

## Notes of the DERRINGTON LOW CARBON COMMUNITY PROJECT MEETING On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15 pm at the Village Hall

*Thanks to everyone for continuing their support of this project!!!*

### **1 Welcome and Introductions:**

Will Sammons offered to chair the meeting – many thanks! - and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Karen took notes.

### **2 Present:**

Those present included: Rosemary Lofty, Sue Challinor, Karen Davies, Jules Hill from Beat the Cold, Rob Hine from Sustainability Matters, Sheena Davies, Lindsey, Will Sammons, John Watkins.

**3 Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Helen Sammons, Colin Roff (Stafford and Rural Homes), Tom Proctor, Maggie Overton.

### **4 Note and actions from the last meeting on Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 2010:**

The notes were agreed as correct. Actions/matters outstanding:

Bus Service: the 2.10 pm bus service on Saturdays is running, however the timetable at the Chell Road bus stop excludes this service. **KD to** ask SCC to ensure timetable is correct.

### **5 Village Hall Energy Audit:**

The Village Hall Committee have already undertaken several energy measures to improve energy efficiency including: fitting anti tamper valves to radiators; new lighting; cavity wall insulation. Action since the last meeting:

Two quotes for solar PV installation and equipment obtained from local companies. More detail will be requested from each of these and a third quote sought. The two quotes to date are significantly less than the MEA estimated figure (£37K) from November 2009, and prices seem to be falling (£15-£22). **Helen/Karen/others to** progress.

Bid submitted to LEADER fund for installation of solar PV; Helen and Karen attended the LEADER 'Rural Panel'; LEADER very supportive of concept but require more comprehensive evidence of community support (various options discussed), re-calculated pay back period, detailed breakdown of expenditure, submission of planning application and details of how we would share our experience with other Village Halls. **Helen/Karen/others to** progress.

Funding sought and confirmed from various sources, totalling £9,000. We have not heard back from **Cllr Mark Winnington** re the Local Community Fund. **Karen to** follow up.

The Village Hall Committee are looking at the social club flat roof and works to address insulation issues/staining, as well as new pipes to help create 'zoned heating' throughout the building. It would be good to integrate these measures with

the solar PV work and amend the LEADER bid to include all these measures.  
**Helen/Karen/others** to progress.

We need to take care that solar PV equipment is up to date and meets suitable **current specifications**. Advice should be available from MEA or the Staffordshire RE:think project should have contacts with the necessary technical expertise. The businesses contacted are on an MEA/RE:think list and are accredited.

## **6 Brief update on Current Activities:**

### **a) Local Food Fact Sheet**

This has now been sent to the printers and will be ready for launching at the Tea Dance on 27<sup>th</sup> March (a PDF copy is attached with these minutes for those receiving e-copies). Thereafter the leaflet will be distributed to all Derrington households and put onto web pages. Rob has arranged a press release and photo-call (Haughton Shops 11 am Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – ***please come if you are free!***)

### **b) Local Produce Sale**

Ideas are still being discussed.

### **c) Film Season**

**Rob** will be planning a series of films as part of a new climate change and sustainable development Film Season. It was agreed that this should begin in September. Any ideas/suggestions/requests welcome. We will try to make arrangements for people who may have difficulties getting home after a show.

### **d) Fairtrade Village Status**

We are still awaiting feedback from the Parish Council.

## **7 Evaluation of the Project:**

Jules has now completed the evaluation report. This mainly considers the work that Beat the cold have carried out. It is based on two questionnaire surveys, the first being a general questionnaire, was circulated to all households by members of the group in January (we hoped to collect data to submit the LEADER bid in late January – but the icy conditions meant that distribution and collection proved difficult). The second was a survey specifically for households that had had a Home Energy Visit by Jules. Response rates were 16% for the general questionnaire (50 responses from 320 households) and 64% for those households that had had a Home Energy Visit (35 out of 54).

The report is available from Jules (01782 683813) or Karen (01785 619408) and will be available on the project webpages. Additional evaluation material will be added from other partners in due course.

General Questionnaire: initial findings indicate that 75% of respondents feel the project has benefited the environment, 78% feel the project has benefited them personally, 76% support Derrington becoming a Fairtrade Village, 75% support the installation of solar PV on the village hall, 44% have changed their travel habits since the start of the project, 49% have started growing food or buying local food as a result of the project.

Home Visit Questionnaire: initial findings indicate 91% found the home visit useful,

46% are buying more local produce, 23% have made improvements to their homes as a result of the home visit, 63% have set up powerdowns. Using the evaluation information, we hope to find out what's worked, what's made a difference, what hasn't worked – and use this to inform future work in other communities.

### **8 Updating web pages and articles for Church/Village Magazine**

**Rob** is continuing to update the webpages and will also be putting together a series of articles for the magazine. **Rosemary and Sheena** are submitting articles/snippets too, with a global/Christian Aid perspective so these could tie in nicely, to emphasise how local actions can support people and environments globally. **Rob**, can you see if Jackie Skelson can include the logo?

### **9 Bank Account and Constitution:**

An application for a Co-Op community bank account has been submitted. This required the compilation of either a Draft Constitution or written Aims and Objectives, and a Business Plan (these have been attached with electronic minutes and can be obtained from Karen). The group briefly discussed whether we should adopt a Constitution, which is often a prerequisite for obtaining grant funding. Please think about this and have a look at the draft Constitution, to consider and come to an agreement at the next meeting (**Steering Group Members**).

### **10 One Year Birthday:**

This takes place on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> March between 4pm and 7pm. Rob has been busy arranging and planning this. Music, catering, drinks, PA and other equipment, promotional fliers and posters (**thanks to volunteers** who are posting these through the doors!), press and other publicity, raffle/prizes, displays (Stafford BC, Beat the Cold, photos/details of what's been happening/short summary of achievements), Giant Thermometer, invitations, meet and greet Mayor. ETC. PDF of flier promoting the event is attached.

We need some **help to set up please** (around 3pm). **Hope to see you there!**

### **11 AOB:**

\* We now have a pull up banner for the project and will have a second ready soon (we can use these at events in the village etc)

\* Karen has had feedback from the Low Carbon Community bid, "This scheme comprises all of the elements that are required within this challenge with an excellent coverage of non-energy issues also. However it does feel rather like a range of good suggestions as opposed to a strategic project. As such, the value for money for the savings generated is less than in other schemes. Lots of enthusiasm has been demonstrated in the proposal and there are some activities already going on. There is a huge sense of ownership and 'action'. The community is very small however and some assumptions that have been made for the likely benefits appear to be incorrect. Further development work would be required for this proposal to be a success." They only picked 22 out of 250 – but we tried!

\* SALGS funding for the roll out of low carbon communities (discussed at previous

meetings) is being spent as follows: 15 local schools (including Cooper Perry) are benefiting from a series of workshops on climate change delivered by Marches Energy Agency; 4 schools are enjoying an environmental theatre production “Bin Raider”; the MEA ‘Light Fantastic Climate Change Roadshow’ will be at several events including this Sunday’s Half Marathon. See [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd) for details of forthcoming events or

<http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/live/welcome.asp?id=156>

\* There is a seminar, arranged by David Kidney MP entitled “Stafford Constituency’s Future Skills Needs in the Low carbon Economy”., this Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 am till 2pm (inc buffet lunch) at The Ruxton Technology Centre, Staffs University, Beaconside. **To book a place tel 224444 if you’d like to go!**

\* ‘Spring Sowing’ Food Festival organised by Transition Town Stafford on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March in the Market Square – this will be great, 11am till 4pm. **Do come along!**

## **12 Date of our next meeting:**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Village Hall at 7.15 pm**

Any agenda items/ apologies or queries, please contact Karen 07967 328586 or 619408 or by email [kdavies@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:kdavies@staffordbc.gov.uk)

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