

ENABLE Steering Group Meeting
Minutes of 9th June 2004, 2:30 pm
Brooksby Melton College, Brooksby Campus

In Attendance Erica Marshall, Vice Chair Helen Gregory, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Tony Marmont, Beacon Energy Annie White, Brooksby Melton College Danny Goodwin, North West Leicestershire District Council Katie Hemsley, Melton Borough Council Karl Letten, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Tony Lockley, Leicestershire County Council Peter Williams, Leicestershire County Council Rachel Sweetland, Leicestershire County Council Richard Thompson, Leicestershire County Council Mike Thomson, Leicestershire County Council Ruth Fenney, WI	Apologies Kathy Astbury, Leicestershire Constabulary Ernie White, Chair Dave Nicholls, Environ Paul Tame, NFU Andy Lingham, UK Coal Alistair Leake, Allerton Trust Lois Child, Loughborough University Andy Lear, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Alan Tuppen, Leicestershire County Council Sarah Cromie, Charnwood Borough Council
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1. Apologies

Apologies received are listed in the minutes.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, 10th March 2004 were approved as written.

3. Matters Arising

All matters arising were on the agenda for the meeting.

4. Feedback from Leicestershire Together (LLSP) Board, 15th March. TL

The Community Strategy is being reviewed throughout the summer. The process will include refining the action points and a Quality of Life survey conducted through the Citizens Panel and should be finished by the end of July.

ENABLE have been asked to carry out a sustainability appraisal of the Community Strategy

PW asked for comments on the Community Strategy by end of July.

Action. RS to send copies of the Community Strategy to all District Council Sustainability Officers

5. ENABLE Strategic Overview Report

The report has been printed and copies distributed to all ENABLE members, libraries and service shops.

A press release was sent to all local newspapers and PDF version will be posted on Leicestershire County Council's website.

Action RS to add PDF copy to website, in the meantime to email group..

6. Feedback from the Action Planning sub-group

Six areas were considered priorities for ENABLE to take forward actions raised in the State of the Environment Report. These were:-

EDUCATION/RAISING AWARENESS

- Youth Event

Hold a youth conference rather than the annual meeting. A discussion took place about pros and cons of holding event and was decided need to discuss further in a separate group.

KH offered to give advice of MBC Vale of Belvoir event in October.

RT advised Education have held similar events in past but have had better response when held at five different venues around the County rather than one larger single event as travel is a key barrier at youth events. The downside though, it is harder to book speakers

Carl Thurston, ENCAMS can offer a small grant, £500 towards the project but we need to apply for the money by the end of June.

Action. RS to apply for grant.

AW offered Brooksby College as a venue for the conference as it offers hands on work experience.

Volunteers

Produce a leaflet advising diverse environmental volunteering opportunities. Most people probably think only have practical work experience e.g. hedge laying, tree planting etc.

PW suggested contacting Community Heritage Initiative as they may already be thinking of producing a similar leaflet.

Action. RS to contact CHI.

BUSINESS

Produce a leaflet aimed at SMEs, small and medium sized enterprises with simple steps to improve the environment.

DG advised Greengage have already produced a leaflet as part of a project last year with North West Leicestershire, HBBC and Charnwood Borough Council. .

Action RS to contact Amy Caldwell, Leicestershire County Council re leaflets and distribute to DG, KL and SC.

Business sub group formed with KL and DG volunteering.

Action KL to arrange meeting.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING AND DEVELOPERS DESIGN GUIDANCE

TM advised 33% greenhouse gases are produced from domestic buildings and design plays an important part in this.

Developers Guides have already been produced by Lincoln City Council, Leicester City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council so no need for ENABLE to produce another guide.

A discussion took place about how Guide can influence builders. – TM advised the group that Lincoln give out a copy of their guide to every planning applicant with PW suggesting it become supplementary planning guidance.

There is currently no regional guidance on this issue or Climate Change. There is a need to speak to County and District Planning Officers to find out more information on what is proposed by DC's.

Action. PW to raise at next CTPOs.

AGRI-ENVIRONMENT

TL advised the group that the Leicestershire Rural Partnership strategy is currently being reviewed although environmental issues are not a top priority. PW advised the business development group is picking up this issue as they have provided support for Rural Energy for coppicing and biomass energy schemes, Business Buddies, local food produce and local landscape schemes.

Action PW to raise environmental issues at next LRP meeting.

TM suggested raising awareness of biomass fuels to farmers as this is a vital fuel source of the future. There is a conference at Loughborough University on 8th July, 10am-4pm. If you would like further information about this conference contact Tony Marmont Tel. 01509 610 033.

7. Funding a Climate Change Strategy for Leicestershire

£9,500 has been reserved in the Leicestershire County Council, Sustainable Development budget for the production of the strategy. The State of the Environment report cost a total of £5000 to produce so this should be sufficient for a consultant and production of the report.

The climate change sub group will consist of TL, TM, RF, RS, JF and KH. There is a need to set up the first meeting of the subgroup to write a proposal for a consultant and discuss advertising.

Action RS to arrange meeting of Climate Change sub group

KH interested in outcomes of meetings as Melton Borough Council want to produce a Climate Change Strategy.

There was a discussion about current Climate Change Strategies – TM recommended Bury strategy which can be downloaded from their website:-

www.bury.gov.uk/Bury/CouncilServices/Environment/ClimateChange/default.asp

8. Results of Environment questions in Citizen's panel

The response rate to the questionnaire was good 958 out of 1280 forms were returned (75%) with very positive results. 95% of panel members said they were concerned about the environment with 37% very concerned.

Under 30s were under represented along with ethnic minorities on the panel so results cannot be analysed for these groups.

For a full break down of the results, see the papers supplied with the agenda.

KH requested a breakdown of results for her District. If anyone else would like a breakdown of results contact RS.

Action RS to find out if it is possible to break down results by District and let DC officers have results.

9. ENABLE Newsletter

RS asked for suggestions for the next ENABLE newsletter to be sent out at the end of June. Currently articles to be included are:- Ken Chamberlain Trust extra funding, Sustainable Leicestershire booklet, Leicestershire Produce website, Lount composting classroom, Environment statement, Environmental Education Directory.

TM offered to write an article about the use of hydrogen in cars, DG to write an article on farmers markets and AW about the Peace Garden.

Action TM, DG and AW to get information to RS by 25th June.

10. Upcoming events and campaigns

KL running a number of events around Hinckley for Bike Week (20th-20th June) including rides and visit from Cyclemagic.

Community Renewables Initiative running a couple of events on photovoltaic water heating and Energy Conservation Officer surveying 300 households. Results out in August and will be circulated to group with the next minutes.

TM – Nottingham University – Sustainable Energy and Technology conference 28th, 29th and 30th June.

11. Any other business

RS distributed copies of the State of the Environment Report, the Environmental Education Directory and Sustainable Leicestershire booklet.

PW suggested we organise an event for World Environment Day 2005

TM advised of useful website on Education for Sustainable Development – www.secondnature.org/efs/efs.html

12. Date and venue of next meeting

Wednesday 15th September, Beacon Energy – Whittle Hill Farm Buildings, B5330 Road, Nanpanton, Loughborough. Directions/map to be sent out with agenda.

Dates were also set for next year (2005). The dates are:- 9th March, 8th June, 14th September and 14th December.