

ENABLE Steering Group Meeting Minutes

27th February 2007, 10am

Committee Room, Glenfield Parish Council, Glenfield

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:- TUESDAY 22nd MAY 2007; WEDNESDAY
12th SEPTEMBER 2007 – VENUES TBC**

Attendees	Apologies
Ruth Camamile, Leicestershire County Council (Chair) Mark Haslam, Environment Agency (Vice Chair) Peter Williams, Leicestershire County Council Tony Lockley, Leicestershire County Council Rachel Sweetland, Leicestershire County Council Hetal Patel, Leicestershire County Council Jane Neachell, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council David Lepper, Natural England Andrew Quigley, Diocese of Leicester Bob Scott, Leicestershire Constabulary Graham Walley, Leicestershire County Council	Karl Letten, Charnwood Borough Council Tony Marmont, Beacon Energy Ruth Fenney, Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes

1) Apologies

(see above)

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record

3) Matters arising

TL advised that the 25th Anniversary of Leicestershire Tree Wardens event was very successful. Over 80 people attended and it was enjoyed by all. The guest of honour was Tony Kirkham, Head of Kew gardens national arboretum and BBC2 series 'The trees that built Britain' who gave an excellent speech.

ENABLE Banners and Leaflets

RS advised that the new banners and leaflets were now available to help promote ENABLE at future events. Leaflets will be distributed to all ENABLE members with the next edition of the newsletter and to all Leicestershire libraries, service shops and museums. BS suggested taking the banners and leaflets along to the Leicestershire Show in May and to contact Andy Hardy-Smith who is organising the show.

Regional Spatial Strategy Consultation

RS advised that ENABLE had received confirmation of consultation response but had received a general letter advising that an examination in public of the draft strategy and list of consultation comments would take place in May.

4) ENABLE Event update – 28th March 2007

RS advised that only 30 people have registered so far so need to send out some more invitations. TL asked AQ if he could promote the event at any meetings he attended, RC suggested contacting the Leicestershire WIs, PW the Local Access Forum, BS East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum (EMRAF).

<p>RS to send out invitations on suggestions above and Tree Wardens and Councils for Voluntary Services.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>5) Leicestershire Business Survey PW explained that there is a bi-annual survey of all businesses in Leicestershire carried out by Leicestershire County Council. In 2003 two environment questions were included:- 1) Does your business have an environmental policy? and 2) How well informed do you feel about environmental issues?</p> <p>In 2006 the above questions were asked along with three questions about climate change:- - - Have you ever accessed information on climate change?, - Do you think there is adequate support to address climate change? - Have you done any of the following activities to help reduce climate change? -conducted an energy audit? -assessed levels of carbon emissions? -conducted a water audit? -sourced electricity from renewable source? -tried to reduce travel? -none of the above?</p> <p>The results were disappointing as there was no change over the past 3 years no more businesses had an environmental policy or felt any more informed about environmental issues. It was suggested that this is an issue for the business sub group to address and to signpost businesses to information about environmental issues/legislation and climate change via the ENABLE and LCC Business pages of the LCC website. PW also suggested writing articles about the results to raise awareness. RS to look into resurrecting the ENABLE business subgroup and put information on the website.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>BS suggested targeting the Federation of Small Businesses, contacting Kath Lee and promoting the advantages of addressing environmental issues i.e. monetary savings through improved efficiencies.</p>	
<p>RC suggested delivering more business breakfast seminars</p>	
<p>6) Local Area Agreement update PW updated the group on recent developments in the LAA process. All three environment targets were amber areas</p> <p>Waste Climate Change Cycling</p> <p>In the LAA refresh process there is scope to include new targets on climate change relating to the EU Directive on the Energy Efficiency of Buildings – all organisations will have to publish data on their energy load and CO2 emissions.</p> <p>2007/8 will be able to establish a baseline for baseload of buildings of all LAA partners and then set a target for reduction in energy usage.</p> <p>Overall there has been good progress on the LAA and the Cleaner and Greener section.</p>	

PW also advised that LAA would be changing in the future and that the recent government white paper suggested they would be replaced by multi-area agreements so there would only be one agreement for the county not 8 as there currently is for each District and the County.

TL advised that FLAG (Forward with Leicestershire Aggregates Grants) has been awarded £300,000 to continue for another year 07/08. The government wants to link FLAG money with LAAs, not the communities affected by aggregate extraction which was the original intention for the money. TL also suggested that in the future FLAG money could be used to give advice on energy efficiency grants as has happened in Shropshire and Staffordshire.

A discussion took place about helping voluntary groups/parish councils access funding by assisting them with filling out the forms.

7) Climate Change sub group (Hetal Patel)

HP advised that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 12th March at County Hall and that everyone was invited to the meeting.

HP also advised that the Climate Change Action Plan is now ready for consultation and will be going to the Leicestershire Together Board for approval.

HP

There will be three stages to the Action Plan Starter Pack and Intermediate Stage for individuals and a corporate plan.

The starter pack has tips at no cost which would lead to monetary savings

Intermediate pack – tips which involve some outlay of money

Corporate – generic action plan suitable for any organisation based around office and building management, travel, energy and water saving.

8) ENABLE newsletter

RS requested ideas for newsletter and advised Tree Planting at National Forest and Leicestershire Councils signing the Nottingham Declaration would be included. AQ advised could contribute road pricing article.

AQ

9) Round up

BS – County Show taking place 6th and 7th May so there would be scope for an ENABLE display possibly linking in with the Leicestershire Rural Partnership or District Councils.

DL – Natural England currently reviewing their national policies as the board needs to agree a consensus due to the merging of three organisations and that budgets would be tight for the future.

JN – Received the go ahead to begin an Environmental Management System at HBBC. Will be carrying out an environmental audit of the D.C. activities and would be the EMAS system, the European Environmental Management and Audit Scheme.

GW – 109 parishes have now joined the WI Wildflower Survey and there is an Environmental Recorders Conference on 31st March.

TL – Stepping Stones Community Forest project at the stakeholder involvement stage and

are trying to target news parishes to ties in with the growth point areas for housing due to funding streams related to this. Also, LCC Leader David Parsons has just had approval for a £35, 000 Woodland Initiative in the Enderby area.

HP- Showed 'An Inconvenient Truth' to staff at County Hall on February 14th and over 80 attended. He also advised it was being given away to all English secondary schools. JN also advised that she has a copy of the DVD and would be screening it at HBBC

TL – Advised there was a recent article in Local Government News that staff wanted more direction from top level management about environmental and climate change issues.

HP – Anaerobic Consultant has now been chosen and will have put together two business cases for on farm and community projects by the end of April.

JN – HBBC will start a kitchen waste box collection soon and has been receiving lots of enquiries about recycling and climate change

PW – has agreed to talk at a Parish Plans meeting on introducing sustainability and climate change issues into Parish Plans.

10) Any other business

HP – Leicester City Council has approached Leicestershire County Council about working together on climate change issues

Leicester has suggested awareness raising and planning issues

TL – distributed copies of the draft ENABLE Constitution and asked for comments via email by 20th April 2007. TL advised that if ENABLE ever wanted to apply for funding it would need a constitution.

All

11) Dates for the year ahead

TUESDAY 22nd MAY 2007
WEDNESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2007
VENUES TBC