

ENABLE Briefing 25th June 2008
ENABLE Steering Group meeting cancelled due to heavy work load

1.) Matters arising

SQ advised there was some inaccurate reporting in the previous minutes relating to flood work and the Environment Agency she is reported as saying “there may be match funding available for flood defence schemes”. This should have read the Environment Agency is working with communities to help them become prepared for flooding such as encouraging them to sign up to the flood warning service. The Environment Agency are also currently working with a community in Nottinghamshire at risk of flooding but with no flood defence to put in place products purchased by local residents which will help protect them from flooding during an event.

Leicestershire County Council is on the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme this year along with Harborough District Council. Both authorities will be working with the Carbon Trust to measure a base line of carbon dioxide emissions and developing action plans to reduce emissions involving all departments of the authority. Both authorities will have to put together a Carbon Management Team. At LCC The Team includes representatives from energy, sustainability, estates/building maintenance, fleet management, street lighting, waste management, schools liaison, sustainable procurement, planning and ICT services.

2.) Climate Change sub group

a) Climate Friendly Communities

ENABLE is working in partnership with the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and Rural Community Council to implement this project. The main part of the project is working intensively with two communities – a community who would like to work on a climate friendly project but haven’t started yet and a community which is already working on a climate friendly initiative.

All Parish Councils and Volunteer Centres were invited recently to nominate communities suitable for the support – i.e. already working or developing a climate friendly project. Flyers were also sent to all libraries, museums and service shops. The two communities receive £500 set up fee, support and advice from ENABLE officers and invitations to training events. Twelve Parish Councils applied:-

- Market Harborough
- Tilton on the Hill and Halstead
- Shepshed Town Council
- Glen Parva
- Billesdon
- Lutterworth
- Stoke Golding
- Braunstone Town Council
- Kirby Muxloe
- Ellistown and Battleflat
- Ibstock

- Bagworth and Thornton

The chosen communities are:-

- Tilton on the Hill and Halstead as starter community with Sustainable Billesdon mentoring as the two communities are close to each other
- Ibstock as the mature community to develop their Ibstock Does Climate Change

The Climate Friendly Communities project also wishes to work with different groups within the chosen communities such as schools and families. The Rural Community Council will also be running two Climate Friendly Communities training events for community groups during September and October and will be inviting all nominated community groups. See separate attached brief for further information.

b) The Big Switch Off

All District Councils and Leicester City Council are now on board to work together on this initiative. The Big Switch Off is happening on Friday 17th October between 4.30 and 6.30 during the national Energy Saving Week.

Leicestershire residents are being asked to switch off at the wall all electrical equipment not being used during that period to give an idea of how much energy can be saved if equipment is not left on standby. There will be a large countywide publicity campaign with poster, press releases and hopefully the Leicester Mercury and radio stations engaging householders, schools and businesses. A group has already met to discuss implementation of the campaign and keeping up momentum after the event.

c) Local Climate Impacts Profile East Midlands (LCLIPem)

Two graduates will be working together on behalf of Leicester City and Leicestershire County Council's on a 12 week placement starting from 10th July 2008. The students will be looking at how the two Local Authorities were affected during extreme weather events identified from local newspapers. This will be undertaken at the Leicester Mercury offices. The second stage will be to interview Local Authority staff to find out how services were affected by the events e.g. roads melting or offices flooded. The second phase of the Local Impacts Profile would be to involve District Councils and LSP partners to find out how their services were affected but this would not happen until September. Authorities would then be required to pay for the research to be undertaken as the funding from GOEM can only pay for the 1st phase of the project.

The Students are:- Hin Pang, Leicestershire County Council based with the Emergency Management Team and Matthew Owen Leicester City Council based with the Environment Team

3.) Anaerobic Digestion (AD) update

The outcome of the Technical Feasibility Study recommended that an AD plant for animal manure incorporating food production waste be set up at a Parish scale capable of producing energy and heat as a by product of the digestion process and would tackle waste, energy security, climate change

and nitrate vulnerable zone regulations issues. The next phase was a Business Development Grant of £5000 to investigate feasibility of a site specific plant and two applications were received. One grant was awarded therefore the grant remain open until the end of October 2008. The business plan should be submitted by October with an Environmental Impact Assessment finished by March 2009.

4.) Local Area Agreement update

The Sustainable Community Strategy and the LAA2 were launched on the 23rd June and are now available on the Leicestershire Together Website at http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/index/sustainable_community_strategy.htm

The documents available include:

- [Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2013 \(full document\)](#)
 - [Appendix 1: Local Area Agreement \(LAA2\) 2008 – 2011](#)
 - [Appendix 2: Theme & Places Links](#)
 - [Appendix 3: Leicestershire Performance Framework](#)
 - [Appendix 4: Glossary](#)
 - [Appendix 5: Partnership Risk Assessment](#)
 - [Appendix 6: List of Outcomes](#)
 - [Appendix 7: Sustainability Appraisal](#)
- [Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2013 \(Easy Read Version with Pictures\)](#)
- [Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2013 \(Easy Read Version without Pictures\)](#)
- [Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2013 \(Summary Leaflet\)](#)

5.) Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)/Points of Information on the Environment (PIE)/Partnership for Environmental Protection (PEP) update

- North West Leicestershire biodiversity survey is continuing
- The ecology team is working with Harborough, Melton and Rutland to get their biodiversity surveys off the ground.
- There are two new ecology posts and one vacant ecology post to be filled
- The W.I. survey is completed, being input and then analysed for their September Conference.
- Currently planning how to continue the Community Heritage Initiative work once the scheme formally finishes in November 2008.
- The RECORDER database is currently being installed at County Hall to provide a better website service.
- The RIGS website is being updated
- Ecology layers are being added to the Planning Portal service.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation project is still being completed which adds another layer to knowledge of the history of Leicestershire's landscapes and will be of interest to historians and naturalists alike. Its results will be available through a new part of the LCC website.

6.) ENABLE Annual Event

The annual event took place on Thursday 3rd July with 80 people attending the most yet. The community carbon footprinting and climate change and the local economy workshops were the most popular with the main speaker Professor Roy Alexander from Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral, a village in Cheshire aiming to be the first carbon neutral community in the country held in very high regards. All ENABLE members and Parish Councils were invited and many community groups attended. There were lots of lively discussions and networking during the event so we hope to have inspired community groups. See attached presentations from some of the speakers.

7.) Leicestershire Together Board feedback

Eco Town, Pennbury

The Group may be interested in seeing the County Report submitted with the papers attached for information.

In the discussion, it was stated that the County's major issue re the proposal is transport infrastructure.

The Environment Agency have been responding to the proposals, using local data and information, through our National Office to CLG at every stage of process. We are providing information in respect of environmental risks and opportunities, but it is not our role to express support or opposition to this, or any other, proposed bid.

Local Area Agreement 1, Quarter 4 final performance report

Board agreed to support the annual self assessment for 07/08

Second Local Area Agreement

Very rushed item as time had over-run, but points I noted were:-

- Annual refresh will take place
- Delivery Plans will contain full information on how the measures will be delivered and will be updated on an-ongoing basis

8.) Green Infrastructure

Over the next 20 or so years, parts of Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire will become home to thousands of new houses as part of a national drive to meet housing need. The three County Council along with the City Councils in Derby, Nottingham and Leicester are working together to meet this challenge.

Since this housing growth will be met within 3 counties and 3 cities this collective local authority effort has been branded the 6C's Growth Area.

Given the scale of the proposed housing growth, a considerable amount of forward planning has to be undertaken including the provision of "green infrastructure" - or GI. You can find various definitions of what "Green Infrastructure" is or should be, but perhaps one of the more succinct ones is "the network of green spaces and natural elements that intersperse and connect our cities, villages and towns. More than this it is a holistic approach to viewing the natural environment that acknowledges the multiple benefits and vital functions it provides for the economy, wildlife, people and communities alike".

To help integrate GI into the 6C's complex work programme a Strategic GI Advisory Group has been established. It is composed of environmental specialists from local authorities, organisations like Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the voluntary sector. One of the first things the Group is overseeing is the production of a 6C's wide Strategic Green Infrastructure Strategy. This work will be undertaken by consultants and will lead to the creation of a report, which will identify amongst other things, what and where the strategic GI assets are, how they link or could be linked together, how they relate to where the new housing might go. To assist them with this work the Group have appointed a GI Co-ordinator, who is based with Leicestershire County Council but serves the whole of the 6C's area. She is Sharon Jefferies and her email address is sjefferies@leics.gov.uk.

9.) Any other Business

None to report