

**Notes of the Derrington - Way Ahead Annual General Meeting
Tues 18 October 2011 at 7.45pm at Derrington Village Hall**

1 Present:, Rob Hine, Karen Davies, Lindsey Williams, Maggie Overton, Will Sammons, Sheena Davis, Sue Challinor, Charlotte Udall, Alan Thomas, Rob Proctor.

2 Apologies: Helen Sammons, Cheryl Birks, Ray Sutherland.

3 Welcome: Sheena chaired the meeting – thanks! - and Karen took notes.

4 Notes and Actions of the last meeting (23 August)

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

5 Congratulations!

(a) Successful grant funding bid.

We have been awarded £22,000 from Leader Communities Mean Business grant fund. This will be used towards a project called 'Understanding, Celebrating and Strengthening our Local Community'. See agenda item (7a). There will be a report on the website about this soon (**Charlotte/Cheryl/Karen**).

(b) Future Friendly Awards

We were regional winners in this award and received £1000 prize money towards our project at an award ceremony at the London Wetland Centre in Barnes. Karen and Charlotte attended on behalf of the village. There will be a report on the website soon (**Charlotte/Karen**).

(c) Stafford Borough Council Green Awards 2011

We were the main winners of the Community and Wellbeing Category, awarded at the Presentation Ceremony on Thursday 20 October at the Gatehouse Theatre. Charlotte attended on behalf of the Group and received a framed certificate, a sapling and a £200 cheque. She also gave a powerpoint presentation on what we have done in the last 12 months. Derrington Brownies were Commended for their eco-activities and a group of Brownies plus Sue, Sam and Jack attended. There will be a report on the website (**Charlotte/Karen**).

(d) Green Apple Awards

We were notified earlier in the summer that we had been shortlisted for a Green Apple Award. This will be presented at the House of Commons on 14 November. SBC can cover the costs of three reps to attend **so Maggie, Sheena and Karen** will be attending on behalf of the project.

6 Derrington Village Hall:

(a) Energy Measures:

- The panels are working well but we are still awaiting full data on the system which has been delayed. Geoff has now been notified of a further delay of 60 days. The Real Time Display Panel is still not working. The group felt that waiting a further 60 days was unacceptable and agreed to offer help to the Village Hall Committee in getting these problems sorted out (**Karen and Charlotte** to follow up).
- Charlotte has bought a 'current cost meter' and several home energy monitors using monies donated by people who have benefited from help through the IT project. These will be available on loan to households, to continue flagging up consumption rates for different appliances and also to spot faults. A booking in/out system will be set up and also promoted on the website (**Charlotte**). **Karen** to include in the next newsletter.
- Charlotte has contacted 'Western Distribution' to seek to measure the village's electricity consumption, through the sub-station. They are keen to work with us and have some funding available. This could sit well with an 'Energy Day' to refocus attention on energy efficiency, fuel poverty etc and potentially get some Radflex radiator reflectors for distribution within the village (**Charlotte and Karen** to liaise).

(b) Using Greener Materials at the Village Hall:

This had been discussed at the Village Hall Committee, but the view was that they are not effective or affordable. The Group agreed to donate some 'Ecover' for trial use in the kitchen (**Karen**) and to write an article on 'greener cleaning materials' in the next newsletter (who would like to do this? Please liaise with **Karen**).

(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 (**Charlotte** to investigate where to get the best deal on cartridges) and **Karen** to replace the collection receptacle (**Karen**). A recycling node was installed over the summer, at the Red Lion, in the car park, and is well used. It is nearly full (**Karen** to notify SBC Waste Officers).

Whilst the Council cannot supply recycling facilities for businesses or commercial premises, we hope that the facility will be used to help extend recycling opportunities within the village.

Recycling of glass bottles and cans by the Social Club has now begun with the help of local volunteers and particular help from **Lyndsey**, to whom we are very grateful.

(d) Children's Art and Education Project

Children from All Saints, Ranton were involved in the Art Workshop with Rose the Art Teacher on 21 Sept. Children came to look at the solar panels and to learn about and discuss energy issues such as fossil fuels, CO2 emissions, climate change, impact on the polar regions and the ice sheets. Helen gave a 'tour' of the solar panels and Karen led a discussion on the issues – then they painted polar bears with Rose who had visited Antarctica this year. At the same time half the group built bird and bat boxes with Steve Archer from Staffordshire County Council (who has already helped us with the community bench building events). We ran this as part of a commitment to funders of the village hall energy measures – to undertake educational activities and to produce a display (the latter is to come **c/o Helen/Karen**).

(e) IT facilities 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 (most last Fridays of the month) and Peter Bray (each Wednesday morning). Help has been given to write emails, surf the net, help write CV's, use the printer. The IT drop in sessions/support are advertised on the website and on posters. We will include an article in the next newsletter (**Charlotte and Karen** to liaise).

7 Projects:

(a) Village Trail/gateway features/cycle parking:

The LEADER bid has been successful after a long time coming! Cheryl Birks is co-ordinating the project and a flier will be circulated throughout the village soon. A Community Consultation event will be held on Saturday 18 November. Please come along!!!! The gist of the project is to create a Village Trail, support walking and cycling opportunities, install cycle parking, design some features at the entrance to the village and build even more bat and bird boxes. Charlotte mentioned the possibility of linking the trail/interpretation panels to the website via a 3D bar code. We will follow this up.

(b) Local Food Festival:

This event took place on Saturday 17 September and feedback has been very good. The event was well attended and around 300 people participated, including more of our local producers and lots of young people from the village, including through the Brownies and through our local schools (All Saints Ranton had a stall and Cooper Perry sent veg they had been growing). Clive and Ruth Plant kindly judged the produce exhibits. Rob had arranged some very attractive prizes. The WI kindly provided superb refreshments again. Alan Merrick was once again our prominent auctioneer. For next year we will rethink the 'auction' as most people are unable to stay all day for the auction at the close of the event. Well done and thanks to everyone who helped with this event!

(c) Household Solar PV Discount Scheme: This proposal is now progressing and Stafford Borough Council and Sustainability Matters are working together to

establish a scheme along the lines of the scheme in Lichfield (Whittington and Fisherwick Environment Group). The benefits are a reduction in costs of a PV system in the region of 20-25%. We hope the Discount Scheme will enable more households to install solar PV. Watch this space! This will be launched on 24 November at the Gatehouse Theatre. Details to follow (**Karen/Rob**).

(NB the Government has just - 31 October - announced changes to the feed in tariff scheme in advance of changes due in April which may effect the solar industry nationally).

(d) Holiday Eco-Action!

The bat box and nest box building event on Monday 1 August was well attended and enjoyed by all. Around 15 children participated and each made a bat and bird box themselves, learning new skills and learning about bats through Karen's introductory talk (**Charlotte**, could you please add this to the website, thanks).

8 Promotion and Publicity: We are making use of lots of outlets and hope most of the village knows what's going on.

A Winter Newsletter is now due (**Karen**).

Webpages are regularly updated (**Charlotte**).

We need to do an article for the Magazine (**Karen** – sorry I missed the last one).

Fliers and posters now needed for the Village Trail Community Consultation event (**Cheryl**).

9 AOB:

* We submitted a bid to the Alstom Donations Panel to seek support towards purchase of Radiator Reflector kits, bearing in mind the approach of winter, but have not had a reply yet.

* We have been asked to give many talks etc to various audiences: Karen gave a talk in Burton on Sept 5 and East Staffs contributed £100 towards our project as a form of thanks.

* Karen will be talking to Haughton Village Hall Committee about the project on Mon 14 November in the evening.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6 December at 7.45pm at the Village Hall

Hope to see you at the Community Consultation Event Saturday 19 November!!! Details to follow.

