenergy.org.uk/>

Helen to check room available. Please can **Everyone** have a think about a possible name for the project/group!?

Karen will: put together some notes and circulate, meet Marches Energy Agency on 27th March <http://www.mea.org.uk/>, check next Parish Council meeting (Monday 16th March), contact Cooper Perry School, contact Rev Peter Ashby, contact pub, sort out grant funding.

***Thanks for attending!!
See you at the next meeting!***

Date of next meeting:

7.15 pm at the Village Hall on Thursday 12th March

***Any queries please contact Karen on 619408 or 07967328586
Email kdavies@staffordbc.gov.uk***