

**Notes of the DERRINGTON LOW CARBON COMMUNITY PROJECT MEETING
On Tuesday 19th Jan at 7.15 pm at the Village Hall**

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

1 Welcome and Introductions:

Will Sammons 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, Karen Davies, Jules Hill from Beat the Cold, Rob Hine from Sustainability Matters, Sheena Davies, Lindsey, Helen Sammons, Will Sammons, Maggie Overton.

3 Apologies: Apologies had been received from Ray Sutherland, Martin Chadwick, Colin Roff (Stafford and Rural Homes), Tom Proctor, Sue Challinor.

4 Note and actions from the last meeting on Nov 24th 2009:

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

Bus Service: there are discrepancies in the timetables at the Chell Road and Derrington bus stops. There is particular confusion re the 2.10 pm bus service on Saturdays and whether it has been cancelled or not. **Karen** to contact David Heath at SCC. **Will** agreed to write to Cllr Mark Winnington and Arriva to express concerns on behalf of the group.

5 Village Hall Energy Audit:

The group discussed the Energy Report provided by Marches Energy, Agency which had been carried out by Jeremy Thorpe in October. The survey has identified several opportunities to improve energy efficiency and also advised on options for renewables installation.

Helen told the group that the Village Hall Committee is carrying out a series of improvements including: fitting anti tamper valves to radiators; new lighting; cavity wall insulation. The committee would like to know more about the PV recommendation particularly re costs/funding sources/where they have been fitted/case studies.

The group felt the following would be useful: ask Jeremy Thorpe for his views on a heat exchange system to recycle heat extracted from the cool room; ask Jeremy for info on existing PV case studies; ask Jeremy if he could come and talk through the report to our group and the Village Hall Committee (**Karen** to follow up).

Helen and Karen to meet to sort out MEA invoice and claiming BRE grant. **Karen** to raise cheque to Village Hall Committee for balance. **Karen/Helen/Ray** to look at grants listed by MEA.

6 Brief Update on Recent Activities:

a) Apple Tree Planting: a new orchard was planted at Cooper Perry Primary School (15 apple trees) on Sat 5th Dec; 38 apple trees were collected or delivered/planted in Derrington gardens during the same weekend; in addition two local residents planted 10 fruit trees and 45 fruit trees respectively. Benefits should include: reduced food miles, healthy eating, enhancing wildlife/biodiversity etc.

b) Film Season

There was generally positive feedback about this initiative. 'An Inconvenient Truth' (the Al Gore film) was shown on Thursday 8th October with 18 people attending. On Thursday 12th November 9th 'The Eleventh Hour' was shown with about 20 attending. This film was rather academic and repetitive. On Thursday 10th December 'The Age of Stupid' was shown with around 45/50 people in the audience. The group felt that it would be useful to offer further films, perhaps one every second month, starting in March (**Karen and Helen** to liaise). Suggestions included 'The Power of Community' and children's films on a Saturday (eg Wally) to link with existing initiatives. Issues for consideration: Dark evenings may restrict attendance by some people; could we offer a lift/escort back home after the film?

c) Low Carbon Community Challenge Funding Bid

We were not successful in our bid to the LCCC. There were almost 500 Expressions of Interest and then 230 full applications. Only 20 projects were chosen! Unfortunately we were not one of these.

There were two phases of applications and the projects chosen in phase one have been announced since our meeting. These are detailed on the following link and are also summarised below.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/lc_communities/phase1_winners/phase1_winners.aspx

1. West Oxford Community Renewables, Oxford

To pilot a community renewables building society' that will support the development of an integrated approach to low carbon living in West Oxford. The funding will be used by the West Oxford Community Renewables Industrial and Provident Society to develop a £1.6m pipeline of renewable energy projects. The income from these will be donated to the Low Carbon West Oxford charity to develop low carbon projects with the aim of achieving an 80% reduction in emissions in West Oxford by 2050.

2. Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Chale Green, Isle of Wight

Bringing an entire rural off grid community out of fuel poverty, with an integrated approach to reducing carbon. Additional funding is provided by the social landlord to ensure the properties are upgraded to Decent Homes and Ellen MacArthur Foundation is supporting the project management and behaviour change elements of the project. The entire village will benefit from the social improvements and a number of PV installations throughout the estate will feed a community managed funding initiative to ensure the project continues to support the village improvements for years to come.

3. Norfolk CC, Reepham, Norfolk

LCCC funding will allow Reepham to reduce its CO2 by 127 tonnes per year by using a community fund to deliver a comprehensive range of projects which target; energy efficient renovation, renewables, transport, behavioural change & food initiatives. The Norfolk County Council scheme is replicable and is well supported by partner organisations, committed community leaders and the wider community.

4. Lammas Low Impact Initiatives Ltd, Pembrokeshire, Wales

The focus of the application is a community hub building which will become a hub for the village and a centre for education on low impact living for the wider world. The outcome would be a replicable, integrated rural sustainable development model. The project will be delivered using a combination of green technologies, permaculture cultivation methods and natural building techniques.

5. Transition Town Totnes, Devon

The proposal will take the form of 'Transition Streets', whereby 12 streets across Totnes, chosen so as to represent the demographics and housing stock of Totnes, undertake a programme of behaviour change called 'Transition Together'. Participants are then eligible to apply for subsidised retrofits and then to a rolling fund for low interest loans for domestic renewables, harnessing feed in tariffs to enable the repayment of the loans.

6. The Meadows Partnership, Nottingham

The Meadows Ozone Energy Services is a company formed by local people in the Meadows and has aspirations to change an inner city area with multiple deprivation levels to become an exemplar to other similar inner city communities. The Meadows has a housing stock of approx 4000 houses with a mixture of housing types including over 1000 Victorian terraced houses that are hard to insulate. The project seeks to demonstrate that low carbon savings can help reduce fuel poverty.

7. Kirklees Council, Huddersfield, Yorkshire

Greening the Gap will involve PV application to three main community centres and 30 domestic houses. This project presents a credible carbon reduction story in a deprived, ethnically diverse area, with a team that have been very successfully in communicating best practice widely.

8. Haringey Council and the Muswell Hill Low Carbon Zone, North London

An integrated application involving a diverse range of interventions and partner organisations. Muswell Hill sustainability group provides strong community leadership with Haringey Council providing support and resources. The application includes PV installations on four schools to be used as a learning tool and to encourage behaviour change, a mobile sustainable learning facility, cycle parking and a community renewable energy company will gain funding to generate income for carbon reduction measures in the community. Much action is already taking place within the Low Carbon Zone.

9. Berwick Core Ltd, Berwick upon Tweed

In conjunction with the Berwick Housing Trust, the funding would be spent on a retro-fit renewable programme which will see the installation of photovoltaic panels installed in 50 houses. The revenues due to the electricity generated would feed into a community fund that would be reinvested for further environmental and social programmes. The remaining £50k would go into the Low Carbon Berwick Programme which will see the implementation of a local action plan including behavioural change initiatives for domestic householders and wider environmental initiatives through Berwick that would be aided via a volunteer work force. It is the ultimate aim of the Low Carbon Programme to establish a Berwick Transition Town.

10. Sustainable Blacon, Chester

Blacon is a suburb of North West Chester adjoining the English/Welsh border. Blacon will champion energy efficiency and refurbish two local houses, so people can see what they can do to cut their bills and have access to advice and practical support for its 16,000 residents. They will also be bringing together local people from across the community installing some of the latest technology in their homes and enable local people to help one another to cut bills and spread good practice through their social networks.

7 Brief update on Current Activities:

a) Local Produce Sale

Helen has had further discussion with Bob Whitfield on this, but Charity Commission rules seem very difficult to resolve. The idea of a mobile van/car was discussed and Helen offered to discuss the idea with a local egg producer.

b) Local Food Fact Sheet

Karen circulated some draft copies for comment. Feedback was positive. Local photos needed and then the copy will be circulated to residents soon and put onto web pages (**Karen**).

c) Fairtrade Village Status

We are awaiting feedback from the Parish Council.

8 Evaluation of the Project:

A questionnaire has been designed and circulated to most houses now (St Matthew's – **Sheena** and Meadow Lane – **Karen**, still to do); Jules has also undertaken phone surveys to about half of those households that have had an energy survey and initial results have mainly been positive. Any surveys to be returned to **Jules or Karen** asap, thanks. 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.

9 Funding Bids:

Karen has drafted a bid to seek funding for an electric pool bike scheme, but it is felt that this may be too radical and management too complex for the time being. Data on demand also needs to be collected. It was suggested that having demonstration bikes might be a good start eg at the Village Fete, June 6th at 2pm, as part of a Derrington – Way Ahead stand. Meanwhile, Karen to redraft bid to seek funding towards PV installation.

10 Bank Account and Constitution:

There was a feeling that we should remain a fairly informal group which works closely with existing organisations to support and encourage them in doing 'green' things eg helping the Brownies with their Environment Badge.

Karen and Sheena to meet to sort out paperwork for Post Office account.

Karen to bring along draft constitution to the next meeting.

11 PR:

It would be good to get regular slots in the Community Section of the Newsletter and in the Church and Village Magazine (deadline 20th of each month) – set out a draft year plan for the year for the next meeting including supporting existing village events (**Karen**). This could be 'tips' or short articles or updates on progress of the project.

12 One Year Birthday:

This has not yet been followed up. It may be useful to get results from the evaluation survey for this event. We need to liaise with the pub.

13 Updating web pages:

We will need to discuss this with John Dunning to ensure the web pages are updated, as Sustainability Matters' funded support via Rob Hine comes to an end.

14 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. SARH are keen partners and we would hope to continue working with Beat the Cold and Sustainability Matters too. Watch this space!

13 AOB:

28th Jan Beat the Cold are supporting the Beautanica event at Kingston House, Allis Close near the hospital.

Whittington and Fisherwick Environment Group are holding their 'Green Fair on Saturday 6th February, at Whittington Village Hall, between 11 am until 4 pm. Whittington is approximately 3 miles south east of Lichfield. The focus will be on greener living and they are inviting people to come along and have a great time! More details at www.wfeg.org.uk

Jules has collected around 8 more sets of contact details for people who wish to be actively involved in Derrington-Way Aheadt.

14 Date of our next meeting:

Tuesday 16th March 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