

Coventry Partnership Environment Theme Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 7th February 2008

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:

Claire Cunniffe	Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
Jacqueline Jones	West Midlands Fire Service
Phil Jones	Community Empowerment Network
Bob Keith	Groundwork Coventry and Warwickshire (Chair)
Mike Murray	CCC Planning and Transportation
June Morley	Coventry Partnership Secretariat
Chris Thomas	CCC Sustainable Cities Team
Andy Vaughan	CCC Street Services and Public Protection
Eleanor House	NDC
Mark Yates	NDC
David Hudson	Environment Agency
Eric Shakespeare	Community Empowerment Network

Apologies:

Ann Oliver	CCC Environmental Protection
Jackie Fox	Neighbourhood Management
Jamie Whitehouse	CCC Parks Development

Item	Issue	Discussion	Action
1	Minutes of the last meeting & Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to Jane Malbasa and Alison Orr's visit to the group on 6th December, Bob Keith has attended a Learning, Skills and Employment Theme Group Meeting (LSE) representing the Environment Theme Group. Discussions were around the links between creating a positive environment and reductions in unemployment and deprivation and evidence linking improvements in the environment to creation of new jobs with business being attracted to areas. The LSE group agree that Climate Change was an important issue and that they would look at how the training agenda can be influenced to make Coventry a market leader in this area. • Midland Heart have not yet been invited, but the group are still keen to have a presentation of the eco-homes project at Whitley. 	June to invite them to the next meeting

	<p>Canley Masterplanning Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a positive view that climate change and the environment are important to Coventry and this is demonstrated in the number of indicators being negotiated around these subjects. • It was noted that this process must be accomplished quicker than originally anticipated owing to the forthcoming local elections. • Links to indicators in other areas (e.g. Housing) were also noted. • The recent aerial thermal imaging data was discussed as a means of identifying properties where there is excess heat loss. • Mark Yates was interested in viewing this data <p>Not available</p> <p>Eric Shakespeare updated the group on the success of the Eco school in Stoke Aldermoor and the positive effect it is having on the environment with people taking a pride in it. Eric noted that the old part of the school is now being used by the local community.</p>	<p>June to let Mark Yates know who holds the data.</p>
	<p>NDC</p>	<p>Eleanor House and Mark Yates updated the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEHM (Wood End, Henley Green and Manor Farm) is having a complete overhaul which will include environmental improvements. • Ellie demonstrated several minor landscaping projects that will be completed (in conjunction with local developers to ensure sustainability). Work is due to start in over the coming weeks. • It was confirmed that NDC have worked in conjunction with the Police and local partners to design out crime. • Ellie confirmed that species surveys had been done • NDC ends in 3 years – Successor body is to be Moat House Charitable Trust. MHCT have appointed directors (from residents and professionals) and will work alongside the current team to ensure continuity. • There have been a series of MUGA's (multi-use games areas) and informal football pitches created to satisfy local demand for outdoor play areas. 	

4.	Future Direction of the Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob, Andy and June met as agreed at the last meeting to look a little further at future direction of the group. • A split into 2 groups – 1 focussing on the local environment and 1 focussing on climate change to sit alongside the SCS and LAA priorities is proposed. • A draft proposed list of groups who could be members was detailed to the group and will be circulated with these minutes. Note – this is not a final list. • Chris Thomas has undertaken a similar exercise and will forward her list to June • It was agreed that in order to influence change, and drive things forward that membership of both groups would need to be of a senior level – and that attendance would be vital. Basically a decision making body. • WMFS noted that they would be keen to be on both groups. • Climate Change group will be able to monitor the implementation of the strategy and will link into the new Climate Change Unit • Links to developments (eg City Centre) need to be robust to ensure that climate change implications are considered and adaptations made. • Noted that behaviour and attitude changes are essential to ensure sustainability. • Opportunities to build in risk assessments at business planning stage vital to success. 	<p>June to circulate</p> <p>Chris to forward to June</p>
5.	Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris suggested a presentation to the group on the Eco School (Sacred Heart) • June suggested this could complement a presentation on eco-homes by Midland Heart. • David Hudson would like to do a presentation on the work of the Environment Agency to the group. 	

Date of Next Meeting:

- **2.00pm to 4.00pm – Thursday 10th April 2008** in Room 77, floor 2 - Council House, Earl Street, Coventry (please sign in at reception on the ground floor and gain a pass for entry)