

**ENABLE STEERING GROUP MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2009
THE COMMITTEE ROOM, GLENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

Attended	Apologies
Ernie White, Chair Peter Williams, Leicestershire County Council Donna Worship, Leicestershire County Council Rachel Sweetland, Leicestershire County Council Hetal Patel, Leicestershire County Council Tony Lockley, Leicestershire County Council Jonathan Cattell, Leicestershire County Council Tony Marmont, Beacon Energy Peter Coogan, Leicestershire Constabulary Sam Howlett, Rural Community Council (Leics and Rutland) Tolu Omideyi, Charnwood Borough Council Ann Roberts Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes	Jane Neachell, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Wendy Jones, North West Leicestershire District Council Ben Dodd, Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire Sue Quinlan, Environment Agency Ruth Camamile Louisa Nadolny, Blaby District Council Anna Hocken, Blaby District Council Andrew Quigley, Leicester Diocese

Action

1. Apologies

See above

2. Matters Arising

A meeting to discuss the future of ENABLE was not arranged. See below.

3. The Future of ENABLE (PW)

Mrs Camamile will no longer chair ENABLE due to other cabinet duties. Ernie White will take over the role.

Action 1: RS to send Mrs Camamile a thank you card on behalf of the ENABLE SG **RS**

Sue Quinlan has stepped down as Vice Chair of ENABLE due to other work commitments but the Environment Agency will still send an officer to meetings. However, Sue has offered to attend the next meeting to discuss the future of ENABLE.

Need to still arrange a meeting to discuss the future of ENABLE and reporting arrangements to Leicestershire Together.

Action 2: RS to email the SG for suitable dates **RS**

4. Leicestershire Together Feedback (PW)

PW discussed the Report on Place Survey which will feed into the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment. In the Safe and Attractive Environment part of the assessment, only crime is assessed, not a safe and attractive place to live.

The results from the Stronger Communities Survey will be available soon which show change in satisfaction from two years ago. Tilton shows a marked improvement. This may be attributable to their Climate Friendly Communities involvement.

CLIMA

There was a presentation on Salix funding available for District Councils and the County Council to assist with energy efficiency measures. This is made up of the £80,000 LA reward money and £80,000 SALIX funding – totalling £160,000. Each District can apply for 100% funding and pay back 75% per annum from savings made. Projects include calorific value enhancers, loft insulation and heating controls.

NI 185 target to reduce CO2 emissions across the LAA by 4% baseline data currently being collected. Needs to be with DEFRA by 29th July. No progress at Oadby and Wigston. PW to contact Martin Cragg

Action 3: PW speak to Martin Cragg re NI 185 baseline figures

PW

5. Climate Friendly Communities Project (HP)

All three communities progressing well.

Sustainable Billesdon

Hosted Community Compost Day – 12th May

Insulation grant on the Old School is progressing well

Now have CSEP grant to carry out renewable energy feasibility study for Coplow Community Centre

Tilton Green

Along with SB have received carbon footprinting training from Marches Energy Agency. MEA are developing an online tool for both communities to input energy and transport data for carbon footprint.

Tilton Fete 7th June went well and focussing on water saving and transport.

Lightbulb library has been successful generating over £500 sales for Eco Street Running a village wide energy saving competition with a prize of a UK Holiday for winner

Calorific Value Enhancers (CVE's) have been fitted at Julian Bird's house, has LPG gas and made savings of 23% in 3 months. Cost to fit CVE - £87. A CVE has also been fitted to the Coplow Centre in Billesdon, they have natural gas and there are no figures available yet.

The 2009 Programme will be announced shortly and 6 communities will be supported. AR advised the WI would like to be a community partner for CFC or Big Switch Off.

Action 4: RS to forward AR Big Switch Off Community Group briefing note

RS

TM suggested daily meeting meter readings were the most effective way of judging success in energy saving campaigns – either CFC or BSO.

There is also a Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership pot of money for CFC for all Districts, County, City and Rutland. £95,000 over 2 years. The plan is now to get involved with De Montfort University Knowledge Transfer Partnership and employ a recent graduate to carry out a community engagement programme with the 9 community groups and write an academic report at the end of the process. Will fund 9 geographical communities – one in each of the Districts, Rutland and Leicester and 1 Community Interest Group. The final draft will be circulated to all CLIMA members before 23rd July.

6. Anaerobic Digestion (HP)

HP gave background to the project for those new to ENABLE – LCC funded a feasibility study for an Anaerobic Digestion plant in Leicestershire which concluded could only be financially viable on a community scale – a number of farms supplying manure waste supplemented by food waste from food manufacturing/catering companies. A grant was provided to local interested businesses for a business development study and one project put forward. This is now in planning stage with a Public Consultation on 10th July at Frolesworth Village Hall 2-7pm. Planning application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, transport survey, ecological, archaeological and landscape impact surveys. Putting in planning application in August

TM spoke about an AD plant in Lincolnshire run by Branston Potatoes and Dr Mark Wilcox. He also mentioned a town in Austria, Gussing that produces 90% of its own energy needs provided by a Biomass Plant. For anyone interested, there is a trip to Gussing as part of the BTLtec Biomass to Liquids conference in Austria 24th-25th September see <http://www.btltec.com/btl/btltec-graz/register/> for info. A flyer on Gussing is attached with the minutes for further information.

Action 5: TM to let RS have contact details

TM

If anyone would like to arrange a visit to the AD Plant or get in touch with the operators contact Dr Mark Wilcox Tel 01522 794 111 or email mwilcox@branston.co.uk or Dr David Nelson dnelson@branston.co.uk If anyone does arrange a visit Tony Marmont would like to go along as well.

7. Big Switch Off (HP)

- Website currently being developed to show what is happening over 2009 with businesses, schools and the wider community.
- Media plan ready and media partners are being approached by Leicestershire County Council's PR unit
- Secured RIEP funding - £30,000 over two years
- Launch event planned for 28th September at Leicester City Football ground Leicester Tigers and Cricket Club are being approached with also helping with the Big Switch Off campaign
- Business breakfast planned to engage with small and large businesses
- Schools sub group are running two competitions to engage schools – a certificate design competition and energy saving competition
- Community sub group 3 competitions – Family Challenge – 2 families in each District will get energy monitor and prize awarded for family saving most energy in a year; Energy Saving Competition between community blgs, Short Film competition for upper schools, high schools, colleges and univs – will be used in campaign and shown on website
- Call for volunteers to help spread message in their communities
- Pledge now on website with info on volunteering, competitions as well as energy saving tips and other campaign info see www.leics.gov.uk/bigswitchoff

Action 6: AR contact RS re deadline for WI newsletter for article on Big Switch Off

AR

8. Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) and NI 188 Adapting to Climate Change (DW)

All local authorities at Level 1 of NI 188. Submitted information to DEFRA in May. Next stage is to carry out a comprehensive risk assessment and implement systems in the future which will cope with changes in weather patterns. Work will be carried out jointly with District Councils, County Council and all Leicestershire Strategic Partnerships Districts and Leicestershire Together. Will also investigate the Sustainable Community Strategy objectives relating to climate adaptation.

Two StudentForce graduate officers will be funded via RIEP to carry out work. One officer for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland LSP risk assessment work based at Leicester City Council and another for District Councils, County Council and District LSP risk assessment to be based at Leicestershire County Council. In post by August 2009.

9. Green Infrastructure and Community Forums (TL)

£20,000 is being given to each Community Forum. Which will be spent on projects based on the priorities established through participatory budgeting – i.e local ideas but linked in with the Local Strategic Partnership and Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.

RIEP funding has been secured to fund a Leicestershire Green Infrastructure Officer which could link in with work relating to landscape opportunities for climate adaptation.

10. ENABLE/Climate Friendly Communities Event (RS)

The ENABLE Event planned for 10th July was cancelled a couple of months ago as a similar event planned by GOEM will be run in September. GOEM will be running a series of workshops on the UKCIP (UK Climate Impacts Programme) 09 projections of future weather scenarios. It will be jointly hosted by Leicester City and Leicestershire County Council at De Montfort University on 10th November. Invitations will be sent out shortly to District Councils, Parish Councils and LSP partner organisations.

The booking for the NSPCC will be used to host a Leicestershire Climate Friendly Communities networking event for the old and new Climate Friendly Communities and other interested organisations.

11. Any other Business

Tony Marmont advised he would be resigning from the ENABLE SG purely due to other work commitments and wanting to focus on Air Fuel Synthesis Ltd

Action 7: RS to write to TM thanking him for his support

RS

TM had a few other points to make

- Wants to encourage external insulation on old buildings as a way of improving energy efficiency. This can be done by a professional company such as Permarock in Loughborough or do it your self. The DIY method is with straw bales and lime plaster which builds up the walls and another layer of double glazing added.
- Hill Holt Wood in Lincolnshire now has a rammed earth building which can be used as a conference centre and can hold up to 100 people, keeps both cool and warm.

- Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire would like to know if anyone has a Renewable Energy Trailer to borrow as their's is fully booked. Please email Ben Dodd bdodd@gwill.org.uk if you know of anyone who could rent a trailer to Groundwork.
- Green Energy Bill – planning permission not required for small wind turbines and solar panels on roofs. David Milliband has recently said that planning permission for large scale wind farms will get easier with the obligation on the community to object themselves.
- Double Renewable Obligations Certificates (ROCs) now available for electricity produced under 50 kw which encourages small scale renewables.

TO asked about biomass boilers and how this fits with ROCs. JC advised that EPUK had carried out a study into biomass boilers and how it fits into the UK renewable energy picture and it came out favourable outside urban areas. For information see www.environmental-protection.org.uk/biomass

The National Forest will also shortly become a resource for biomass boilers

- Loughborough Community Wind Turbine in the pipeline. The turbine will cost £45-50/kwh to run and make an income of £66.50/kwhr therefore will make a profit for the community.
- Climate Reduction Commitment commences in April 2010. All large organisations including local authorities will be set an annual carbon dioxide emission allowance and be given credits to cover that allowance. There will be severe penalties for organisations exceeding their allowance.
- TM's Atmospheric Aviation Fuel Synthesis Project synthesising fuel from air and water is going very well. First prototype may be in Leicester. Penny Cotes, East Midlands Airport Chief Exec has said she would use the fuel at EMA when available

PW advised the Multi Area Agreement Economic Assessment report will now have an Environment Chapter and have asked ENABLE to write. Leicestershire County Council will write then circulate for comments. Environmental priorities for Leicestershire will include climate change, reduction of waste, energy and water efficiency.

TM advised Darwin Phase 2, an exhibition showing habitat and species loss will be opening at the Natural History Museum on 14th September.

Action 8: PW to speak to Graham Walley, Leicestershire County Council re feeding in Leicestershire data

PW

PC advised the Police Force will become part of the carbon reduction commitment but currently don't have automatic meters which would help with monitoring energy use. An Energy Manager is due to be recruited for Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. Wants help in finding out about funding.

Action 9: DW to contact PC re climate adaptation, meter readings, funding and the Big Switch Off

DW

TL spoke about external insulation of buildings in Austria through foam cladding.

TL advised a new Shires Climate Change Grant will be launched shortly which can be used for community energy projects.

AR mentioned an environmentally friendly home which could be available for guided

tours. Nothing confirmed yet but could be useful for showing groups in the future. HP suggested could be useful for the Big Switch Off Family Challenge participants.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING