

## **Notes of the Derrington - Way Ahead Meeting Tues Dec 14 at 7.15pm at Derrington Village Hall**

**1 Present:** Lindsey, Rob Hine, Cllr Ray Sutherland, Alan Thomas, Will Sammons, Linda Westmacott, Sheena Davis, Karen Davies

**2 Apologies:** Sue Challinor, Rosemary Lofty, Helen Sammons.

### **3 Welcome:**

Karen welcomed the Group, in particular Linda who is new to the group, and we all introduced ourselves. Will volunteered to chair the meeting and Karen took notes. Cllr Sutherland made a formal 'thank you' for the efforts of the group in all its achievements to date and said that Derrington - Way Ahead and Derrington Village Hall Committee have been mentioned at many council meetings and other meetings as an example of good practice and real achievement. Ray mentioned he is trying to encourage initiatives like ours in other Parish Councils. Rob asked if the new 'localisation' agenda might facilitate and provide funding for sustainable communities work such as this.

### **4 Notes of the last meeting held on Tues 19 October**

The notes were agreed as a correct record. Matters arising were all on the agenda.

### **5 Derrington - Village Hall - Swarm, cosy and solar powered**

Energy Measures: these have now been completed ie 3 new flat rooves, zoned heating and 24 solar panels. Funding and grant procedures have been complex but are nearly completed, with huge effort from Helen and Geoff Parry. Thank you letters have been sent to grant-funding bodies too.

A formal Launch Event will take place between 12 and 2pm on Wed Feb 16<sup>th</sup> (**Helen and Karen**).

Display Panels: these will be designed and produced in advance of the launch event. **Karen and Helen** are working with Havenkaye, the solar PV installers on design and content.

### **6 Update on recent, current and forthcoming activities**

**IT facilities at the Village Hall:** a survey was undertaken in October which sought people's opinions about providing IT facilities at the Village Hall (and a series of other environmental enhancements in the Village). The survey results (attached) were very positive. They suggested that a lot of people thought the project could bring benefit to lots of village residents especially those without current access to IT facilities. An extensive list of proposals for training and skills development was also collated through this survey. Subsequently, a bid was developed to submit to LEADER (the European pot of money that had contributed to some of the recent energy efficiency work). The bid progressed

through Stage 1, the Expression of Interest Stage, but unfortunately the bid was un-successful at the next stage, when it was presented to the Rural Panel, as some members of the panel had experience of village IT facilities that had not been well used. However since then we have been lucky to have Charlotte and Keith who live in the village and work in IT come forward to help progress this project and have been working hard to find funding and equipment. **Karen** is meeting **Charlotte** on Thursday 16 Dec.

**Community Bench Building:** Six events were held, including a moonlit evening session! There are benches on the Greenway, Millennium Green and in the Wood too. Thanks to Steve Archer from the County Council who has been so helpful and also to all of those who helped, it was hard work but fun!

**Film Season:** Three films were shown and each had around 12 attending. Thanks to Rob for co-ordinating these.

**Survey:** the survey was mentioned earlier, the response rate - 85 returned in ten days, was very good. Thanks to all of you who distributed and collected!

**Environmental Enhancements:** the survey asked people if they supported a range of suggested initiatives including a Village Trail, 'gateway features' at the entrances to the village, cycle parking stands and nest box building/installing. Again the results were very positive with strong support expressed. This bid was also submitted by Karen to LEADER and presented to the Rural Panel. It was well received and the Panel would like to see the project developed further and represented in the new year. These projects would aim to celebrate the community of Derrington, its unique history, its recent activities and successes. The initiative would build on the work of the Millennium Green project and the work of the history project group who created their interesting booklet in 2000. We hope to work closely with the community, collecting ideas, stories, memories, photos and seeking help in artwork and design and content for interpretation panels, and gateways, bringing together young and old. Various quotes and possible partners have been contacted. **All** ideas, help and comments welcome! Contact **Karen** please!

There was a discussion on possible sites for cycle stands and agreement that signage will help promote cycling and dispel the myth that it is a tough trek from Derrington to anywhere else by bike - it can take as little as 12 minutes to get to Stafford - faster than by car!

We have already been promised an award of £500 towards these projects from the Jo Barnes Fund, which is super. A bid to the SCC Local Community Fund (c/o Cllr Mark Winnington) was not successful this year as it has all been allocated.

**Brownies:** In November the Brownies had an evening that focused on trees; they talked about why trees are important and then potted on a number of trees that had been awarded to them by Sainsbury's, ready to grow a but bigger before

planting out in a year or two. The Brownies will also be nest box building on Monday 10 Jan, with help from Steve Archer, SCC.

## **Recycling and Waste Minimisation**

### **Nodes:**

Following a very good presentation and subsequent discussion with the two Mark's from Stafford BC, we have now talked to the Red Lion about the possibility of having a recycling 'node' placed there. This would enable much wider recycling especially of glass bottles. Confirmation from the owners is being awaited and in the meantime Karen has emailed Mark Street to let him know we hope to progress this. **Karen** to liaise with pub to check owner is in support and **Cllr Sutherland** also said he would follow this up at SBC.

**Junk Mail:** Linda is particularly keen to try to reduce junk mail, we all receive so much! We agreed that we should write an article in the next newsletter due out in January (we do these each 6 months) and make sure everyone is aware of the Mail Preference Service that does help cut down junk mail received. **Linda** agreed she would help write an article and liaise with Karen, thanks!

**Shoe Collection Point:** We shall promote this in the newsletter too.

Recycling Champions: Mark and Mark mentioned this new SBC initiative at the last meeting. We have a Derrington Recycling Champion, Jan Bray in Twemlow Close, who is able to answer recycling questions, contact [derrington.recycling@gmail.com](mailto:derrington.recycling@gmail.com) or tel 223962. **Karen will** contact her shortly.

## **7 SBC Green Awards**

Derrington was successful two times around at the Green Awards this year. Peter Hughes had submitted an application on behalf of St Matthew's and received a Commended Award for work to the roof and a range of community activities. The Way Ahead application, submitted by Will, received 3<sup>rd</sup> overall position. So well done everyone!

## **8 Promotion and Publicity**

**Web pages:** Paul McKenzie will be able to help in the new year. In the meantime **Karen** will ask if **Charlotte and Keith** can help with page transferring from the original host site to the new one.

**Village and Church Mag:** Article were put in the Dec/Jan edition on the Film Season and also giving a brief update on recent activities and Tips for a Greener Christmas. The next deadline for articles is Jan 20.

**Winter Newsletter:** we hope to produce this by the next meeting

## **9 AOB:**

**Solar Homes:** The idea of supporting several homes to install PV panels was discussed as Karen hopes to make a proposal for funding to provide a grant to promote this, perhaps involving 5 homes. Rob talked about a solar club in Marlow where the Transition Town Group has brought together 100 families

propose to install solar technology.

**Cooper Perry:** We are working with Havenkaye to submit a grant for funding towards solar PV at the school. This needs to be in on Friday!

**SBC** are also investigating solar PV on the main Civic Centre building and a report is being presented to Cabinet about this on December 21.

***Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1 Feb at 7.30pm at the Village Hall (a little later so we can go into the hall after the aerobics class)***



## **What do YOU think – Results of the Survey!**

Derrington is already a lovely village to live in. It has many assets, such as the Millennium Green and a really high quality Village Hall (which will soon be super energy efficient and as of October 28<sup>th</sup> boasts state of the art solar panels!).

The village has a strong 'community feel' and lots of active community groups and friendly people. Despite this, our village faces a number of challenges, for instance, lots of people may not have easy access to a computer.

As part of the Derrington – Way Ahead project, the low carbon community steering group hopes to bid for some funding to undertake some or all of the following projects:

1. Install computer facilities at the Village Hall and provide training courses (eg to use email or the internet eg to create spreadsheets etc)
2. Create a Village Trail, with interpretation panels, including details on our rural, industrial and transport history and heritage, plus enhance Gateway Entrances to village
3. Promote and support walking and cycling opportunities eg install cycle parking where useful
4. Enhance wildlife by putting up bird and bat boxes along the Greenway

To find out if people in the village supported these ideas, a Community Consultation survey was carried out in mid October 2010 and in just over a week 85 responses were received. These responses are summarised below:

### **1 Do you think that installing computer facilities at the Village Hall is a good idea?**

84 respondents responded with a 'YES' and one respondent indicated 'NO', indicating overwhelming support for this proposal.

Several respondents commented on their response sheets that they thought this was 'A very good Idea' and four stated that, though they were proficient themselves, they felt it would be extremely useful for others.

A lot of verbal support for the installation of computers has also been expressed directly to Derrington - Way Ahead' group members.

## **2 Would you be interested in computer training courses at the Village Hall?**

**How to Email:** 40 respondents said 'YES', 18 said 'NO' and 27 said 'MAYBE'.

**How to use the Internet:** 41 respondents said 'YES', 23 said 'NO' and 21 said 'MAYBE'.

**Publisher:** 28 respondents said 'YES', 27 said 'NO' and 30 said 'MAYBE'.

**Spreadsheets:** 35 people responded with a 'YES', 23 said 'NO' and 27 replied with 'MAYBE'.

**Other IT courses:** 29 said 'YES', 18 said 'NO' and 38 said 'MAYBE'.

Many people specified what kind of courses they might find useful, these included:

- Photos
- Storing and Deleting
- Downloading
- Photoshop
- Digital camera processing
- Basic computing
- Photo shop type applications
- Basic computing
- Photographs
- Better use of internet and email
- Graphics
- Digital photography
- Word
- Further internet
- Processes for digital photography
- Personal accounting
- Social networking
- File management
- Accounting
- Power Point
- Using webcams to communicate with family abroad
- Computer Club
- Digital photography to photograph wildlife
- Support for IT in the home would be great too eg when it doesn't work
- Internet Café – bringing older people together
- Skills for running a business
- Facebook

## **3 Do you think it is a good idea to create a Village Trail**

80 people supported the idea of a village trail. 3 did not like the idea and 2 did not know.

## **4 Do you support the idea of designing 'gateway entrances' to the Village to welcome people to our unique village (some ideas shown below).**

77 respondents said 'YES' they supported the idea and 5 said 'NO' with one respondent having

concerns that it might get vandalised. One person was supportive 'so long as they are not too big'. 3 were unsure.

**5 a) Do you think it is a good idea to promote walking and cycling in and around Derrington?**

81 respondents thought it was a good idea to promote cycling and walking around Derrington and 2 were not supportive and 2 were unsure.

One of the latter was concerned that the roads were not safe and that there were no footpaths.

**b) And to provide some cycle parking stands?**

68 respondents replied 'YES' to this question with one stating that it was 'a very good idea'. 10 respondents did not think it was a good idea to provide cycle stands (one suggesting that they 'could be targeted' and 5 were unsure whether they were necessary.

**6 Do you think it's a good idea to support wildlife and especially birds by putting up nesting boxes along the Greenway?**

80 respondents out of the 85 thought it was a good idea to put up nest boxes and 5 were not supportive.

Additional individual comments included:

We have enough already

We should also put more on the Millennium Green

They will need to be monitored and cleaned out

It would be nice to put them in gardens to

Plus bat boxes

**Finally, we had some additional requests and comments as follows:**

Can we have more dog poo bins

Can we have a Village Shop too

Don't forget wheelchair users too

A pavement on one side of Derrington Lane would be more useful – the roads into the village are hardly welcoming – mud and potholes!

More dog waste bins along the railway track to Haughton

The road from Newport is covered in mud and stones which is a danger to motorists esp as the lorries from Boons throw them up

Get the farmer to clear up and keep the roads clean - otherwise our signs should read 'Welcome to Derrington – we're sorry you got your car filthy and smashed your windscreen on the way in!'

We feel that these results indicate that there is strong support for the proposals put forward and we have also received ideas and views from people regarding other possible improvements/areas of work

Some recent feedback from SBC Recycling Officer following on from an email asking some recycling questions:

1 plastic bags, cellophane: does this include all types? Some specifically state that they are not (yet) recyclable; others are home compostable, but not everybody has a compost heap

We have been advised by Biffa, who collect the materials and operate the Materials Recovery Facility, that all types of plastic wrapping (including bags & cellophane) are recyclable and can be placed in the blue bin - this also includes items such as crisp bags & sweet wrappers.

2 foil - some types are not pure foil, e.g. some coffee packaging, sweet wrappers, foil gift paper. Can these be recycled?

Again we have been advised by Biffa that these materials are recyclable. The only exception here would be the wrapping paper - wrapping paper in any form is not generally recyclable due to the high dye content and embellishments such as glitter, bows etc. Unfortunately we would ask that wrapping paper either be reused or disposed of in the general waste bin. Greetings cards are not widely recyclable either for the same reason. However, around Christmas time an organisation called the Woodland Trust recycle old greetings cards with collection points in Tesco, WH Smiths & TK Maxx - we generally recommend that people keep their cards through the year and then recycle them all together when these bins are available.

3 I understand that brown envelopes and window envelopes can now be included. What about staples - should they be removed?

This is correct, all envelopes (apart from Jiffy bags) can now be recycled in the blue bin and there is no need to remove the window from the envelope. Staples should be left as these can be difficult to remove, the paper mills have a method to remove staples from the paper pulp so that they do not cause a contamination issue.

4 Can the pourers from Tetrapaks go with the plastics? What about foil-lined Tetrapaks?

Waxed drink/beverage cartons (eg Tetrapak) have only recently been able to be recycled as they are actually made up of approximately 5 materials. Because technology has now been developed that allows the separation of the various materials the cartons can be placed whole in the blue bin.

5 We wanted to recycle some old Lever Arch files recently and decided the cardboard could be recycled, but what about the metal bits?

We can only recycle metal food and drink cans at the kerbside so unfortunately the metal parts would not be suitable. However, there are metal skips at the Household Waste Recycling Centres at St Albans Road in Stafford and Beacon Road in Stone where they could be recycled.

Thanks for these questions and answers!