

Notes of the Derrington - Way Ahead meeting and AGM
Held on
Tuesday 19 June 2012 at 7.30pm at Derrington Village Hall

1 Present: The AGM was well attended with 15-20 people present and apologies received from Ray Sutherland, Geoff Parry and Charlotte Udall.

2 Welcome: Karen welcomed guests to the AGM and thanked Gill Cox for kindly providing refreshments including delicious rock buns.

3 Secretary's Report

The report was given by way of an illustrated power-point presentation on the year's activities and projects. Karen talked through some of the main work which has been undertaken this year. Karen thanked all those who had been involved in various ways and particularly those who had been immersed in the Village Trail and associated projects throughout the year!

(KD to attach presentation as pdf OR and to arrange for it to be made available on website if practicable).

4 Treasurer's Report

Sheena took the meeting through the Financial Statement, kindly prepared with the help of Malcolm Kidd. The group commented on how clear and easy to understand the Financial Statement was, and thanked both Sheena and Malcolm for their excellent work. As Treasurer, Sheena's work this year had been immensely important, with the complexity of the LEADER funded project and Karen thanked Sheena again, on behalf of the Group, for her commitment and time.

(All LEADER funding has been committed and subsequently refunded and the bank rolling facility arranged via SBC has now been paid back).

5 Election of Officials

(a) Outgoing officials were formally thanked for their efforts and commitment throughout the year, namely Karen for her role as Secretary, Sheena as Treasurer and various people who had been a 'rolling Chairperson' including Lyndsey.

(b) Nominations for the coming year were as follows: Karen - Secretary, Sheena - Treasurer, and the group agreed to continue with the current 'rolling Chair' arrangement.

Main Meeting

6 Notes and Actions from the previous meeting held on 17 April 2012.

The group agreed these as a correct record.

Matters arising:

- (a) Website: Updating still in the pipeline. The group had agreed at the last meeting to contribute part funding towards the costs of an upgrade/ switching host (**KD** to follow up).
- (b) Energy measures: Still need to check that the Village Hall Committee is au fait with checking the PV system and its correct functioning.
- (c) Funding for Food Festival confirmed and date fixed as Saturday 8 September.
- (d) Future Friendly Awards raised by Charlotte: application was subsequently submitted and project has been shortlisted. Presentation to be made at Kew Gardens tomorrow! Karen and Cheryl to attend.
- (e) Children's Holiday Eco-activity/ies: to be discussed/arranged if agreed.

7 Village Trail/gateway features/cycle parking:

This project is now well underway. There have been many consultations, interviews etc with different groups and individuals in the village. Cheryl, Sheena, Charlotte, Karen and many, many others have been very busy!!

Thanks to everyone!!!

Many elements of the project are now complete: there has been a huge amount of community engagement in different ways, involving many different people. The cycle parking is now installed at all four sites (with one remaining stand to be placed outside the village hall). The led Cycle Ride Event on 11 March was very well attended and successful.

The two bird box/bat box making events (14 January and 19 February) were a huge success and were each followed up two 'putting up' sessions. We have lots of super photos of all these activities.

The 'gateway signs' were put up and subsequently feature in the Staffordshire Newsletter. Feedback has been very positive.

The Village Trail panels have been drafted and the drafts proofed by several people in the village. Thanks to you all! They are now in their final stages and about to be signed off.

(The size seemed a bit OTT so we have subsequently requested they be scaled down a little from 1000mm diameter to 800mm, and these look much more in keeping).

LEADER funding people have visited and met Sheena, Cheryl and Karen, he scrutinized the finances and other evidence and then looked at the initiatives on the ground. He was very happy with everything.

There is a certain amount of information on the website about the project with plans to create a new website and to incorporate much of the information collected, since this far exceeds the capacity of the Interpretation Panels to fit on. Proposed launch date for Village Trail project: Sunday 12 August, 8 July. Cheryl is liaising with the PC and others closely.

A LEADER celebration event took place at Stowe by Chartley on 1 May 10am till 3pm, attended by Sheena, Charlotte and Helen, also Karen for first part only.

8 Website

Future/upgrading needs to be decided and moved on now.

9 Village Hall

Energy Measures:

Dec 2010-Dec 2011, FIT income £3,040.

Also, additional savings on electricity when electricity produced is used on site.

Some additional costs eg higher insurance premiums - £600.

This seems excessive and we have not heard of other insurers increasing their premiums significantly. **KD to discuss with Helen.**

Heating oil costs have reduced by a third, due to insulation and split zoning.

So, good news on the financial front.

Recycling:

The system to recycle bottles is now generally working well and a lot of bottles are being recycled! Approx 6 bags each week.

10 Derrington Local Food Festival: Rob Hine is helping to co-ordinate. He ran through a number of ideas. The event will be held on Saturday 15 September.

Please mark it in your diaries!

11 Updates

(a) Best Kept Village

Lots of great activity and improvements. Watch this space now!

(Gill reported: good support for litter picks, entry form has gone in, new litter bin installed down Mount Pleasant, new timetable in bust shelter, new cigarette butt facility at Village Hall, sponsorship of planters from several people, 3 bags of compost received from SCC via Karen, pub grounds mown, Brownies and Guides etc have produced posters. Well done Gill and helpers!)

(b) Stafford Area Community Discount Solar Scheme:

This was launched on 24 November at the Gatehouse Theatre. 20 systems have been installed in Stafford through this scheme including the system at Silkmore Primary School. *(Recently updated fliers were circulated in parts of Stafford (Littleworth) and in Derrington. So we will see if there have been any responses to these!).*

(c) IT project

The drop in sessions continue on Wednesdays and are busy. Charlotte continues to support people on the last Friday of every month. Many thanks to Charlotte and Peter for enabling this to happen.

(d) Recycling (as above!).

12 Promotion and Publicity:

We are making use of lots of outlets and hope most of the village knows what's going on.

A summer newsletter was compiled and distributed in May

Many articles have been included in the church and village magazine.

Next deadline 19 August for Local Food Festival and Village Trail Launch!

(Karen, Rob, Cheryl liaise!).

Noticeboard - new Derrington Way Ahead flier/info designed as per Gill's request.

Village Voice - almost always has info on DWA activities.

12 AOB:

Bat Box/Bird Box Event in School Holidays - the group thought it would be good to hold another holiday eco-event. Several people have commented that they couldn't make previous events and would like another opportunity.

Karen to check with Helen and Steve Archer from SCC.

Future Friendly Awards: presentation tomorrow! *(we came joint second, with a £500 prize presented to Cheryl and Karen at Kew).*

Group to submit application to SBC Green Awards **(Cheryl?)**.

13 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21 August at 7.45 pm.

