

ENABLE Steering Group meeting
Minutes of 21st June 2006, 10am
Holly Hayes Environment & Heritage Resources Centre

Apologies	Attendees
Annie White, Brooksby Melton College Mark Haslam, Environment Agency (Vice Chair) Alistair Leake, The Allerton Trust Rachel Sweetland, Leicestershire County Council Kevin Bush, Groundwork Leicester & Leicestershire Revd. Nigel Tufnell, Leicestershire Diocese Karl Letten, Charnwood Borough Council Richard Thompson, Leicestershire County Council	Mrs Camamile – Leicestershire County Council (Chair) Tony Marmont, Beacon Energy Graham Walley, Leicestershire County Council Peter Williams, Leicestershire County Council Donna Worship, Leicestershire County Council Hetal Patel, Leicestershire County Council Nick Dunnett, English Nature Ruth Fenney, Leicestershire and Rutland Women's Institute Rob Parkinson, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Revd. Andrew Quigley Bob Scott, Leicestershire Constabulary Nick Marriott, Brooksby Melton College

1. Apologies

See list above

Action

2. Matters arising

The Leicestershire Funding Toolkit aimed at helping voluntary and community sector organisations find grant support has been launched and is available at www.fundingtoolkit.org

StudentForce are now operating the Community Check project in Leicestershire. They have recruited some volunteer checkers and completed their first checks with contacts made from Revd. Nigel Tuffnel of Leicestershire Diocese. Leicestershire County Council is supporting the project through attending the Steering Group meetings and plans to sign a Partnership Agreement with Studentforce to formalise the arrangements.

PW

3. Feedback from Leicestershire Together Board

Leicestershire Local Area Agreement

PW delivered a feedback report provided by Mark Haslam of Environment Agency. See attached report.

The Local Area Agreement is now 'live' as from 1 April 2006. DW asked whether there is any commissioning arrangement for delivering outcomes – PW explained there is not. Although ENABLE is lead partner for the delivery of Climate Change action there is no reward linked to this section of the Cleaner Greener theme and therefore no additional resources or funding is available. However, as the Leicestershire Together Board are now linked to all the targets in the LAA, if any are unlikely to meet their target then action will have to be taken.

PW reported that the Countryside Agency is leading on a bid related to Healthy Walking on behalf of Highway Authorities in the region.

TM commented that the Natural History Museum are looking for examples of Sites of Special Scientific Interest which are losing biodiversity in order to monitor changes over time. Ideally the sites would have public access and good historical records. PW suggested Beacon Hill Country Park. TM to suggest Beacon Hill and PW to provide information and management plan if required.

TM
PW

Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Area Agreement

See summary included with meeting papers. Many thanks to all those who volunteered to be involved. A summary report was submitted to the LAA Board for consideration. Roberta Norris, Leicestershire County Council officer managing the LAA process reported that the Board noted the findings and gave their thanks but did not agree that Culture, Heritage and Arts were not sufficiently covered. There have been workshops on this topic and an event is planned shortly on Arts delivery.

4. ENABLE Action Planning

A review of the Steering Group is currently under way to maintain a tight group of representatives who attend regularly. Some members have decided to step down and follow ENABLE progress through the Partnership mailings; others have also expressed interest in joining sub-groups.

In addition, the survey form included a request for partners' web links which can be added to the ENABLE web pages of the County Council website. Improvements and additions have been made to these pages and comments and suggestions are more than welcome. See www.leics.gov.uk/enable

All

5. Climate Change Sub-Group update

Merton Policy letter to District/Boroughs

The letter which was sent to each of the District/Borough planning authorities was circulated with the agenda. One reply was received from Charnwood Borough who have incorporated a Merton-type policy. RP noted that Hinckley and Bosworth BC are also trying to include this type of policy on renewables in their Local Development Framework's Core Strategy.

TM had circulated information on a speech made by Yvette Cooper MP, Minister for Housing and Planning to the Renewable Energy Association Micro-renewables Conference which stated that the Government now "expects all authorities" to put in place such pro-renewables type policies. PW suggested a follow up to the original letter outlining this new emphasis from Government and requested that the e-mail from TM be circulated to the Steering Group.

HP/RS

DW

Climate Change Communications Fund

The Leicestershire bid from Environ and the Regional bid from the East Midlands Regional Assembly were both unsuccessful. There were 3

successful bids in the East Midlands: Notts/Derby Local Authority Energy Partnership; Bolsover Drama Group and the Wellingborough Partnership. For more details see www.climatechallenge.gov.uk. DW to contact Notts/Derby to see if we could 'buy-in' to their bid. **DW**

Climate Change Action Plan progress

HP outlined work so far on developing the Climate Change Action Plan including a 'route-map' for development. HP to circulate to Climate Change sub-group and call meeting. **HP**

6. Business Sub-group (KL)

DW gave an update in KL absence. Environ submitted several tenders under EMDA's recent Invitations to Tender for Business Resource Efficiency and Energy Advise Funding. Although the Business Park bid which the ENABLE sub-group were particularly interested in was unsuccessful, Environ were successful at securing support for City Recycling and Tyre Recycling. Business sub-group to meet soon. **KL**

6a. Biodiversity Action Partnership/Partnership for Environmental Protection/Point of Information on the Environment (PIE) Update (GW)

This agenda item was added during the meeting as GW kindly offered to give an update on Historic and Natural Environment Issues to the group. Now to be a regular item whenever a representative is available to update the Steering Group.

The review of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is almost complete and the key documents are now being agreed with Central Government. There has been a recent development that BAP targets should be incorporated into Local Area Agreements.

The Partnership for Environmental Protection includes officers with responsibilities for ecology and archaeology from District/Borough councils and the County Council. Provides advice and support on natural and historic environment issues for planners. Includes reps from Holly Hayes Environmental Resources Centre, Sites & Monuments Record, English Nature and Wildlife Trust. The most recent meeting focussed on discussions around the selection of wildlife sites and the Historic Landscape Character Assessment of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland currently being completed. This is an England wide project supported by English Heritage, the local project is one of the last to join. **RT**

The PIE project will provide point source environmental data on the web. A discussion was had around the security of information and the level of detail available on special sites instigated by BS. However, it was explained that the Environmental Information Regulations made it compulsory to provide most of this data although precautions would be taken to support protection of special sites and endangered species. It was suggested that Neil Hughes, Special Constable for Wildlife Liaison could be included in the discussion and possibly attend an ENABLE SG in the future. **HP/RS**

7. ENABLE Annual Event

A summary of responses from the feedback forms was circulated. It was

noted that several respondents requested individually themed events, particularly on community renewables as Stewart Conway could not attend the energy workshop on the day. RF explained that the LRWI were planning an energy day on 24 Feb 07 at Brock's Hill Environment Centre. It could be possible to partner with them to run this event or possibly use Community Action For Energy free training offer. **HP/RS**

RP suggested Village Voice as a vehicle to make Enable high profile. **HP/RS**

8. Newsletter

Any further ideas or proposals for newsletter warmly welcomed for Autumn issue. Next issue now in circulation. **All**

TM agreed to forward article / papers relating to HIP (Home Information Pack)

9. Up and coming Events and Campaigns

BS requested a contact for School Travel Planning as there were many issues of safety concern across the County regarding parking issues for the 'school run'. **DW**

A new initiative is up and running in Nottinghamshire to provide tyre crumb for play area flooring.

RF explained that LRWI have been successful at securing £50k of Lottery funding to support their Wild Flower Survey. **All**

HP has arranged a visit to the Wanlip Anaerobic Digestion Plant to support development of a farm pilot feasibility study. Contact HP for more information or a copy of the Phase 1 report.

10.AOB

DW explained improvements were being made to the EcoSchools pages on the County Council website. Any support or links would be very welcome. Possibility of including information on work teams from Brooksby Melton College. **RS**

11.Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at County Hall at 10am.