



Environment Theme Group

**Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 4th September 2009
Diamond Room 2, Council House, Earl Street**

Present:

Peter Woodward	Chair - Quest Associates
Sarah Perry	Coventry Partnership Support Officer
Tony McNally	Climate Change Solutions
Tony Crompton	GOWM
Michael Checkley	CCC – Climate Change Manager
June Jeffrey	CEN

Apologies:

Trevor Errington	CCC – Head of Strategic Planning & Transportation
Elise Smithson	Coventry University
Richard Barron	ENCAMS
Nick Hillard	University of Warwick
Cllr Nigel Lee	CCC
Myles Bremner	Garden Organic
Mark Nicholls	CVOne
John Guilford	Business in the Community

Agenda No	Item	Action
1.	Welcome and Apologies:	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the Environment Theme Group meeting introductions were made around the table and apologies were noted. It was agreed due to the number of apologies that meeting dates for 2010 will be scheduled to not clash with school holidays.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th June and matters arising:	
2.1	These were accepted as a true record of the meeting held. <u>Matters arising:</u> (3.2) A small group met to develop the Theme Groups commitment statement and action plan for the Community Cohesion Strategy. The Strategy is out for consultation and can be viewed on the Partnership website. http://www.coventrypartnership.com/equalitiesandcommunitiesdocuments A community consultation meeting has been planned for the 29 th September and a facilitator is required from the environment group.	Facilitator to be arranged.

	<p>(5.1) A meeting with Business in the Community has been arranged and the outcome will be reported at the next meeting.</p> <p>(6.2) The Cleaner Greener Sub Group meeting has been arranged for next week and the outcome will be reported at the next meeting.</p> <p>All other items covered in the agenda.</p>	<p>Add to Dec Agenda</p> <p>Add to Dec agenda.</p>
3	Update on key activities:	
3.1	Following the re-launch of the Environment Theme Group, five key projects were identified that have the potential to put Coventry firmly on the map for sustainable development.	
3.2	An update on the five projects was circulated (attached) and a verbal update on each followed, below are updates that are not included in the attachment:	
3.3	<p>Innovative network of decentralised energy production + distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of 1.6 million has recently been announced for district heat and power schemes for 154 homes in the WEHM area. The heat line from the existing plant at Whitley to the city centre is still awaiting further news on funding. Michael reported that he has spoken to the project lead Tim Jones to discuss the potential of a partnership meeting to discuss how partners can get involved. <p>Action: Michael to contact Tim for more information.</p>	Michael to organise.
3.4	<p>Growing Coventry – Celebrating Local Food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is continuing on the encouragement of growing your own. The group has been part of many events including the Godiva Festival, Eat your Art Out Project and a photo competition – ‘Wonky Vegetables’. A project proposal has been submitted to the employment placement scheme for a project officer to co-ordinate activities and drive the project forward. 	
3.5	<p>Coventry to become a world leader in the development and deployment of low carbon vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for a trial of 110 low carbon vehicles has been made available. Michael reported that take up in Coventry compared to Birmingham is very poor, discussions are taking place with Ian McDonald to organise a partnership event to encourage the take-up and explore future plans. <p>Action: Michael to contact Ian for more information.</p>	Michael to organise.
3.6	<p>Coventry Bishopgate – gateway to a low carbon future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty retail space in the City Centre is being investigated for a climate change centre; Tony M circulated a vision document that he has been taking with him to a variety of meetings with stakeholders to gain support and funding, to date all agencies that have been visited are extremely supportive of the proposal, however no funding has been made available. 	
3.7	<p>Detailed aerial thermal survey of the City:</p> <p>The survey took place at the end of March in conditions outside the climatic and time limits set in the tender. Discussions are taking place with the aerial survey company to resolve the issue.</p>	

4	Climate Change Adaptation update	
4.1	Over 30 partners attended a very successful adaptation workshop in July. An internal City Council group are working through the guidance on the National Indicator relating to adaptation (NI 188) and are hoping to achieve level 1 later this year. Further work with partners is required to reach higher levels. This is being co-ordinated through the internal City Council group and progress will be reported at the next meeting.	Add to Dec Agenda.
5	Switch it Off Week (9th – 13th November)	
5.1	A project group has been set up to work on coordinating and promoting activities during Switch it off Week which takes place between 9 th and 13 th November with the big switch off between 4.30 – 6.30 pm on Friday 13 th .	
6.	Coventry Partnership Meeting (12th November)	
6.1	A paper has been submitted to the Local Public Service Board to request a slot at the next Partnership meeting in November. The session will be based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting headline progress on climate change issues in the City - Highlighting 'switch it off' week activities by partnership organisations - Outlining opportunities/threats posed by this agenda to Coventry in the coming decade - Offering a challenge to the Board for discussion and action: <i>'Action on climate change in Coventry - Business as usual or time for something more?'</i> 	
7.	Any Other Business:	
7.1	Michael discussed an opportunity of a joint learning programme on sustaining and growing community action on climate change. We have been approached by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to work together on this programme. It was agreed that discussions would take place with Jacky Lawrence (WCC) to find out more about the programme and arrange a meeting with the community and voluntary sector representatives in the partnership to see if Coventry want to get involved.	Sarah to organise.
7.2	Michael informed that Coventry have been awarded £150k to develop a Surface Water Management Plan in partnership with the Environment Agency. Action: Michael to update the group when further information is available.	Michael
7.3	Tony C informed of the City Region, Climate Change group which will be meeting shortly followed by a joint meeting with Council leaders and business in January. Action: Michael to circulate minutes after the meeting.	Michael
7.4	June reported that The Ricoh Arena Community Space and CEN have signed up to Green Communities and the May Day Network.	
	Meeting ended at 12.10 pm	
	Date of the next meeting is on Friday 11th December 2009 10.00 – 12.00 in Committee Room 7, Council House	