

ENABLE Steering Group Meeting Minutes

29th November 2006, 10am

The Heritage Room, Bosworth Battlefield, Sutton Cheney, Nr
Nuneaton, Warwickshire. CV13 0AD

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:- TUESDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2007 – VENUE
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 Tony Marmont, Beacon Energy Jane Neachell, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Anna Collins, Natural England David Lepper, Natural England Andrew Langley, Melton Borough Council Kevin Bush, Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire Andrew Quigley, Diocese of Leicester Ruth Fenney, Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes	Bob Scott, Leicestershire Constabulary Karl Letten, Charnwood Borough Council Lois Child, University of Loughborough Graham Walley, Leicestershire County Council Norman Proudfoot, Harborough District Council

	Action
<p>1) Apologies (see above)</p> <p>2) Matters arising There were no matters arising</p> <p>3) Feedback from The Leicestershire Together Board (Mark Haslam) The Leicestershire Together board last met on 16th November 2006 and the following points were noted:-</p> <p>Implications of the Local Government White Paper for Leicestershire Together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main issues for ENABLE are through the Local Area Agreement and the implications for Leicestershire. There is a need to consider the arrangements for economic development and the environment block. Currently we have cleaner and greener block, which includes climate change and place, related environment, this block has strong links to stronger and safer blocks and will be referred to the SSOG for a decision. <p>The six monthly self assessment of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement Cleaner and Greener</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flytipping Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data quality on flytipping could be increased through Flycapture, which is a government initiative, a database of incidents owned by Defra and hosted by the Environment Agency which records all Local Authority flytipping incidents. ▪ Refresh Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ENABLE supports the inclusion of the actions on climate change. ▪ Waste recycling at county sites 	

- Risk of not achieving due to hot summer, increased district recycling, and temporary closure of the Oadby site.

Developing Leicestershire Together Following the Peer Challenge

Changes to the board membership have been proposed and we will need to check what they will mean for ENABLE, possibly an end to direct representation. PW stressed concern over lack of ENABLE representation. It was decided that RC should write to David Parsons regarding this issue.

Leicestershire Community Strategy

Annual update table corrected to recognise that the Climate Change Strategy had been produced and the action plan is progressing. In addition the strategic overview and community action pack were both completed on schedule.

Consultation on the Draft Regional Plan

New Growth Point Designation

There will be funding for NGPs. With regard to Green and Environmental Infrastructure, there is no money this year but there possibly will be in future years, this needs to be considered now as the current emphasis is on housing and transport. Environmental issues require more emphasis and will be taken into account. It was suggested that funding should be sought to provide training for planners on issues such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs), grey water recycling and use the Sherwood Energy Village as a possible demonstration site.

4) Local Area Agreement Update (Peter Williams)

As touched on above the LAA is currently undergoing a six month review process therefore there is a chance to include some new measures. ENABLE supports the existing and one new target for climate change action.

- 1) All District Councils to have produced Climate Change Strategies within 3 years (existing)
- 2) Carbon emission saving target

KB advised future funding streams will be directed towards those projects highlighted within the Local Area Agreement such as the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund.

5) ENABLE leaflet/ pop up banner (Rachel Sweetland)

RS circulated a proof of the banner and leaflet to the group. A copy of the text has already been circulated for comment. Copies to be circulated with these minutes.

6) Climate Change sub group (Hetal Patel)

HP circulated the text for the Leicestershire Together Climate Change Declaration which led to a lengthy discussion regarding the text. The text was agreed with minor amendments.

7) Anaerobic Digestion Project (Hetal Patel)

HP circulated the project brief for consultants to be posted out 30th November 2006. The deadline for quotations being 2nd January 2007 with interviews scheduled for 15th January 2007. The main outcomes from the feasibility study are to find out the most suitable technologies available for an on farm and community based anaerobic digestion unit, feedstock mix with high methane production, marketability of process byproducts:- liquor and

RC

RS

HP

fibre, export of excess electricity, assessment of whether example project at Brooksby Melton College could become a Centre of Excellence. TM advised contacting De Montfort University regarding their former project in Cathorpe and KB advised about bypassing the national grid and exporting excess electricity direct to consumers as they receive more money per unit e.g. national grid – 5p pkwh which includes Renewable Obligation Certificates and Levy Exemption Certificate (exempt from Climate Change Levy) or export direct to consumer receive 8p pkwh plus ROCs and LECs.

AC asked about farming around the River Mease and River Eye in the Melton area as both are SSSI river sites and in catchment sensitive farming areas.

8) BAP, PIE and PEP update (Peter Williams with notes from Graham Walley)

a) Biodiversity Action Plan:

- LCC (through the HNE team) has offered to lead a project on mapping opportunities for habitat creation in the county, as part of the LBAP Group. Specification for the project is being drawn up by the group. The aim is to suggest the types of habitat suitable for the various parts of the Leicestershire.

- The Regional Biodiversity Strategy was launched on 7th November. It includes key areas for Conservation and Enhancement. Leicestershire has Charnwood Forest and part of Leighfield in the former, and the National Forest in the latter categories.

- The Regional Biodiversity Forum will be asking the LBAP Group to be a pilot in determining the detailed potential of habitat targets in both the Conservation and Enhancement Areas. The three year habitat survey that the HNE team at Holly Hayes is completing this year will be a great help in this. The other pilot area in the region is the Lincolnshire coastal marshes.

- The Regional Biodiversity Forum has included geology and geomorphology in its remit. G.Walley will be arranging a meeting to summarise the priorities for geology from a regional government's point of view.

b) PIE – Points of Information on the Environment.

- Some progress is being made towards PIE through developing the Community Heritage Initiative (CHI) website. This uses the National Biodiversity Network website as a means of access to Leicestershire data whether of local or national origin.

- The CHI team organised a successful Nature Conservation Forum on 20th November. There is a demand for more practical experiences being reported on – like those of the Country Park's Rangers who gave a very popular account of their management work at this month's meeting.

c) PEP – Partnership for Environmental Protection

- Work is continuing in providing the archaeological and ecological context of most local planning applications. The computerised database now has 130,000 + records. Work is continuing to make the Holly Hayes data sets usable by websites. The SLAs for the PEP partners are being reviewed in time for the next financial year.

TL asked if there was any potential from the LAA for Green Infrastructure funding for databases and TM advised there was a Darwin Phase II meeting shortly were there was a possibility of extra funding for an exceptional area in Charnwood. PW suggested putting

forward Beacon Hill. AC supported the suggestion of a designation in the Charnwood area and suggested either Bradgate Brook or the River Lin.

9) Local Development Frameworks and Regional Spatial Strategy (Peter Williams)

PW advised that the Regional Spatial Strategy will replace Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) and Regional and County Structure Plans with more local level guidance than previous RPGs. It is currently out for consultation until Mid December and although a good document there was a concern about achieving balanced communities TM suggested there could be more scope for fuel crops to widen farmer diversification and improve the level of local industry around this type of economy and for small scale engineering to build up around the sector e.g. the need for new spark plugs and tanks in cars capable of running off biofuels or hydrogen fuel. It was agreed to respond to the consultation on behalf of ENABLE highlighting the good points such as reduced water pollution and carbon dioxide emissions but pointing out the need for more balanced communities.

- Agreed that Enable should respond to the consultation by supporting policies on Community Woodland and Greenspace Initiative, Biodiversity targets, Charnwood Forest, Green Infrastructure but should express concern about juxtaposition of employment and housing policies which threaten balance of a number of communities in Leicestershire.

RC/PW

With regards to the Local Development Frameworks a number of environmental issues are becoming integrated into the core strategies for which ENABLE could comment on but as AC pointed out some Districts have already consulted on their LDFs so the time table could be quite tight for comments.

10) ENABLE Annual Event (Tony Lockley)

TL advised that a venue and date has already been set for the event – Wednesday 28th March 2007 at the NSPCC National Training Centre in Beaumont Leys, the same venue as last year. Although RS and HP visited other venues but the NSPCC proved to be the most suitable venue for our needs. The theme for the event would be Climate Change based around the local actions people can take to help reduce climate change with a well known key note speaker. TL suggested contacting Julian Stephenson, the Environment Correspondent for The Independent and other suggestions were made to approach George Monbiot, Environment Correspondent for the Guardian and David Attenborough who is currently championing Climate Change through programmes on BBC4 and is a local celebrity. It was also suggested that Parish Councils are invited along to the event. RS to approach keynote speakers and invite Parish Councils.

RS

11) Community Woodland/Green Space project update

This project being organised by the Stepping Stones Countryside Management Project is moving forward with the assistance of funding from Natural England. A discussion took place about how the project could be included in the Local Area Agreement under green infrastructure to attract greater funding and support.

12) Upcoming events and campaigns

RF advised that the WI Wildflower Survey now has 85 local WI groups involved in the project which aims to identify and record 10 wildflowers throughout the County chosen as indicators of different habitat types.

13) Any other business

DL circulated a handout with background information regarding Natural England.

KB updated group regarding gasification project for carbon based waste such as nappies, garden waste and carcasses. There are currently 9 public and private partners interested. The waste will be converted into gas and a high octane liquid fuel which is suitable for aviation fuel.

TL advised there was a 25 year celebration of Tree Wardens at County Hall on 19th December with keynote speaker Tony Kirkham from Kew Gardens who recently featured in a recent BBC2 programme, Trees that made Britain.

TM said he would like ENABLE to get more active and propose a Zero Waste Policy for Leicestershire which could be achieved as plastic, paper and green waste can be turned into liquid fuel and could be a hub for rural centres. Virgin Airways have recently entered into a partnership with TM over research into aviation fuels. He would also like to see wind turbine manufacturing introduced back into the County since the departure of De Wind.

It was agreed that the ENABLE constitution and Climate Change Action Plan be discussed further at the next meeting.

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