

**ENABLE Steering Group meeting
Minutes of 6th July 2005, 2.30pm
Melton Borough Council**

Apologies	Attendees
Annie White, Brooksby Melton College Kathy Astbury, Leicestershire Police Constabulary Andy Lear, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust – Michael Jeeves attending instead Clare Sharpe, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	Ruth Camamile, Leicestershire County Council Mark Haslam, Environment Agency Peter Williams, Leicestershire County Council Tony Lockley, Leicestershire County Council Donna Worship, Leicestershire County Council Rachel Sweetland, Leicestershire County Council Nick Dunnet, English Nature Katie Hemsley, Melton Borough Council Danny Goodwin, North West Leicestershire District Council Karl Letten, Charnwood Borough Council Kevin Bush, Environ Ruth Fenney, Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes Tony Marmont, Beacon Energy

1. Apologies

See list above

2. Welcome

Mark Haslam and Ruth Camamile were introduced to the group in their new roles as Vice Chair and Chair, respectively. Donna Worship was welcomed from a year's maternity leave absence.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

4. Feedback from Leicestershire Together Board

District Council representatives were asked about their own Climate Change Strategies.

Charnwood – Drafting Climate Change Strategy – to be submitted to Cabinet 21st July and Full Council on 5th September. Also developing an Action Plan. Involved in Carbon Trust Carbon Management Programme

North West Leicestershire – No immediate plans for a Climate Change Strategy but looking at council activity

Melton – Developing a Climate Change Strategy as part of Community Strategy based on local actions. Have already commissioned ENTEC UK Ltd but are looking for extra funding.

Peter Williams and Mark Haslam presented the CCS jointly. It was well received although there were a few sceptics and some challenging questions.

The Climate Change Strategy was commended by all Leicestershire Together partners who will be asked their opinions on the Climate Change Strategy and asked to adopt the strategy. Content of letter to be discussed at a Climate Change sub group meeting.

KL advised there was an East Midlands Climate Change group and he attended the first meeting where survey results showed great public support for action on Climate Change.

MH requested a copy of the papers

Action:- KL to send Mark Haslam papers

PW advised Lincolnshire County Council had been in contact regarding consultant's specification.

5. Community Strategy

The new revised version of Leicestershire Community Strategy now published (2005-2008) with clearer ENABLE actions than previous edition.

Actions:-

Pg 25:- To produce a climate change strategy for partnership approval by the end of March 2005.

Pg 25:- Lead the community by raising awareness of environmental good practise by ensuring environmental and biodiversity considerations are considered in the development of strategies and action plans. (2006)

Pg 25:- Raise environmental awareness by working with partners to have in place 117 school travel plans by the end of 2005/6, and to introduce 22 workplace travel plans in 2005, rising to 28 in 2006. (Local Transport Plan, ENABLE 2006).

Pg 25:- Raise awareness of sustainable energy sources, such as solar and wind power and promote successful local schemes. 2006

Pg 27:- Implement three environmental improvement schemes across the County per year in response to 'demand' and as funding allows. (ongoing)

Pg 31:- Support the implementation of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan and work to protect priority habitats; and look for opportunities for creating further habitats. (ENABLE, LCC Environmental action programme, ongoing)

Pg 33:- Develop arts and heritage based projects in rural communities such as rural and community touring schemes and heritage wardens.

Some discussions took place regarding the actions including:-

The need to incentivise school travel plans so Head Teachers don't feel overburdened. There is scope to develop plans as part of the Eco Schools award programme.

It was suggested to speak to Richard Harvey re biofuels.

Action:- DW to contact Richard Harvey re current projects

TL advised that ADAS are currently working on a feasibility study for anaerobic digestion of manure on farms and will report back in October 2005. This is an LRP funded project.

TM advised the group that Environ were working on a community wind turbine project where the local community all took out shares in the company and the electricity was sold back to the City Council.

Other case studies to think about are Cumbria, Bay Wind company.

KB advised Environ are trying to takeover from DeWind re application for a wind turbine nr Brushes and the train station in Loughborough and that a similar project in Swaffham had a lot of public support after the 1st wind turbine was installed.

Birds are a big issue relating to proposals against wind turbines and TM advised he has never had a bird killed at Beacon Farm and the wind farm in Cumbria with 10 turbines has never killed any either.

PW advised key themes of the new Local Area Agreements were also discussed at the Leicestershire Together meeting and they were all non-environmental – community safety, health, town centre improvements and volunteer support.

6. Business sub group

KL updated the group on the work of the business subgroup.

The first project last year involved commissioning a consultant to work with small and medium sized enterprises to improve awareness of environmental legislation. Consultant, Nick Gerrard visited 6 businesses who had previously shown an interest in environmental awareness and worked with them to develop a 5 point action plan to help them meet current legislation. The four businesses who took up the offer of support have since developed action plans and Nick will visit them again in September. The sub group would like to see the project extended to another six businesses.

The second project is to encourage SME's to recycle and are currently looking for a pilot business estate to set up a bulking facility for collection.

A discussion then took place on funding as Environ have already bid for money for a similar project and looking to expand into the county. They have a target to get 140 new businesses on board so they could be complimentary projects.

A discussion took place on ENABLE bidding for funding and the need for an ENABLE constitution. It was suggested to work more closely with SG partners and ask them to bid for money on behalf of ENABLE. DW thinks Charnwood ABC have gone down a similar route.

Action:- KL to provide details of Charnwood experience

7. Possible Cabinet visit to Beacon Energy

Proposed date – 19th September at 2.30pm. TM advised Jackie Lawrence from Warwickshire County Council has written a paper advising there has been a nearly 300% increase in take up of renewable energy projects (getting through the planning system) after a similar visit for Warwickshire councillors.

8. Action Plan progress

Six priority areas were discussed at a meeting last year before DW went on maternity leave – themes which appeared throughout the Strategic Overview of the Environment in no particular order including:- climate change, raising awareness (education), business, agri-environment, volunteer support and access and interpretation. An Action Plan was not written at the time so it was decided to set up another meeting to set a year long programme and longer term actions.

Action:- RS/DW to arrange meeting of action plan group (delayed until after the end of August due to other commitments)

It was suggested we get feedback from English Nature and LRWT regarding the Climate Change Strategy.

9. ENABLE promotion

There is a need to start raising the public profile of ENABLE so a discussion took place on how to do this including designing a permanent display on ENABLE, making greater use of Leicestershire Matters and responding to issues as they arise e.g. Environment Agency report on Real Nappies and response to the G8 Summit regarding Climate Change via the Leicester Mercury.

10. Newsletter

RS has a number of items for newsletter and asked for suggestions. Will email steering group to ask for suggestions. TM suggested carbon neutral aviation fuel and DG biofuels available at Ellistown garage.

Action:- DG/TM to forward articles for newsletter

11. Up and coming events and campaigns

TM – EMRA sustainable construction group design competition for a Regional Training Centre for Skill and Diplomas in Renewable Energy and Sustainable Construction Techniques, based at Sherwood Energy Village.

The course to be aimed at architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Plumbers, Electricians, Joiners, Roofers, Tradesmen.

KL – Charnwood supplementary planning guidance on sustainable construction.

KB – Recycled construction aggregates project – see any other business

ND – English Nature recently produced a guide – environmental quality in spatial planning which will be should be sent to all local authorities soon.

KH – MBC running a youth event, 25th September in Bottesford

TL – EMRA green infrastructure study launched at Pride Park, Derby 29th September. Regional Tree Warden gathering, Scalford Hall, 2nd October.

MH – Environment Agency will be releasing a position statement on waste incineration soon.

12. Any other business

KB – Environ waiting for a planning decision on a construction and demolition waste plant in Enderby. There were noise objections raised a meeting on 23rd June and application will be considered by the County Council on 21st July.

KB asked if ENABLE could endorse the project and stated that 28% of all waste produced was construction and demolition waste in nature. It was decided ENABLE supports project in principal but can't comment on a particular site and it is up to individual partners to say whether or not they support scheme.

Leicestershire Waste Development Framework and Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework now available for consultation. Copies are available to download from the County Council website – www.leics.gov.uk

**DONM – Wednesday 12th October, 2.30pm Brocks Hill.
Action:- RS to book Charnwood for January meeting.**

THE GROUP SAID FARWELL TO KATIE HEMSLEY AND WISH HER WELL AT HER NEW POSITION WITH NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL.