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Newsleaf is back!

We are pleased to announce the return of Newsleaf, Stafford Borough Council's e-news sheet bringing you updates, news and progress on local sustainable development. We are keen to feature partnership work which supports more sustainable communities and action to tackle climate change, so in this edition you can read about great leaps forward in recycling facilities, the increasing popularity of local food, the amazing talents of grassroots community groups – and how to find funding to make things happen!!!

Climate Change - being prepared!

The Council has been working over the last few months to produce a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) for the Borough. This is a means of assessing the exposure and vulnerability of the Council and community to extreme weather and climate change.

The LCLIP involved conducting a survey of key staff in the Council regarding responses to extreme weather; reviewing reports of extreme weather in the local media; researching historical climate trends in the Borough and; producing projections of future climate.

The LCLIP will assist the

Council in preparing and adapting to extreme weather events and climate change.

In the future the Borough can expect increasing temperatures in summer and winter, increasing precipitation in winter and decreasing summer precipitation.

The likely results of climate change include a range of adverse impacts, particularly on the environment, food supply and distribution, transport and health. Some of these impacts might include food shortages, melting roads, increased mould indoors and increased summer mortality.

Certain social groups may be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others, including the elderly, the very young and poorer groups.

The Council will use the findings of this LCLIP to produce a assessment of risks and opportunities. A mapping exercise will also be undertaken highlighting areas of environmental and social vulnerability.

The Council will use the outcomes of this work to develop Adaptation Plans for the Borough. To find out more contact the Policy and Partnerships Team at the Council.

Recycle for Stafford!

The council has a key role in reducing and recycling waste. But to be able to do this means each of us taking responsibility for what we put in our bins.

From 13 September 2010 the Council has increased the amount of recyclables that can be put in your blue bin.

Please see the 'Know Your Bins' page of the Council's website or the new 2010 Recycling booklet for further information.

This improved recycling service will really help us save money, resources and protect our planet. Please do as much as you can to help!

Eco Fun for All!

Stafford Borough Eco-Schools Network helps schools progress through the Eco-Schools Award Scheme and to become more Sustainable Schools.

It meets each half term to share ideas, resources and updates, and frequently holds practical sessions led by experts (such as pond dipping), thus transferring skills and knowledge that teachers can take back to use in school.

Lots of great 'green activity' is going on in schools - from 'switch off' campaigns to creating wildlife gardens, from planting orchards to saving water. To celebrate this and to offer an opportunity to learn even more about our environment and our role in caring for it, an Eco-Action was organised in June, hosted by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust at Wolseley. Ten schools with 110 children participated in the event. The feedback was super! "We all loved making the mini-beast hotels -brilliant, excellent, fantastic! "Really clear message and actions for reduce, reuse, recycle - fantastic - kids want to do an assembly on it back at school".

"Couldn't fault all the support that was given throughout the day; Incredibly well put together – a worthwhile experience for pupils and staff/helpers! We have taken lots of ideas back to school; It has really motivated the pupils - they have gone eco mad; We are now organising our own green day in School!".

With three memorable workshops, a Treasure Hunt, plus an eco-goody bag to take home, schools are keen to come back next year! More photos and information about Stafford Borough Eco-Schools Network can be found at www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd



Did you know ...

There are about a billion bicycles in the world, around twice as many bikes as motorcars.

50 million bicycles are made each year – and in addition to these several hundred are refurbished for re-use at Stafford's own Back 2 Bikes, bike recycling project!

Cycling to Work!

The Council has been promoting cycling amongst its staff for both its health benefits and its lower environmental impact.

The Council participates in the national 'cycle scheme', which enables

staff to make big savings on new bikes.

This summer has seen a surge of people cycling into work so we are currently upgrading the bike shed and fitting new cycle lock brackets.

The UK's first foundation degree in sustainable communities is now available at Stafford College

The College has been working with community partners and Staffordshire University to develop a brand new Foundation Degree in Sustainable Communities. The course is part of a drive to train people to create and manage sustainable communities. Delivered flexibly either full or part-

time, it will give you skills and knowledge to pursue a rewarding career in housing, regeneration or the environment.

To find out more contact Helen Littlewood, Course Leader, Stafford College 223800.

Derrington, setting the benchmark!

Since the project began about 18 months ago, Derrington residents have been very proactive in their support for the Way Ahead pilot low-carbon community project.

Amongst many other things, 54 home energy visits have helped households save energy and money; 300 people attended the debut Local Food Festival in September 2009; 40 households planted garden apple trees, with two other villagers planting a further 60 fruit trees; a school orchard was created at Cooper Perry Primary School and over 60 people attended the 'Climate Change' film season.

A Local Food Fact Sheet has been printed, an energy audit has been carried out at the Village Hall – since which lots of energy improvements have taken place – and we now have dozens of new community built benches along the Greenway to enable us to take a breather! Besides these, a wide range of practical actions have been undertaken by individuals such as swapping to low energy light bulbs, walking and cycling more, eating more local food, using the cycle track, growing veg, installing a new boiler, installing a water meter, using an energy monitor, placing a water saver in the cistern, turning down the thermostat, putting up a solar panel, recycling more and reducing energy use overall.



In the our evaluation survey undertaken earlier this year 75% of respondents considered that the initiative had helped the environment; 87% thought the project has helped them personally; 60% were aware of the Way Ahead web-pages; 44% had changed their travel habits with 67% of people either using the car less, using public transport more, or walking or cycling more; 49% had started growing their own food or buying local food as a result of this project and 47% believed they had reduced their energy consumption.

We hope some of you were able to join us at the second Local Food Festival on Saturday 11 September at Derrington Village Hall. With around 400 visitors the day was a huge success!

Grants for Rural Community Sustainability Action

If you have ideas on how to improve your local environment or rural facilities, there are many avenues offering support, including funding. The Community Council of

Staffordshire is a good first port of call as it administers a number of grant schemes itself and can also help you to explore other funding sources through the

'Funderfinder' Computer Programme. Contact the Community Council on 01785 242525.

Ferndown Local Nature Reserve - update

2010 has been another interesting year in the life of the Ferndown Local Nature Reserve in Clayton. We have had a fantastic display of wildflowers from our meadow restoration project. Despite the bad weather we've also run a number of walks including our well-attended wildflower walk.

A lot of work is currently going on behind the scenes. The Friends of Ferndown are applying for a grant of £50,000 from Groundwork's Community Spaces fund. If successful, this grant will finance many improvements to this popular reserve.

Drainage is an issue on site making the kick-about area often unusable and the lower paths extremely muddy. We would also like to create a more diverse habitat by enhancing some marsh areas. An ingenious solution was to combine all these factors by making a series of drains and ditches to divert water from where we don't want it and in so doing add to the biodiversity interest of the site elsewhere.

The Friends of Ferndown have worked very hard to apply for this funding and it is a great example of how the community can really get involved in helping their area.



HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!!!!

Thursday 8th September **£22,000 grant confirmed** to re-roof flat roof areas of Derrington Village Hall and install Zoned Heating to improve energy efficiency and save money....!!!
And 30th Sept **£16,000 grant confirmed** towards installing Solar Photo Voltaic panels!!!

Are you feeling Champion!

In order to raise awareness of the recycling service we are hoping to recruit Recycling Champions within the Borough. Recycling Champions help to spread the recycling message by encouraging friends and neighbours to participate as much as possible in the kerbside recycling service.

Activities are only undertaken in the amount of time the volunteer is able to give and they will become a valuable contact point on recycling matters and help identify any local issues with recycling services. No previous experience is required and full training and support will be provided.

We are planning to hold an event in Stafford on the 22nd October 2010 to meet all interested residents and explain further the role of a Recycling Champion. If you are a keen recycler and would like to help us

increase the amount of recycling in Stafford Borough, **please contact Becky Martin on 01785 619749 or email: wastemanagement@staffordbc.gov.uk**

To contact the Council about sustainable development, climate change or environmental issues tel 01785 619408 or mail sd@staffordbc.gov.uk

Dates for the Diary!

There are lots of 'green' events this October:

Monday 4th October

Action Organic AGM

Thursday 7th October

Film 'Beyond the Pole'

Sat 9th October

Aqualate NNR Winter Waddlers

Sunday 10th

Community Bench Building

Saturday 16th

One World Week celebration event

Tuesday 19th

'Derrington Way Ahead' Steering Group meeting

Wednesday 20th

'Food from the Hedgerows' talk

Thursday 21st

Community Bench Building

Thursday 28th Oct

Halloween Spooks event at Aqualate National Nature Reserve.

Thursday 28th October

Sustainability Matters AGM

Want more details? Visit www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd

Could you be a recycling champion?

