

## MINUTES OF GREENPRINT ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Monday 26 January 2009, 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Suffolk Coastal District Council

### Present

Name		Name
Mary Dixon	John Forbes	Steve Haslam
Fiona Patrick	Andrew Nunn	Teresa Howarth
Deborah Wargate	Laurence Burrows	Gillian Hughes
Liz Mark	Tim Collard	
Colin Coates	Frank Huxley	
Reg Dixon	Joan Huxley	
Guy Ackers	Phil Gore	
Katie Carr- Tansley	John Fisher	
Jenny Friend	Chris Blundell	
Michael Friend	David Aufenast	
Jacky Pett	David Wilkinson	
Andrew Cassey	Deborah Ardizzone	

#### 1. Introductions

Mary Dixon welcomed everyone to the Greenprint Forum.

#### 2. Fuel Poverty Carbon Footprint – Jacky Pett

Jacky presented her research project feedback, presentation attached

#### 3. C-change Coastal – Deborah Wargate, Sustainability Officer, SCDC

- SCDC grant - £16,200 from Local Strategic Partnership
- To help provide training to communities that want to reduce carbon footprints
- Pilot – Six Communities
- Community can be a geographical group or a Community based group
- If you have a community that would be interested please put your bid into Deborah

#### 4. Recycling in SCDC – Tim Collard, Operations Manager, SCS Ltd

- SCDC Waste Service Provider
- UK recycling market is under strain and has seen an 80% drop in prices being paid for recycling
- Continuing to roll out alternate week refuse collection scheme, currently two thirds complete
- SCDC currently achieving 49.73% recycle and compost collection
- All waste goes to Viridor Waste Site who transfer it to the recycling facility at Gt Blakenham
- Contract with Viridor in place for 2009 and will be renegotiated for 2010
- Viridor are not currently stock piling any materials. May decide to hold material if markets dictate
- Sending recycling to landfill has never been contemplated
- **Clear Message – Keep Recycling and use recycled goods**

## **5. Hedgerow Project Feedback – Guy Ackers**

- 1992 Environmental Agenda – it was recognised that climate change was resulting in the serious loss of wildlife habitat and many wildlife species
- Hedgerows project started as a project for the Greenprint Forum who agreed that Landscape Habitat is a high priority
- Significant progress shown from 2002 – to date
- Surveys being recorded by Suffolk Biological Records Centre
- Current situation for SCDC
  - 52 Completed
  - 41 Ongoing
  - 12 Potential
  - 6 Thinking about it
  - 7 No Action

## **6. Partnership review/Next steps for the forum**

### **Group 1**

#### **Are the aims and objectives still valid?**

All agreed that current aims and objectives are ok but a few members of the group felt we needed to take a more active leadership role personally committing to carbon reductions and to mention climate change specifically. The ideal would be a sheet outlining the most effective ways to reduce carbon emissions and how we could meet the NI186 target.

#### **Is the membership fit for purpose?**

Several members of the group were members of two or more external groups and they share where possible information from the forum - it was noted that an annual bullet point of key issues may help with this.

All felt that businesses, youth and other interest groups were under represented and that we needed to expand membership to better share best practise - Andrew Nunn will forward details of WI to invite to future meetings, it was noted that businesses are very busy and that they should be specifically invited through the Business forum to meetings that might be of relevance to them. It was noted that the Youth Forum engagement in C-Change would be beneficial.

#### **Are the objectives of the Green Print Forum being met?**

It was noted that schools have a lot of environmental issues now included in the curriculum and that despite good work in the past schools have little time for external additions - this may affect ability to raise awareness through education.

#### **Are the roles and responsibilities of those attending clear?**

It was felt that they are clear. Mary chairs the meetings, the steering group determines content and individuals can feed into this through Deborah Wargate or Phil Gore, Individuals will respond as individuals to consultations, everyone else will take messages back to their respective organisations/groups and will participate in projects agreed by the group where time allows.

### **Are there any gaps in resources?**

It was not felt that this was a relevant question - the group in its present form needs only a room and refreshments.

### **Are the processes adopted by the Greenprint Forum efficient and effective?**

It was not felt that this question was relevant as it is an informal networking group.

**Is the partnership sufficiently accountable?** It was felt that the group is, as the Chair also sits on the LSP and the environment is incorporated within the Sustainable Community Strategy. One suggestion was that achievements of the forum were noted annually and reported at the LSP board.

**Are there clear channels of communication?** Yes with the Council.

Action - Andrew Nunn to create a briefing sheet on recycling to share and to look into the possibility of a further press release

### **Group 2**

Feedback from group discussion on terms of reference and partnership evaluation

On the group's objectives the following points were raised:

- Need to encourage regular attendance by members not just meetings of particular interest
- There needs to be a two-way dialogue with small communities
- Greenprint Forum membership and attendance at meetings should be promoted through the Parish Liaison meetings
- Some members would like handouts and notes from the meetings – none of the group were aware of the information on the Greenprint pages of the SCDC website. Action – provide link to web pages in next email / letter to members
- Need to consider how we communicate with those members who don't have internet access as these members could feel isolated. Action - need to review membership and preferred methods of communication.
- Need to continue to promote the work of the group through Coastline, Business and Parish Bulletins and engage with local press more regularly.
- The group should promote centres of excellence within the district
- Shared transport arrangements should be considered
- Members should be encouraged to submit questions or points in advance of the meeting.
- The group found the talks and visits very good but also recognised the importance of delivering some actions themselves even if it was difficult to get that level of commitment from the membership.

Although there was a considerable amount of discussion around the Greenprint objectives no additions or alterations were suggested.

There was insufficient time at the meeting to consider the partnership evaluation questions.

**Dates for next meetings**

27 April 2009

27 July 2009

26 October 2009

25 January 2010