

Notes of the Derrington - Way Ahead Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7 June 2011 at 7.45pm at Derrington Village Hall

1 Present:, Rob Hine, Alan Thomas, Karen Davies, Sue Challinor, Rosemary Lofty, Lindsey Williams, John Watkins, Gill Cox, Maggie Overton, Geoff Parry, Cheryl Birks, Charlotte Udall.

2 Apologies: Helen Sammons, Will Sammons, Sheena Davis, Jan Bray.

3 Welcome: Rosemary welcomed everyone to the first AGM of 'Derrington – Way Ahead' and kindly undertook the role of Chairperson for the meeting.

4 Secretary's Report:

Karen gave a report of the group's activities by means of a PowerPoint presentation. Throughout the last 12-18 months there has been a vast array of projects and achievements. These were detailed along with lots of illustrations showing what's been done and how many people have been involved! (*I will ask Charlotte if this PowerPoint presentation could go onto the website, **Karen***). Rosemary gave a vote of thanks to Karen for her presentation/report and continued involvement in the project as a whole.

5 Treasurer's Report:

Sheena had prepared a Financial Statement for the year, showing Receipts and Payments. Copies of the Financial Statement were distributed. We have received funding towards the proposed Village Trail, Cycle parking and Gateway Features and are currently bidding for further grant funding to progress this project. In summary we have a healthy bank balance, which is earmarked for planned projects. Rosemary gave a vote of thanks to Sheena for preparing the very clear and helpful Financial Statement.

6 Election of Officials

(a) Outgoing Officials:

In 2010/11 Sheena has been Treasurer, Karen has been Secretary and there has been a 'rolling chair'. Rosemary thanked all those who have held positions throughout the year.

(b) Nominations and Approval for new Officials:

The group agreed that the current structure of the Steering Group and arrangements for meetings had worked well and agreed to continue with these arrangements. Sheena and Karen were happy to be reinstated as Treasurer and Secretary and in the absence of other contenders the group formally approved the filling of these positions, which will be supported by a 'rolling chair' again.

7 Notes and Actions of the last meeting (12 April)

These were approved and all matters arising are on the agenda.

8 Derrington Village Hall

(a) Energy Measures:

Data on the Solar PV system is expected in June. This will tell us how much electricity has been generated since installation in October and also how much income has been generated (c/o **Geoff**). The Real Time Display Panel is still awaiting a part from Germany which David Hutchinson from Havenkaye is chasing (c/o **Karen**).

(b) Using Greener Materials at the Village Hall:

Cheryl and Geoff agreed to raise this at the next Village Hall Committee Meeting. Items such as cleaning fluids, washing up liquid, toilet paper/towels, beverages are all available in more sustainable forms, and are not necessarily any more costly. It would be super if we could be consistent in demonstrating good environmental practice! Rob also mentioned the 'green' tariffs that can be chosen and this might be something to look at in the future.

(c) Recycling at the Village Hall:

Shoes and cartridges are already collected. The shoes are collected automatically and when there are sufficient cartridges, these will be sold on to be recycled to raise funds for our project.

The group agreed that it would be useful to start collecting batteries. **Karen** to sort out a container and poster, **Charlotte** to investigate organizations that will collect and offer payment.

A recycling node will soon be installed at the Red Lion, in the car park. Whilst the Council cannot supply recycling facilities for businesses or commercial premises, we hope that the facility will be used to help the Village Hall Social Club and Pub to recycle their bottles and cans. **Karen** to follow up with **John Watkins** to see if this is feasible and the new pub tenants (who were happy to meet SBC Recycling Officers on site and give the go ahead for locating the nodes there). **Karen** to ask if **Jan Bray** can help (our Recycling Champion).

(d) Children's Art and Education Project

This will take place on Sept 21st with Rose the Art Teacher and Steve Archer who will do bat and bird box making. One outcome will be a pull up banner display with children's artwork relating to energy, renewable energy, climate change, looking after the planet etc. This activity is linked to the grant funding we received, which required an educational element arising from the project.

(e) IT facilities

Charlotte described how the laptops are being well used and also the wi-fi connection at the Hall. Lots of people have benefited from help from both Charlotte and Peter Bray, esp via sessions on Wednesdays. The group agreed with Rosemary's summing up ie that 'the facilities are well used and much appreciated' and thanked both Charlotte and Peter for all their help.

Future sessions and workshops will be planned and may include topics like 'electricity tariffs' and 'filters and security'.

9 Upcoming Projects:

(a) Village Trail: The bid has been tightened up and Cheryl Birks has been a

tremendous help on this. It will be assessed at the Rural Panel soon.

(b) Recycling: Covered above.

(c) Local Food Festival: Rob is undertaking planning for this event on Sat 17th Sept and we hope to have some 'old favourites' and many new features and activities too. With a theme of 'young growers' we hope local schools and the Brownies will be involved, but of course we hope everyone will get involved. Any ideas? Tel Rob 603387.

(d) Household Solar PV: Karen is meeting with reps from Whittington and Fisherwick Low Carbon Community to learn about their 'community renewables' project. Alan gave out some information he had found on the pros and cons of the 'rent a roof' schemes. Update at the next meeting.

10 Promotion and Publicity: We are making use of lots of outlets and hope most of the village knows what's going on!? There was an article recently in the Express and Star about the Brownie's Food Growing Evening (see attached). Also, the Summer Newsletter has just been circulated and we have received some great comments

eg Inspirational, thank you for sharing with me, all best wishes, JM

eg Thank you for kindly sending me this information. What an incredibly supreme effort in so many ways ! GM

eg Thanks for another inspiring newsletter! RO

11 AOB:

Charlotte suggested we should buy/acquire one/some 'current cost meters' to loan out to households, to continue flagging up consumption rates for different appliances and also to spot faults. A booking in/out system could work in conjunction with the laptops. **Charlotte and Karen** to liaise.

The Church Fete will be held this Saturday and it would be nice to 'have a presence' there. **Karen** to contact Peter Hughes.

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 15 June Sustainable Staffordshire Conference. 10 am Rising Brook Baptist Church. We have been asked to do a workshop on our project.

Friday 17 June Sustainable Development Officers Network Meeting, Birmingham. We have been asked to do a presentation on our solar PV installation.

Tuesday 28 June Norton canes Low Carbon project. We have been asked to do a presentation about our project.

Tuesday 26 July Bradley Village Hall. We have been asked to go and talk about what we have done at the Village Hall.

If anyone would like to be involved with any of these, please let me know!

Thanks, Karen

***Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23 August at 7.45pm at the Village Hall
(so we can go into the hall after the aerobics class)***