

Notes of the DERRINGTON LOW CARBON COMMUNITY PROJECT MEETING ON 12 MARCH 2009 at 7.15 pm at the Village Hall

1 Welcome and Introductions:

Karen welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Those present included: John Dunning, John Watkins, Sue Challinor, Mike Clements, Cllr Ray Sutherland, Geoff Parry, Karen Davies, Martin Chadwick and Jules from Beat the Cold, Rob Hine and Rob Horton from Sustainability Matters, Colin Roff from Stafford and Rural Homes. Karen asked if anyone would be happy to be Chair person so she could take notes – Ray kindly (got?) volunteered!

2 Apologies: Apologies had been received from Rosemary Lofty, Helen Sammons, Roy and Mike Paling and Cllr Mark Winnington.

3 Brief Review of Project Background:

Karen gave a brief account of the project background. Karen had talked to just a few people at the end of last year about the possibility of obtaining funding to establish projects in Derrington to promote more sustainable lifestyles. This would especially concentrate on energy efficiency measures, in households as well as in other buildings eg village hall. Only a few people had been approached, since the funding was not guaranteed. Subsequent to two successful funding bids she had put together Karen was able to confirm that around £25,000 had been awarded, mainly for work in Derrington but with some allocated to extend the work into two further communities. With confirmation of funding people initially contacted were invited to an initial meeting on 25th Feb where some great ideas and enthusiasm had been generated. This second meeting will be an opportunity to hear about the agencies we hope to work with on different projects. It was emphasised that any other interested person/group was very welcome!

3 Note and actions from the last meeting:

Mike, Mike, Roy and Geoff had drafted a questionnaire (see later) and Karen and Helen had also pulled together some ideas/questions. Karen had also subsequently met Marches Energy Agency on 27th March <http://www.me.a.org.uk/>, checked the next Parish Council meeting date (Monday 16th March), contacted Cooper Perry School, so that the Head is aware of the initiative and spoken to Rev Peter Ashby re the church. It was felt that Sheena and Peter Hughes should be contacted to discuss the project/invite to meeting (**Karen**). No contact at yet with Malcolm at the pub.

4 Beat the Cold – Martin Chadwick and Jules:

Martin explained who Beat the Cold are and what they do. They are a charity with a Board of Elected Trustees. They set up to combat cold related illness and fuel poverty. They have experience in urban areas in Stoke and rural areas in Staffordshire Moorlands. They have experience of good work at the grass roots. What could they do in Derrington to support a Low Carbon Community?

- Thermometer Directory
- Call in homes to promote whole project, by appointment, along with energy audit
- Personal touch/personalised report

- Already working with another section of Stafford Borough Council currently offering subsidised insulation. So Derrington will be able to be a part of this
- Jules to be part of the village/be high profile/get to know community groups eg go to WI coffee mornings
- Have access to various bits of kit eg lo energy light bulbs, eg power downs (Funding via power company)
- Could start by designing Thermometer Directory and then by Jules knocking on doors. Need to liaise with groups and Parish Council, plus use Parish magazine (deadline 20th of the month), so Beat the Cold become familiar
- Ray suggested Jules have a 'local' face - Ray volunteered, others were happy to do so too
- Mention the initiative at Parish Council meeting on 16 March 2009 in Derrington (meet every other month)

5 Sustainability Matters (Rob Hine and Rob Horton):

Rob discussed the background of Sustainability Matters and some of the initiatives they have been involved with and projects they've set up. For instance they have most recently set up the Stafford Save Your Energy Website at <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/live/welcome.asp?id=6359>

Rob suggested several ideas for projects that may work well in Derrington.

- eg short film season linking with film club, looking at sustainability issues. Could put together a Derrington film linked to this?
- eg Calculate Derrington's carbon footprint (link with Beat the Cold's questionnaire) calculate new carbon footprint after project.
- eg Transport initiatives
- eg Food initiatives, such as horticultural show, local produce sale, veggie box scheme. Supermarket "combined deliveries".

Could this initiative help to contribute to the viability/sustainability of the village Post Office? Is there any potential to revisit the village community shop idea?

- eg Waste minimisation ideas eg waste swap, promote the Freecycle website etc
- eg Web pages

6 Stafford and Rural Homes (Colin Roff):

SARH have several properties at Castle View flats. Colin has already looked at opportunities for improved energy efficiency of these homes and standards are already quite high. Colin has considered other options eg may be able to investigate more competitive prices for works. SARH have people who carry out Energy Performance Certificates. SARH have trailer for events which we could use with our own Derrington Low Carbon 'brand'. Colin also has some experience in renewables installations eg a

ground source heat system at Swynnerton and Solar Panels at Doxey Sheltered Accommodation. These are shown as case studies on the Save Your Energy website at

<http://www.staffordarea.saveyourenergy.org.uk/how/news/SBC%20energy>

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Where next??!

Questionnaire: The group discussed the draft questionnaire. Everyone thought it was very high quality and well produced and well worded.

- **Karen** to write up and circulate minutes by Wednesday
- **Mike** to email draft Questionnaire to Karen by Wed to send out with minutes
- Please can **Everyone** have a look and send comments to Karen within a week (26th March)
- **Mike/Karen/Others** to pull together final version a week after that (1st April).
- Questionnaire to be printed (**Karen**) and ready to give out for people to distribute at the next meeting on Thursday 2nd April

Need to confirm at Steering Group meeting:

Who distributes questionnaires, how/where?

How they are collected back?

How they will be analysed/when/by who and need to summarise priority projects?

Thermometer Cards:

- Using info from questionnaire **Beat the Cold**, liaising with **Group** will produce a Thermometer Card (these can be produced in approx 2 weeks)
- This can be circulated with a letter about the project and with details of a launch event.

Next Meeting:

Focus on Questionnaire circulation/analysis and Launch Event

Other:

- Issue re overall management of the project was discussed, who co-ordinates/manages project?
- **Jules and Karen** to attend next Parish Council to introduce project in 'public slot' at start of meeting Mon 16th March
- **Jules** to attend WI meeting and give brief introduction about project on 21st April
- **ALL** to think about a **Name** and a **Brand**
- **Karen** to contact Marches Energy Agency to discuss their input and to put MEA (Danny Lenain, 01743 277119) in touch with **John Watkins** re the Village Hall energy survey

Next Meeting - 2 April 2009 at 7.15 pm
(contact details for Karen kdavies@staffordbc.gov.uk
Wk 619408 Mob 07967 328586)