

**Notes of the Derrington - Way Ahead Annual General Meeting  
Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 7.45pm at Derrington Village Hall**

**1 Present:**, Rob Hine, Karen Davies, Lindsey Williams, Maggie Overton, Will Sammons, Sheena Davis

**2 Apologies:** Helen Sammons, Sue Challinor, Cheryl Birks, Ray Sutherland.

**3 Welcome:** Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting and undertook the role of chairperson/note taker for the meeting.

**4 Notes and Actions of the last meeting (June 7<sup>th</sup>)**

These were approved and most matters arising are on the agenda, apart from the following:

Charlotte had suggested we should acquire 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 was imminent and Sheena, Peter Hughes and Karen liaised to place the Way Ahead banners up for the event.

**5 Derrington Village Hall:**

**a) Energy Measures:**

The panels are working well but we are still awaiting full data on the system which is now expected in September. The Real Time Display Panel is still awaiting a part from Germany which David Hutchinson from Havenkaye is chasing (**Karen to meet Geoff** for an update and to progress).

**b) Using Greener Materials at the Village Hall:**

The group asked that **Cheryl and Geoff** raise this at the next Village Hall Committee Meeting and then feed back to the Derrington-Way Ahead group at the meeting on October 18th. 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.

**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.

A recycling node was installed over the summer, at the Red Lion, in the car park, and appears to be well used. 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.

**d) Children's Art and Education Project**

This will take place on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 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** 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. **Karen will ask Charlotte** for some figures for the next meeting.

## **6 Upcoming Projects:**

**a) Village Trail/gateway features/cycle parking:** The LEADER bid was presented to the Rural Panel by Karen and Cheryl in July. It was successful at this stage and now has to clear the final hurdle, the LAG, which meets in late September. **Karen and Cheryl** will attend.

**b) Recycling:** Covered above.

**c) Local Food Festival: This event will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September** 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. Local producers will attend, including several new participants.

Clive and Ruth Plant have agreed to judge the produce exhibits. Rob has managed to arrange some very attractive prizes. The WI have kindly taken on the refreshments again. There will be lots going on!

**Please come along and enjoy this event – any help on the day welcome!!!**

**d) 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. The benefits are a reduction in costs of a PV system in the region of up to 20%. We hope it will be available soon so as to benefit from the current Feed In Tariff rates which are expected to be reduced in April 2012. Two householders in Derrington have fitted Solar PV recently. We hope the Discount Scheme will enable more households to follow suit. Watch this space!

## **e) Holiday Eco-Action**

The bat box and nest box building event on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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. The environmental drama workshop due to be held on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> September may become a Brownies event, as many people seem to be away this weekend, and if this happened may be incorporated in the Food Festival.

**7 Promotion and Publicity:** We are making use of lots of outlets and hope most

of the village knows what's going on, especially through the Summer Newsletter and via the webpages. We need to do lots of promotion for the Food Festival. An article has already been submitted to the Magazine. Fliers and posters now needed **Rob/Karen.**

### **8 AOB:**

\* The project has won a Green Apple Award! This will be presented at the House of Commons on November 14<sup>th</sup>. SBC can cover the costs of two reps to attend. Maggie and Sheena both expressed an interest and the group was pleased to ask them to go on its behalf. Karen will arrange tickets/travel etc..

\* Karen had put our project forward in the 'Future Friendly Awards' for sustainable projects. We have been shortlisted and now people are asked to vote to support their favourite project! With help from Charlotte seem to have got lots of votes. We will know the results soon!

\* Our project has also been chosen as a Case Study of good practice by Sustainability West Midlands and a summary is now on their website at: <http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/awards/>

\* We have submitted a bid to the Alstom Donations Panel to seek support towards purchase of Radiator Reflector kits, bearing in mind the approach of winter.

\* Copies of Newsleaf were circulated (Stafford Borough Council's sustainable development newsletter) which is mainly distributed electronically, supported by hard copies. Let Karen know if you need a hard copy!).

\* We have been asked to give talks etc to various audiences: Norton Canes Partnership Meeting, Bradley Village Hall, Sustainable Development Officers Network Meeting in Birmingham and there is one to come in Burton (Sept 5<sup>th</sup>).

\* SBC has now got a roof-full of solar panels! Karen circulated photos.

***Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.45pm at the Village Hall  
(so we can go into the hall after the aerobics class)***

***Hope to see you at the Food Festival, Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sept!***

