

# Derrington - Way Ahead!

Summer 2010: News Update



Derrington  
Way Ahead

Stafford Borough's First Low Carbon Community

## ∞ Derrington 2010 Local Food Festival ∞

**Saturday 11 September - Derrington Village Hall, 11.00 am til 3.00 pm**

Admission FREE!! Refreshments available all day!

Celebrate local producers - Pick up new gardening tips - Meet friends old and new  
See what's new this year, alongside the best from last year's ground-breaking event:

- Local Produce Show and Grand Auction in aid of the Village Hall
- Prizes for winning entries – show your produce at its best
- Superb homemade food from members of Derrington WI
- Fairtrade tasting – sample the delights of Fairtrade produce
- Poultry keeping – quiz poultry expert Tony Warner, and see real live hens in action!
- Basket weaving – have a go with the Riverwoods specialists
- Watering your garden – making more of rainwater
- Gardening in a changing climate – advice from Joyce Bullock of Insight Design about adapting to climate change
- Plus lots more!!

See the Way Ahead pages on the Derrington Village Hall website for updates:  
[http://www.derringtonvillagehall.btik.com/p\\_Campaign.ikml](http://www.derringtonvillagehall.btik.com/p_Campaign.ikml)



## So far, so good!

Since the project began about 18 months ago, Derrington residents have been very proactive in their support for the Way Ahead low-carbon project.

Outstanding achievements include:

- Launch Event in May 2009 attracted about 200 people
- Beat the Cold carried out 54 home energy visits, helping households save energy and money
- Local Food Festival in September 2009 attended by about 300 people
- 40 households planted an apple tree, plus two residents planted a further 60 fruit trees
- 15 trees planted to create an orchard at Cooper Perry Primary School
- 'Climate Change' film season drew 60 or so people

Besides these, a wide range of practical actions have been

undertaken by individuals such as swapping to low-energy light bulbs, walking and cycling more, eating more local food, using the cycle track, growing veg, installing a new boiler, installing a water meter, using an energy monitor, placing a water saver in the cistern, turning down the thermostat, putting up a solar panel, recycling more and reducing energy use overall.

## Evaluation survey results

In our evaluation survey:

**75%** of respondents considered that the initiative had helped the environment

**87%** thought the project has helped them personally; **60%** were aware of the Way Ahead webpages

**44%** had changed their travel habits with **67%** of people either using the car less, using public transport more, or walking or cycling more

**49%** had started growing their own food or buying local food as a result of this project and

**47%** believed they had reduced their energy consumption.

The full evaluation report will be on the Village Hall (Way Ahead) webpages shortly.

# Current and forthcoming activities and events in Derrington!

## Benches on the Greenway!

Helen Sammons and Karen Davies recently walked along The Greenway with an officer from the County Council's Countryside Unit. Around ten simple, rustic style benches will be installed along this stretch to help encourage people to enjoy short walks along the Greenway, knowing they will be able to have a sit down and take a rest during their walk/cycle, etc. We hope to arrange a 'community bench-making day' in the near future – date to be circulated shortly!

## Shoe Recycling Facilities – coming soon!

A shoe bank will soon be placed in the Village Hall Car Park, for shoes of any shape, size or condition! Shoes that can be re-worn will go to Africa; others will be shredded and recycled for use in new clothing. Funds raised benefit the Variety Club, which raises funds for sick, disabled and disadvantaged children. Look out for its arrival date on the Village Hall Notice Board!

## Village Hall Energy Measures!

Lots of changes have already been made to the village hall to improve energy efficiency in order to cut bills, and reduce carbon emissions. Future proposals include zoned heating, re-roofing flat roof areas and installing solar photo-voltaic panels. The latter will really help the Village Hall in the long term because it will be able to receive an income for generating renewable energy through the new Feed-In Tariff. Technical issues and funding for these measures are currently being examined.



## A sustainable community is a healthy community!

### Led Health Walks – come and join us!



Walks take place every Wednesday – meet us at St Matthew's Church at 2pm.

The Wednesday Walks are aimed at people who want to begin exercise, improve their health and have a chat – offering an opportunity to explore the local environment on the edge of the village and a little further afield. They are led by trained Volunteer Walk Leaders who adapt the route according to the group's abilities.

Why not join us? For more information, contact:

Kim on Stafford 619686, or email: [ksquires@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:ksquires@staffordbc.gov.uk) or just turn up!

### Why walk more?

- ◆ walking briskly for one mile burns up 100 kcal.
- ◆ regular walking helps reduce the risk of heart problems by 50% and stroke by a third.
- ◆ improves muscle strength, bone density and reduces the risk of falls and osteoporosis
- ◆ regular walking helps to reduce stress, anxiety and depression.

### Healthy Heart Club – Wednesdays at 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

The club is for those who wish to maintain a reasonable level of fitness, mobility and muscle tone appropriate to your age, without going to a gym. Participants take simple exercises conducted to music, sitting down about half the time. Although aimed at the over 60's and the less able the club is open to all. No special clothing is required for this enjoyable and social event!

### Want to help?

Interested in helping to make Derrington a low-carbon community? Contact Karen Davies at 2 Mount Pleasant, Derrington, phone: 07967 328586 or e-mail [kdavies@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:kdavies@staffordbc.gov.uk)



Derrington - Way Ahead! is supported by Stafford Borough Council as part of its programme to tackle climate change and improve quality of life for present and future generations through sustainable development. It is funded through 'Learning to Deliver' and from the Staffordshire Aggregates Levy Grant Scheme, to whom we are grateful for support. [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/ sd](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/)