

**Notes of the Derrington - Way Ahead Meeting
Tuesday 12 April 2011 at 7.30pm at Derrington Village Hall**

1 Present: Rob Hine, Alan Thomas, Sheena Davis, Karen Davies,
Sue Challinor, Rosemary Lofty, Jan Bray, Cllr Mark Winnington.

2 Apologies: Lindsey, Helen Sammons, Will Sammons, Maggie Overton.

3 Welcome: Karen welcomed the Group, we all introduced ourselves and Jan volunteered to chair the meeting whilst Karen took notes.

4 Notes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 8 February

The notes were agreed as a correct record.

The nest box building with the Brownies had been postponed to 28 February. Around 22 Brownies plus several Mums and Dads participated. The session was led by Steve Archer from Staffordshire County Council, who worked with us during the Community Bench Building events. There are some super photos and a write up of this activity on our website at

<http://www.derringtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk/Derrington%20-%20Way%20Ahead/BrowniesNestBoxes>

And there was also a lovely article and picture in the April/May edition of 'My Village Voice'.

The Real Time Display Panel for the PV system still needs to be activated (**Helen** to contact David Hutchinson).

A receptacle for collecting Ink and Printer Cartridges has been placed near outside the Village Hall and clearly labelled.

The group had discussed whether we could encourage the use of eco-friendly cleaning materials and FT beverages at the Village Hall. Karen has discussed this with Helen who will raise the issue with other people involved and feedback at the next meeting (**Helen**).

The 'There is No Planet B exhibition at St Chad's at Half Term went well and this included displays from Derrington. Everything else is on the agenda.

5 Derrington Village Hall

(a) Energy Measures - launch event and celebration

The launch event took place on Wednesday 16 February between 12 and 2pm. This consisted of a series of short talks/presentations: Welcome and Introductions, Alan Merrick (MC)

Our Village Hall, Cllr Ray Sutherland (on behalf of the Village Hall)
A Roof over our Heads, Peter Barker (on behalf of Millers the

roofers)

Solar So Good, David Hutchinson (on behalf of Havenkaye, Solar PV installers)

Derrington - Way Ahead, Karen Davies (Stafford Borough Council)

Community Benefits, Geoff Parry (Derrington Village Hall Committee)

Close, Alan Merrick (MC)

The buffet lunch was provided by the Red Lion. Around 70 people attended, including all of the bodies who have provided grant funding, groups from the village and groups that use the hall, plus representatives from other relevant organizations. The feedback on the event was very positive and everyone felt the event went very well indeed. A huge thank you to all those who helped in many different ways!!!

(b) Children's Art and Education Activity

To fulfil the obligations we have with regard to the grant funding for the energy measures, we need to undertake some educational activities. We propose an event that involves local children working with Rose the Art Teacher, firstly learning about the project and then producing some artwork based on it. This will take place in July - date tbc. It was suggested that it might be beneficial to contact the camera club too, for this or other projects.

(c) IT facilities at the Village Hall - update on progress!

With dedication, expertise and great support from Charlotte, the Village Hall now has broadband connection and all the necessary wiring that goes with it, plus two new laptops which are stored in a secure place in the Hall. Funding to cover this equipment has come from Derrington - Way Ahead funds.

Charlotte now has the help of Pete Bray and thanks to them both the project is progressing well - please see summary attached (**Karen** to circulate). The group wished to formally thank Charlotte and Peter for all their help and effort which is much appreciated.

6 Upcoming Activities

(a) Village Trail Project

The funding bid to LEADER was well received by the LEADER panel but needs some additional 'working up'. The group agreed

that Karen should approach one or two people in the village to ascertain if they may like to take on the 'co-ordinator' role. **Karen** to follow up and finish off bid for next Rural Panel (which is to be held on 4 May).

Jan suggested there might be potential to create a 'green gym/trail' too and Cllr **Mark Winnington** agreed to raise this idea with John Quigley who looks after The Greenway.

Karen has contacted the Parish Council to seek support and the project will be discussed at the meeting on 16 May.

(b) Recycling/Waste Minimisation

* **Recycling Champions!** Jan was warmly welcomed and explained to the group the role of the SBC Recycling Champion, which in effect is to support and encourage recycling in the local community. Jan has a range of leaflets that can be put up or given out. She can help answer questions about what can be recycled and what the different bins are for – and why it's so important to put the right things in the right bin! Jan agreed to write a short piece for the next Church/Village Magazine (Jan). This could also be put onto our webpages (**Jan** to liaise with Karen).

We are currently unsure about what is recycled at the Village Hall/Social Club, but it was felt that we should try to support recycling here. Sue offered to discuss this with Brenda to see what's happening at the moment - thanks! (**Sue**).

Rosemary suggested that we could set up a battery recycling/collection point too. We just need to find a receptacle and a suitable place for it and then publicise it.

Jan said she was willing and able to help out - thanks Jan! **Karen and Jan** liaise.

* **Nodes:** SBC waste officers wrote to the Pub Landlord in order to arrange the placing of a 'Recycling Node' in the Car Park. However there has been another change in landlord and this needs to be followed up again.

* **Ink and Printer Cartridges:** Please tell your friends that this facility is now available. People can also refill cartridges.

(c) Food Growing - Local Food Festival

The date for the event is 17 September from 10am till 4pm. Sue has already approached the WI to see if they can help on this day already - thanks!!

Rob Hine is able to help with the organizational arrangements again for this year's event. **Rob and Karen** to liaise in early May.

A theme of 'young growers' seemed to be popular. Karen contacted local schools (Cooper Perry, St Giles, All Saints) just before Easter and sent an invitation to be involved (**Karen** to attach poster). **Karen** to follow this up and to invite Doxey Primary to be involved too.

Also the Brownies have been approached and invited to participate and a 'planting event' is provisionally planned for 16 May. Ideas or help welcome (**All**).

The WI are planting sunflowers too - perhaps there could be a display of photos on this project on the day too? **Sue**, would this work?

(d) **Household Solar PV project**

It was felt that it is now a good time to consider a project to promote and support household renewables. By bringing a group of householders together there are possibilities of gaining from economies of scale. **Karen to meet with Rob** Hine and other interested parties in early May to progress, date tbc.

7 **Promotion and Publicity**

* **Web-pages:** Charlotte is doing a fantastic job on this. Please make it worth her while by having a look!!!!

<http://www.derringtonvillagehall.btik.com/Derrington%20-%20Way%20Ahead>

If you don't have a PC - come along to Charlotte's drop in session!

* **Articles in the Village/Church Magazine**

Deadline for the next edition is 20th of the month. Articles we might wish to submit: The role of the Recycling Champion (**Jan**); Local Food Festival - invitation to join in/grow/growing tips and come on the day (**Karen/Rob**); Village Hall Energy Measures – progress report (**Helen**); others tbc.

* **Summer Newsletter**

The next newsletter is due in June. Large print copies will be made available in the Village Hall. Articles and suggestions re articles are very welcome thanks!! (**All**).

8 **AOB:**

* The next meeting will be our AGM.

* The WI Jumble Sale is this Saturday – we have made some posters to advertise this and to flag up that it is a great way to reduce, re-use and recycle!

* Trevor Stokes from Sustainable Staffordshire has contacted the group to ask if some of their members can come to visit the village to see what has been taking place in Derrington (**Rob** to arrange a convenient date - please come along to meet Trevor and his colleagues if you are free – **All**).

* There is a Sustainable Staffordshire event on Wed 15 June at Rising Brook Baptist Church which will focus on sustainable communities.

* Karen has met a representative from Great Wyrley to share information on our experiences; he hopes to undertake some energy efficiency projects at four community buildings/centres there. Karen has also had a query from Jackie Skelson re energy issues at Haughton Village Hall and will follow this up. Part of our funding obligations are to share our experiences and act as a showcase, so this fits in well.

***Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7 June at 7.45pm at the Village Hall
(so we can go into the hall after the aerobics class)***