

**ENABLE Steering Group Meeting
Minutes of 24th September 2003, 2:30 pm
Brock's Hill Environment Centre**

In Attendance Cllr. Ernie White, Chair Ruth Fenney, Leics & Rutland Fed. of Women's Institutes Danny Goodwin, North West Leics DC Roger Hockney, Leicestershire CC Andy Lingham, UK Coal Mining Ltd. Tony Lockley, Leicestershire CC Tony Marmont, Beacon Energy Ltd. David Nicholls, Environ Leslie Sarvis, Leicestershire CC Clare Sharpe, Oadby & Wigston BC Richard Thompson, Leicestershire CC Peter Williams, Leicestershire CC	Apologies John Adams, Environment Agency Stewart Conway, SME Energy Advice Centre Alastair Leake, Allerton Research Trust Karl Letten, Hinckley & Bosworth BC Derek Lott, Leicestershire CC Neil Pike, English Nature Paul Tame, National Farmers Union Alan Tuppen, Leicestershire CC Donna Worship, Leicestershire CC
--	---

1. Apologies

Apologies received are listed above.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, 26th June 2003 were approved as written.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Introduction of Chairman and Election of new Vice Chairman

As this was his first meeting, Mr. White expressed his interest and confidence in seeing ENABLE progress and reach its action plan goals during the next year.

Dr. Adams was the only nomination for Vice Chairman, and the group were pleased to agree to his nomination.

5. Feedback from ENABLE attendance at the LLSP Board

Mr. White has offered ENABLE to conduct a sustainability appraisal of the Community Strategy. The appraisal is due by August 2004, so ENABLE should look to spring 2004 to begin the appraisal.

Action: A sub-group will be formed at the December steering group meeting to plan the way forward for the review.

Mr. White asked the steering group for suggestions on how to publicise the Quality of Life Indicators to the general public. It was noted that most likely three or four vehicles, such as newsletters and mailings, should be used from a variety of organisations to reach the maximum number of people. It was also suggested to use the media, i.e. newspapers.

Action: A sub-group will be formed at the December steering group meeting to generate ideas for publicising the Indicators.

6. ENABLE Environment Statement – report from the Sub-Group

Tony Lockley reported that Halcrow Group Ltd had been chosen as the consultant to produce an Environment Statement for ENABLE and that they are currently in the stage of GIS dataset and document collection. The steering group confirmed that the timetable allows the full partnership the opportunity to comment on the draft. All comments on the draft will be due at the ENABLE launch event on 5th December. The next sub-group meeting with Halcrow will be on 3rd October. There was a question about the need for approval from District Councils of the Environment Statement, but it was decided that, because this will be a partnership position statement and not a policy document, approval from particular parties not needed.

7. ENABLE launch and newsletter

LS asked for comments on the content of the newsletter, and it was suggested that the purpose of the newsletter be clear and that articles are chosen that are applicable to the partnership. The newsletter should be a network tool to help the members of the partnership understand each others' work, and to be used to update on its members and significant developments. It was also suggested that a webpage should be developed sooner rather than later, and that perhaps the webpage could expand upon the articles in the newsletter. It was recommended that the newsletter strive to have a consistent issuance, such as every quarter.

PW led the steering group through the provisional programme for the launch event. The date is confirmed as Friday, 5th December, and the venue is confirmed as The Meeting Centre in Hinckley. There were no changes to the purpose of the event. It was agreed that the speakers should present best practices and success (and even unsuccessful?) stories, and that the workshops should focus on local issues, particularly if the speakers are presenting from a national or regional viewpoint. Possibly the speakers could suggest ideas in their presentations for the workshops to take and discuss. The workshops could have themes or another suggestion was to offer a real-world development project to which the workshop participants could develop solutions. Other issues included: concern about the workshops being under tight time constraints; whether the attendees should come back together as one group after the workshops; providing an area for partners to display. There were several suggestions for speakers:

Climate Change: Head of Met Office

Biodiversity: Neil Chalmers or Dr. Johann Voegel from the Natural History Museum

Waste and Resources: Tony Marmont volunteered to speak

Education and Awareness: an Ofsted representative

8. Upcoming events and campaigns

- 7th December, 10am, Tree Fest at Brocks Hill, co-ordinated by the Stepping Stones Countryside Management Project. Please contact Andy Jackson, Leicestershire County Council on 0116 265 7221 for more details.
- 28th October, launch event on alternative land uses, co-ordinated by the Soar Wreake Initiative and the National Farmers Union and FWAG.
- Leicestershire County Council has begun a reedbed project at Billesdon Highway Depot.
- Brocks Hill autumn Calendar of Events is now available.

- Environ and Leicestershire Food Links have developed a local produce label and logo. There are currently around 20 businesses that have signed up to the initiative, but they would like to broaden the network.
- 4th November, Wood Fuels conference at the National Forest.
- Oadby & Wigston BC just received the go-ahead for compulsory emission testing on vehicles.
- Seminar (date TBC) on a required econometrics model available for testing alternative strategy scenarios.
- 23rd October, 10:30am, Marie Curie Cancer Care daffodil planting at Sarah's Wood (next to Conkers). For more details, please contact Leigh Clewlow at County Council at 0116 265 7060 or Marea Roberts with Marie Curie Cancer Care on 01604 442 311.
- There is a new environmental standard from the British Standards Institute to provide small and medium sized enterprises with facilities to develop environmental management systems. Visit www.bsi-global.com for more details.

9. Any other business

No other business arose.

10. Date and venue of Next Meeting

17th December 2003 at 2.30 pm at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Offices