

Test Valley Environment Action Group Meeting

at Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey on

Tuesday 16th June 2009

at 5.30pm

MINUTES

Present:

Steve Lees (Chair)
Karen Eastley
Councillor Peter Boulton
Carol Bartholomew
Anton Page
Bob Page

1. Welcome and Apologies

Steve Lees welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies were received from Christine Cole, Rachel Moroney and Mags Todd.

2. Where Next for the Group

The content of the "Where Next for the Group?" paper was discussed. Given the attendance level at this meeting it would be appropriate to discuss this item further at a later date. Any comments can be sent to Karen Eastley (contact details below).

There was discussion about the approach the group should take, such as trying to raise awareness, encourage small steps / changes initially and focusing on broader issues / practical application. It was suggested that there may be merit in focusing on specific matters at meetings to try and encourage partners with a specialist interest to attend. Aside from the Chair of the group, attendance to the meetings would be flexible.

It was suggested that a longer session is arranged where all partners are invited to attend to share information on what they do, etc this could include commercial representatives. The Council may be able to provide the resources to organise an event of this nature.

There was general support for the approach outlined in the paper.

In terms of work on the JAF, it has been suggested that a workshop is held in September for the Environment JAF. JAF12 is quite broadly defined so there may be scope for a number of matters to be covered.

Anton Page suggested that a presentation could be made to the EAG and to all the Test Valley Councillors about Transition Towns – this could cover the Romsey and Andover Transition Towns.

3. National Indicators

There are a range of National Indicators (NIs) relevant to the 'Environment' theme of the Community Plan. A summary of the key indicators was distributed and discussed at the meeting. NI 185 links with the Council's Carbon Management Plan. NI 186 relates to the carbon dioxide emissions of the whole Borough – the data for this is provided by DEFRA.

For NI 188 the Council needs to prepare an adaptation plan, this is likely to focus on the main vulnerabilities within Test Valley, namely too much water and not enough water.

Friends of the Earth highlighted that through the Transition Towns there is a need to see what impact is being made, therefore there will need to be monitoring of the existing situation and changes over time. The Council may be able to help in identifying what information is available and what would have to be collected by Transition Towns.

ACTION: KE to work with Transition Towns groups / Friends of the Earth to help identify existing sources of data.

4. Notes of Last Meeting

In relation to item 5, it was noted that the Carbon Management Plan (CMP) and Sustainability Strategy were adopted by the Council in March. Progress is being made on the identified projects within the CMP, projects have been completed that were estimated to result in a saving of 111 tonnes of CO₂ and projects are underway that relate to an estimated saving of 619 tonnes of CO₂. The savings required for a 20% reduction would be 1322 tonnes of CO₂.

Although not referred to in the notes of the last meeting, it was highlighted that sustainability is now a standing item on the Council's Senior Management Team meeting and will form part of the staff induction process.

5. Chairing of the Group

Steve Lees is happy to provide a lead for the group until a new chair is in place. Those attending agreed that until the group establishes itself it is not appropriate to elect a Chair. It was noted that a Chair would also become a member of the LSP Board.

6. AOB

Romsey Transition Town is hoping to organise a Green Fair this autumn (October / November) and are considering holding it in Crosfield Hall. It was intended that this would involve a range of stalls for environmental groups and companies selling sustainable products. A request for any funding from the Council was made. Councillor Boulton undertook to see what support the Council could offer.

ACTION: KE to investigate the availability of Crosfield Hall and the charges.

7. Date of Future Meetings

As noted on the agenda, the next meeting will be on the 10th September at Beech Hurst in Andover. If there are any suggestions for the agenda for the meeting please contact Karen Eastley (01794 527815 / keastley@testvalley.gov.uk). It is intended that at least one speaker will be at the meeting.