

'We Love Littleworth'

'We love Littleworth' aims to bring people together to support community and environmental initiatives in the Littleworth area.

The initiative is part of the Council's wider work to 'Promote environmental quality' and to 'Reduce our carbon footprint and encourage our residents to be more environmentally aware'. Working with a range of partners and in particular Sustainability Matters we ultimately hope to improve environmental quality and promote more sustainable lifestyles in the area through positive collaborative action.

Starting around 18 months ago, activities so far have involved energy related projects, new cycle parking, wildlife conservation, litter picking and much more!

Here's a summary:-

Six community centre energy audits have been carried out to help cut energy bills and save money (St John's Church, Littleworth Community Centre, Littleworth Guide Hut, Perkins Sports and Social Club and the Sea Cadets HQ on Riverway, plus NVS hair studios). These have led to practical action such as installing a new boiler, fitting wall-heaters, upgrading radiators and lighting systems, fitting security lights and replacing draughty doors - and installing a new notice board at the church.

At Littleworth Community Centre, a new boiler was installed over Easter 2015, making the community centre 'noticeably warmer'. It is already reducing energy bills and thus running costs. At other centres quotations for measures are being sought and additional resources and grant being applied for.

At the Guide Hut, four Dimplex wall heaters have been fitted in the main hall plus a further two in the kitchen. The main entrance doors have been upgraded and once they have had time to settle draft proofing will be added. Security lighting has been improved as well as the access area to the front of the building, following a bid to the People's Power Fund held by the Police Commissioner Cllr Matthew Ellis. Guide leaders commented:-

'Thanks very much for your support. The new heaters heat up so quickly - it's amazing - and they'll make a lot of difference to our bills'

'It's especially beneficial for the younger children'

'We used to have to wear our thermals to go into the kitchen!'

Other work has focussed on promoting cycling through installing cycle parking. So far new cycle parking has been installed at Weston Road Academy, Littleworth Community Centre and Perkins Sports and Social Club. This complements the new cycle shelter which was installed at the Riverway Nursery a couple of years ago and the Public Bike Pump at Stafford Leisure Centre, put in last year.

We have a list of proposed sites for additional cycle parking in the area including:-

Sea Cadets HQ, Veritas Primary School, St Johns Church and Guide Hut, Salvation Army Centre, Shops on the Weston Road, The White Eagle Club on Riverway, plus

other locations to be firmed up/investigated.

Wildlife conservation and plans to create new wildlife habitats are also underway, working with local primary and high schools. Weston Road Academy are underway with work including: planting new wildlife hedgerows, creating wildflower meadows, designing willow sculptures, promoting bee conservation and erecting Bee Nesters. They continue to grow vegetables in the raised beds and keep hens too.

This complements further work around recycling (schools assemblies and auditing recycling procedures) and participation in the Festival of Refashioning and Repair (see later).

As part of We Love Littleworth support and advice was given to Weston Road Academy regarding the Tesco 'bags of help' grant scheme which aims to improve green spaces in communities. School was one of three successful local projects to receive an award - and following a vote 'in store' the WRA project to create an eco-classroom and eco-garden was selected to receive the top award of £12000! The project will take place over the coming year.

Veritas Primary Academy are taking up the eco-schools challenge enthusiastically! School was invited to join the [Stafford Borough Eco-Schools Network](#) and following a productive meeting recently to learn more about it, have already planted some 'Grow Wild' wildflower kits provided by Karen (and sourced from the Kew Gardens scheme) and made some bee nesters. Veritas are also hosting Elliott the Eco-Bat, the Eco-Schools Network mascot and currently filling in his illustrated diary!

Conservation projects in and near Littleworth include work on Kingston Pool Covert (South) LNR and Kingsmead LNR and within Perkins Engines grounds.

Working with Perkin's Engines, we are supporting Perkin's Eco-Awards again and will help judge the ten school applications in June. Perkins will also be attending the Festival of Refashioning and Repair running a workshop making Hedgehog Boxes and Nest Boxes from recycled wood - helping to promote wildlife conservation and recycling/re-use!

In the last few months we've also arranged presentations, talks, quizzes and display stands. For instance in September/October 2015 displays were put up in Perkins Canteen Area and following on, in the Sports and Social Club. There were opportunities to talk face to face with employees during the 'Eat and Meet' sessions and between shifts. A 'Perkins Eco Quiz' was compiled and attracted lots of interest. A similar display was put up in Littleworth Community Centre and a presentation given to the Committee.

An well attended litter pick was held in April to mark the Clean for the Queen campaign.

The viability of an 'allotment project' has been investigated by SBC Health Team and SARH via a drop-in session on Wednesday 17 June 2015 5-7pm at St John's Church.

Literature and publicity materials have been provided to Café Connect and elsewhere and a 'We Love Littleworth' page has been created within the Council's [Sustainability webpages](#)

Specific case studies of community centre and energy improvements have been written up on the Stafford Area [Save Your Energy website](#)

Items are regularly included in Newsleaf, the Council's sustainability newsletter.

We supported the NHS Sustainability Day at County Hospital on 23 March 2016 and are working with the hospital to support their Sustainability Action Plan.

In Dec 2015 Sustainability Matters, SBC and SCC we were successful in obtaining grant funding to plan and hold a 'Festival of Repair and Refashioning' at St John's Church on Saturday 2 July. This is a focus of current attention and aims to be a 'showcase for sharing skills and knowledge among our community'

Why do we throw away so much useful stuff?

Give things a new lease of life with a bit of inspiration!

Get tips on how to mend, fix, repair and refurbish - from sewing on a button to re-varnishing a table

Learn the techniques of upcycling - how to transform everyday materials into new and useful objects

Become part of the refashion movement

Reduce waste and help our environment

This festival has stirred lots of interest and lots of organisations are keen to get involved!

Working with local organisations, including schools, businesses and the hospital, there's much more in the pipeline! We'd love you to get involved!

To find out how you can get involved contact:

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