

## **Test Valley Environment Action Group Meeting**

at Council Offices, Romsey on

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009

at 5.30pm

### **MINUTES**

#### **Present:**

Karen Eastley (TVBC)  
Steve Lees (TVBC)  
Councillor Peter Boulton  
Kim Candler (TVEI)  
Roz Fresson (TTR)  
Anton Page (TTR / Test Valley FOE)  
Carol Bartholomew (TTA / Test Valley FOE)  
Wendy Davis (TTA)  
Rebecca Chivers (EA)  
Robert Page (Romsey and District Society Natural Environment Committee)

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Len Gates, Sandra Hawke, Kevin Harrington and Carolyn Nixon.

#### **2. Notes of Last Meeting (10<sup>th</sup> September 2009)**

No comments to report.

#### **3. National Indicator (NI) 188: Adapting to Climate Change**

Test Valley Borough Council has been undertaking a risk assessment of how the delivery of its services is likely to be impacted by the predicted effects of climate change; the findings of this work will be used to create an action plan. The Borough Council would encourage other organisations to consider the risks they are vulnerable to – through Hampshire County Council a number of organisations (including the PCT, Police, Fire Service, Highways Agency) are considering the vulnerabilities to their services within Hampshire. Through the LSP there may be an opportunity to consider the general vulnerabilities within Test Valley. Risks that would need further consideration were noted to include impacts on agriculture, pressure on water resources, spread of diseases, high levels of in-migration, impacts on the landscape and biodiversity. It was highlighted that there was a need to raise awareness, including with other LSP Action Groups, of the risks.

Councillor Peter Boulton requested that the Environment Agency be contacted in relation to flood risk, particularly in relation to Romsey's vulnerability to flood risk, ideally with a speaker attending a future meeting to discuss this matter.

Queries were raised about how the general public would know that permitted development rights had been removed in relation to paving front gardens with impermeable. It was requested that KE find out more about how awareness was raised on this matter.

There were queries about the availability of information on the Council's website about sustainability and what is being done within Test Valley. There were also difficulties in finding information on the website – it was requested that a link be provided on the homepage to sustainability information. KE will investigate this. It was also noted that the Test Valley

Partnership website is being updated, so additional information could be provided on this website in the future.

**Action:** KE to contact the Environment Agency about flood risk in Romsey and the potential for some one to speak to the group on this topic.

**Action:** KE to speak to the Development Control team about awareness on revised permitted development rights on laying impermeable surfaces in front gardens.

**Action:** KE to provide link to NI 186 (per capita carbon dioxide emissions for the local authority area) figures from the LSP website and provide a list of all the National Indicators on the LSP website ([www.yourtestvalley.com](http://www.yourtestvalley.com)).

*Note following meeting:* A summary of the Test and Itchen Catchment Flood Management Plan is now available on the Environment Agency's website at: <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GESO1008BOWC-e-e.pdf>. In relation to Romsey, this document notes that there are currently 1,287 properties at risk of impact in a 1% annual probability flood event and this is likely to increase to 1,368 properties by 2100.

#### **4. LSP Environment Action Plan**

A broad template of an Action Plan was presented at the meeting to enable discussion for the preparation of a draft document. There is a need to identify specific actions that the group can focus on delivering over the coming year – this could include identifying projects that partners are already planning. Concern was raised that biodiversity was missing from the document, potentially draw actions from the Biodiversity Action Plan. A definition of sustainability needs to be provided – it was put forward that the Brundtland definition be used. There will need to be consideration of how the Action Plan is monitored. It was highlighted that information on what businesses are doing in terms of sustainability would be useful.

**Action:** All partners to pass any comments on the Action Plan to KE.

#### **5. Update from Partners on current projects**

Partners provided updates on their latest projects, which are summarised below:

##### **TVEI**

A number of the villages in the Borough are looking to set up Greening Campaigns or similar schemes, with the expectation of awareness raising in spring, with local projects to follow.

##### **TTR**

The group are looking for (cheap or free) venues to screen films (e.g. Age of Stupid) on a bi-monthly basis. A transport group has been started. An Orchard Day has been held by the Food Group and there will be an event at Dukes Mill by the Art Group. Looking into the feasibility of a green fair – Kim Candler will provide details of those who had stalls at TVEI meetings.

##### **TTA**

Andover Green Community work has commenced however there are currently technical faults with the Energy Saving Trust website which is preventing baseline information being obtained. The Food Group is looking at the potential of a community orchard. Aiming to work with Andover Vision and continue working with schools. Encourage others to use the Sustainable Schools 2020 framework. The work of the Earth Restoration Service was noted (<http://www.earthrestorationservice.org/>), including at Portway Junior School.

Romsey and District Society Natural Environment Group

Undertaking a project in relation to the 43 SINCs within Romsey and Romsey Extra to understand the management arrangements in place and promote positive management – this will include visiting landowners.

Councillor Boulton

Most of the local farmers are in stewardship schemes, however, some of these are starting to come to an end, so looking at what next. The whole farm approach is being focused on, involving a range of partners.

Test Valley Borough Council

The Council is making progress in line with the Sustainability Strategy and Carbon Management Plan; projects have included server virtualisation and voltage reduction in the Chantry Centre car park. The Council is also working with the Energy Saving Trust through their One to One Programme. Undertaking monitoring of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Travel Plan seems to be working well. Review of the first year of the River Anton Enhancement Strategy was held in Andover in October. There have been a variety of tree planting schemes within the Borough, including 600 trees at Rooksbury Mill. The entire site of Valley Park Woodlands has now been declared as a Local Nature Reserve.

## **6. AOB**

Nothing noted.

## **7. Date of Future Meetings**

The next meeting is due to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the Beech Hurst Council Offices, Andover.