

**ENABLE STEERING GROUP MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2009
HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES**

Attended	Apologies
Mike Preston (Chair) Peter Williams, Leicestershire County Council Tony Lockley, Leicestershire County Council Hetal Patel, Leicestershire County Council Rachel Sweetland, Leicestershire County Council Jane Neachell, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Ann Roberts, Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes Tolu Omideyi, Charnwood Borough Council Phil Bailey, Leicestershire County Council Anna Farish, Blaby District Council Ben Dodd, Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire Ryan Astill, Melton Borough Council Diana Cook, Rural Community Council Wendy Jones, North West Leicestershire District Council Benita Key, Natural England	Donna Worship, Leicestershire County Council Jonathan Cattell, Leicestershire County Council Sue Quinlan, Environment Agency Andrew Quigley, Leicester Diocese

Action

1. Apologies

See above

2. Matters Arising

A meeting to discuss the future of ENABLE still has not taken place.

Action: RS to arrange and set up meeting prior to next ENABLE meeting.

RS

3. Leicestershire Together and CLIMA feedback and LAA Performance (PW)

Nothing to report back from the Leicestershire Together Board

CLIMA

All Districts, Leicestershire and Rutland achieved level 1 for NI 188 Adapting to Climate Change. All data submitted to DEFRA on time for NI 185 and Melton received a dispensation. LAA performance has been good over the period and Green Infrastructure project on schedule.

4. The Big Switch Off Campaign (HP)

The business breakfast launch took place on 15th September and was well attended with 47 people. A number of other promotional events will take place on the run up to and during Big Switch Off week 12th – 18th October. A launch event is scheduled for 28th September at the Leicester City Football Club between 11 – 2, the Rural Community Council are running two community events in Kegworth and Ullesthorpe and there will be a stand at the East Midlands Food and Drink Festival. Posters are being sent out to Parish Councils, Village Halls, libraries, museums, schools and service shops. A discussion took place about how to promote the campaign further via an ENABLE members email, LSP partners and infolinx.

5. Climate Friendly Communities – current and future (PW)

There has been a recent submission to De Montfort University to take part in the Knowledge Transfer Programme for a two year student/graduate placement to run a community based climate change programme giving support on capacity building. The student/graduate will then write up the results from the programme analysing what worked and didn't. The programme will provide a model for future projects. Funding to be provided from De Montfort University, with support from Defra, NERC and SRC and Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. . As a partnership project, a community from each District, Rutland and Leicestershire will be expected to join the scheme. TO and WJ already have groups in mind in their Districts. DC asked for information on potential communities to help transfer information and best practise between community groups.

Action RS to write an article for the next ENABLE newsletter, DC to promote via Village Voice and District Councils to promote to their own networks. All

6. Launch of Shire Climate Change Grant (HP)

The County Council has established a new SHIRE Climate Change grant. The grant should be promoted via the ENABLE newsletter, website and to members as well as District Council contacts when calling for communities to join the programmeMP requested promotion to start soon.

The grants are for Parish Councils/meetings, Town Councils, community groups, faith groups, charities, village hall and community centre management committees. There is a total fund of £30,000. Groups can apply for 50% of the project costs to a maximum of £5000. There has already been a number of enquiries from community groups about the grant.

There is information and application forms on the County Council website at www.leics.gov.uk/climatechange_grants . The grants are open now but there will be an official launch at Cosby Village Hall on 28th October at a Village Hall Energy Efficiency Training event.

7. Leicestershire Eco Schools Review (RS)

The final report will be sent in by the end of September. The review took place with online surveys for schools followed up with some in-depth telephone interviews with schools as well as in-depth interviews with officers from District Councils and Leicestershire County Council providing support to Eco Schools on a variety of different topics. The main outcomes from the draft report show that schools were very pleased with the current level of support provided by Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire and Charlie Ghaye was highly praised by many teachers. Schools wanted a central contact for advice for better access to information and would like to see the website developed further to provide advice and signposting on the individual topics. There was not much knowledge on the national Sustainable Schools framework, the government framework with only 50% of schools surveyed aware of it. The national average is 75% of schools. Schools would be interested in the future to align more the Sustainable Schools framework as this is assessed as part of Ofsted inspections.

Discussions now need to take place within the County Council and with District Councils to work out a plan for the way forward. In the meantime, the current SLA will run as it is with Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire for Eco Schools.

Action: RS to circulate final report when ready

RS

8. Leicestershire Climate Change Adaptation Project and Rebecca Hart (PW)

Becky Hart is the new Climate Adaptation Project Officer (CAPO) for Leicestershire and is based at Leicestershire County Council with Donna Worship and Jonathan Cattell. The project will help Leicestershire meet level 2 for NI 188 by March 2010. An in-depth climate risk assessment will be carried out for all Council services for Leicestershire County Council and all the Districts. The methodology and programme has been agreed. All CAPO Officers across the region will be splitting the work by focussing on different departments in their top tier authority then sharing information to carry out a generic risk assessment for all councils in their area.

Kristina Kung, based at Leicester City Council will be carrying out a similar process with Local Strategic Partnership organisations.

Action: RS to forward contact details for both Becky Hart and Kristina Kung with the minutes **RS**

9. Any other Business (ALL)

BD – Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire has a new Executive Director, Alan Diggles

TL – Charnwood Borough endorsed a vision for Charnwood Forest to be designated as a Regional Park. MP asked for information about this.

Action: TL to forward MP information on Charnwood Forest Regional Park **TL**

PW – LAA Salix fund now open for District Councils to apply for energy efficiency projects. There is no deadline but funds are available on a first come, first serve basis. There is £160,000 available and method of making applications has been circulated to all Districts via CLIMA minutes.

Action: District Councils to consider applying for funding for projects. **DC Officers**

WJ – NWL received awards for the Footprints Challenge including a Green Apple Award and have been shortlisted for the Edie Award. WJ also reminded District Council Officers to apply to the Motorvate scheme.

Action: DC Officers to apply to Motorvate **DC Officers**

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING 16th DECEMBER 2009 at North West Leicestershire District Council, 9.30 – 11.30