

MINUTES OF GREENPRINT ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Monday 22 October 2007, 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Suffolk Coastal District Council

Present

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Cllr Mary Dixon	SCDC	V Falconer	Nacton Ward
Phil Gore	Head of Health, SCDC	Daniel Wareing	SCS
Deborah Wargate	SCDC	Liz Mark	Bawdsey PC
Alison Eyley	SCDC	Gillian Hughes	Felixstowe Society
Iain Dunnett	Project Manager SSP	Sally Ogden	SCDC
Mrs J M Friend	SALC	Mike Sherwen	Melton PC
Mr M J Friend	SALC	Reg Dixon	
Joan Sennington	SCDC	S Haslam	Yoxford PC
Peter Coleman	SCDC	D Ardizzoni	Yoxford PC
Niels Toettcher	Bawdsey Manor School	C Coates	RSPB
John Fisher	Saxmundham TC	Alan Clement	
Guy Ackers	SWT	D E Ball	Green Issues Task Group
Mr Baverstock	Dunwich	Juliet Gordon	SPS
John Forbes	Martlesham		

1. Introductions

Cllr Mary Dixon welcomed everyone to the Greenprint Forum.

2. The Greenest County – Iain Dunnett

Iain Dunnett, project manager for the Suffolk Strategic Partnership project ‘Suffolk – Creating the Greenest County’, gave a presentation on the aims and background of the Greenest County initiative and the challenges facing Suffolk such as climate change, carbon footprint targets, community engagement and support, and environmental protection and access. He gave an overview of the 20 year vision and cited examples of best practice, such as Adnams of Southwold who have received European recognition. Iain Dunnett went on to address issues such as funding for community projects and the co-ordination of information on the website www.greensuffolk.org

The presentation highlighted the importance of community interaction and ownership of the project. After his presentation Iain Dunnett invited feedback and comments from those present.

Ideas and areas of concern that were highlighted by forum members included:

- the limitations of the current planning process and the immediate impact that could be gained from ‘green’ energy efficient planning requirements.
- the need for more emphasis on education in energy conservation for individuals, households and businesses
- the duplication of ‘greenest county’ title as Devon also uses this term
- Gas burning at landfill sites –how this can be better managed
- The feeling was expressed that only major initiatives at county level can work e.g. financial incentives for wind power. It was felt much could be learned from European schemes such as those in Denmark.

- Concern was expressed about how to ensure green products and practices are really green and the importance of whole life histories of products
- It was suggested that vehicles could be retained for a longer period than current practices
- Whilst big businesses have a major role to play it was felt that individuals have influence as green markets are becoming increasingly important.
- Improvement to public transport systems was felt to be a key issue

3. Sustainability Officer

Phil Gore introduced Deborah Wargate, the new SCDC Sustainability Officer. She gave a short overview of the role of the sustainability officer and gave feedback on the progress of current issues such as:

- Signing up to the Nottingham declaration
- Water Audit – results due Dec 2007
- Environmental Survey of SCDC members and officers – 33% response so far, feedback to follow
- Revised Energy Policy – setting of baseline for carbon emissions at 2006 level – SCDC target for reduction of 11% by 2008/09. Partners such as DC Leisure/SCS also have targets for reduction though SCS have achieved BSI accreditation and therefore have less scope for improvement
- Transport issues such as lift share, cycling and walking
- Recycling of plastics has been introduced to SCDC offices to add to existing paper and cardboard recycling.

4. Straw Burner Visit

Deborah Wargate gave a presentation on the Greenprint forum visit to the straw burner at L F Geater & Sons Ltd, West End Nurseries, Leiston.

5. Forum member update

1. Annual LSP conference at Trinity Park will have a Green Issues Climate Change workshop.
2. Wenhaston Carbon Footprint report has been prepared and feedback will be on 9/11/07. Parties interested in attending should contact Phil Gore as places are very limited.
3. Issue of air quality at Woodbridge traffic lights was raised. Phil Gore gave feedback on current situation.
4. Leiston Electric Bike Hire – it was suggested SCDC could explore ways to set up scheme e.g. in Saxmundham. Phil Gore requested that details be given to Deborah Wargate.

AOB

Various ideas for agenda items for next year's meetings were put forward, including presentations on Environment Agency Flood Defences, Horticultural Industry by Mr Notcutt, and an update of the tree planting scheme by John Davies.

Date of next meeting - 28 January 2008