



Welcome to the Sustainable and Healthy Communities News Leaf. This new publication is a summary of some of the recent work of Stafford Borough Council's Sustainable and Healthy Communities team and a look forward at what will be going on in the coming months too. More details about our projects, other initiatives and wider sustainability issues can be found in Sundial, our full newsletter and via our website, www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd.

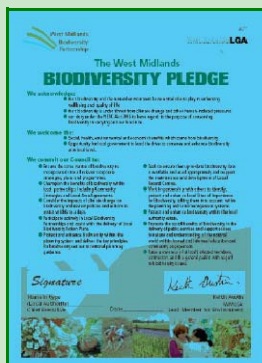
A NEW IDENTITY - SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Agenda 21 was born in 1992 when world leaders signed up to a treaty agreeing to make 'a plan for the 21st century to achieve sustainable development'. It grew into a multitude of grass-roots projects in the UK and around the world - Local Agenda 21 (LA21). Stafford Borough has been a particular hotbed of activity and the Council's LA21 programme has been recognised nationally for its many successful initiatives. Now LA21 has matured the term is less frequently used hence our LA21 work has been reborn as Stafford Borough Council's Sustainable and Healthy Communities programme. Our new identity reflects a greater strategic focus whilst ensuring that community led sustainable development initiatives are at the heart of our work. It also emphasises the importance of health within a sustainable community and the health promotion aspects of much of the team's work. We now have a new web address, www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd, and a new e-mail, sd@staffordbc.gov.uk but remain on our original phone number 01785 619408.

A PLEDGE FOR BIODIVERSITY

On 9 July Stafford Borough Council became one of the first authorities to sign the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge. The Council has always had a forward thinking approach to Biodiversity and by signing this pledge it is making a long-term commitment in line with recent legislation that places a duty on public authorities to restore and enhance biodiversity. It also supports the new National Indicator (NI 197) on 'Improved Local Biodiversity', which is one of the 35 indicators that the Audit Commission will use to measure the Council's performance. As part of the Council's ongoing commitment to these principles the Biodiversity Officer and the Sustainable and Healthy Communities team have worked hard to establish an effective biodiversity programme. One element of this has been to work with local communities to set up and manage Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) across the Borough.



For more on any stories in News Leaf and all our other projects please visit

A FUND FOR FERNDOWN



Stafford Borough's newest Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Ferndown near Clayton, has been awarded nearly £10,000 to help improve the reserve. This fantastic grant has been awarded to the Friends of Ferndown LNR, a group of local residents who work in partnership with the Biodiversity Officer to look after the site, by the Breathing Spaces fund, part of the National Lottery. This money will go into improvements to the reserve including the creation of wildflower meadows. Details of all our LNRs are available on-line.

NEW LED HEALTH WALK SCHEMES

New local led Health Walks are cropping up all over. For instance a new scheme has been established from The Amasal Centre on St Alban's Road with a monthly Health Walk on Thursdays. It is run in conjunction with Age Concern and is aimed at the over fifties as part of the Active Ageing Centre. The walks, which began on 26th June, are led by trained Volunteer Walk Leaders and have been enjoyed by all who have taken part.

Along with the new Health Walks new Volunteer Walk Leaders are also being trained with 15 joining the programme in October - making a grand total of 135 altogether!. A list of all led Health Walks in the Borough can be found on our webspace and in the regular Walkwise leaflet.



THE REGENERATION TEAM CARBON FOOTPRINT

The Regeneration team at Stafford Borough Council recently calculated their individual carbon footprints. With the national average for each individual being 10.2 tonnes, the team's average was 15.01 tonnes - a bit higher! The calculation used takes into account things like light bulbs, electricity usage and distance travelled to work. Some of the footprints were as low as 9.5 tonnes and some as high as 26 tonnes!!

Viki Ashcroft from the Regeneration team, said 'It was a good exercise to get the team thinking about their consumption, encouraging them to change their light bulbs to energy saving ones, and making sure they turn off their appliances – not just leave them on standby. One of the team has even sacrificed one of his gas-guzzling trucks and now car shares with his mother! We are aiming to reduce the average of the team to between 10 – 13 tonnes by this time next year'. Another member of the team said 'It was a real eye opener that I was increasing my carbon footprint by leaving my equipment on stand-by. I will certainly be turning off my TV properly from now on - it will save me a bit of money and reduce my carbon footprint too!'

Find out your carbon footprint with the Act On CO2 calculator at <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk> or visit Our Climate, Our County, Our Choice, www.staffsoc3.org.uk and Stafford Save Your Energy, www.staffordarea.saveyourenergy.org.uk/ for local help to cut your carbon emissions.

SO what's happened to Sundial? Sundial, the Sustainability Newsletter for Stafford Borough, will continue with 2 editions each year. News Leaf will update you with our latest news and events at intervals in between. For all the latest on all we do visit www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd

ONE WORLD WEEK - THE JAMBOREE



This year's One World Week will be held from 19 to 26 October and to get things underway in the Borough there will be a One World Jamboree with food and music from around the world on Saturday 18 October. The fun and friendly event will be held at Church Lane Evangelical Hall (opposite the Soup Kitchen) between 10 and 3. So come along and try a real Burmese meal, get a henna tattoo, play our Passport game or just sit back with a Fairtrade cuppa and listen to local musicians entertain you with sounds from across the globe to right here at home. You can download a poster from our webpage.

One World Week is an annual opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together to learn about global justice, spread that learning and use it to take action for justice locally and globally. Anyone can join in with their own ideas and events and it is a great way to involve schools, congregations and community groups in cross cultural festivities. For more information visit www.oneworldweek.org and if you are holding an event please let us know.

GREEN AWARDS 2008

The winners of this year's Stafford Borough Council Green Awards will be announced at a civic reception on 23 October. The prestige event will see TV's Penney Poyzer congratulating all the applicants and inspiring the audience to continue their green ways. Prizes and certificates will be presented by the Mayor of Stafford, Cllr. Mrs Ann Edgeller.



The 2008 Green Awards has been the most successful ever with 38 organisations entering their green schemes. Top prizes will be awarded for the best application in each of four categories: Business, Youth and Education, Community and Sustainable Tourism and the winners will receive hand carved wooden plaques and funding for sustainability schemes. The competition is fierce so if you want to enter in 2009 and would like some hints have a look at all the winners and some of their projects in our webpage soon after the results are announced.

CYCLING FOR HEALTH

A new pilot project is being set up to encourage people to use their bicycles to get healthier. Stafford has a good network of cycle routes and quiet roads that are ideal for cycling. The pilot Cycling for Health project will make use of these to facilitate people who are recovering from health difficulties or wanting to get fitter to ride their way back to health.

The project will be launched with a Family Cycling Day on Sunday 16 November at Back-2-Bikes (Greyfriars Retail Estate). An initial 10 week progressive programme of training and rides will be offered to a group of volunteers in the Autumn. Kim Squires, our Walking for Health Co-ordinator, has taken on the task of setting up the project after the SHC team made a successful bid to the Locality Health Bank to fund the part-time post. There's lots more cycling stuff on our webpage too!





Whats On

OCTOBER 2008

Tuesday 14th 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Stafford Green Drinks

Vine Hotel, Stafford

Thursday 16th 5:30pm

Volunteer Walk Leader Training

Walton Room, SBC

Saturday 18th 10am - 3pm

Stafford One World Jamboree

Church Lane Evangelical Hall

Sunday 19th 10am

Stafford Cycle Route Volunteers

TBA

Thursday 23rd 7:30pm

Green Awards 2008 Presentation Evening

Civic Suite, SBC

Sunday 26th 10am - 1pm

Ferndown Work Party

Ferndown LNR, nr Clayton

NOVEMBER 2008

Monday 3rd 1:30pm

Back-2-Bikes Steering Group Meeting

SDVS

Tuesday 4th 10:15am

Biodiversity Strategy Steering Group Meeting, SBC

Tuesday 5th 7:30pm

Sustainability Matters Meeting

County Staff Club

Tuesday 11th 2:00pm

Cycling Working Group Meeting

Chetwynd Room, SBC

Sunday 16th

Cycling for Health Launch

Family Cycle Day

Back-2-Bikes, Greyfriars Retail Estate

Wednesday 19th 6:15pm

Volunteer Walk Leaders Meeting

Chetwynd Room, SBC

Sunday 30th 10am-1pm

Ferndown Work Party - Hedge planting

Ferndown LNR, nr Clayton

DECEMBER 2008

Thursday 4th 10am

Walking Working Group Meeting

Chetwynd Room, SBC

Thursday 4th 3:15

Eco-Schools Network Meeting

Weston Rd High School

Visit our webspace, www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd, for an up-to-date What's On list, details of local sustainability groups, information on all our projects, an explanation and history of sustainable development, useful resources and links, back issues of Sundial and full contact details for the Sustainable and Healthy Communities Team.

Stone

Farmers' Market

1st Saturday every month

9:30am - 4:00pm

Market Square, Stone

Stafford

Farmers' Market

2nd Saturday every month

9:30am - 4:00pm

Market Square, Stafford

Eccleshall

Farmers' Market

4th Saturday every month

10:00am - 2:00pm

Royal Oak, Eccleshall

Tixall Local Produce Sales 1st Saturday every month 10am - 2pm Tixall and Ingestre Village Hall