

The Lancashire Environment Forum

Notes From The Meeting Held On 4th August 2010, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Bamber Bridge.

Present:

John Wells Chair (InBev)	Debbie King Lancashire County Council
Alison Boden Wyre LSP (Wyre Borough Council)	Andrew Loynd Fylde LSP (FLoWE)
Julie Claux VCFS rep (Groundwork)	Tim Mitcham Lancashire Wildlife trust
Tracie Crosdale LCC Waste Rep (on behalf of Steve Scott)	Clare Phillips Lancashire County Council
James Dagleish Rossendale Borough Council	Stuart Pye Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Gill Dickson Pendle LSP (Pendle Borough Council)	Jackie Swire Environment Agency
Richard Jennison CPRE	Peter Walsh CAFRAP
Peter Jordan Rossendale and Ribble Valley LSP (Groundwork)	Sarah Whitney Lancashire County Council

Apologies:

Tina Iball	West Lancashire Borough Council
Philip Lord	Ribble Catchment Trust
Mick Lovatt	Preston LSP (Preston City Council)
Jan McDonald	LCDL
Liz O' Neill	Environment Agency
Alison Page	Lancaster LSP (Furniture Matters)
Colin Peacock	Lancaster LSP
Adam Scott	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Steve Scott	Lancashire County Council Waste Representative
Anne Selby	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Richard Small	West Lancashire LSP (Liverpool John Moores University)
Adrian Smith	Rossendale Borough Council
Joey Smith	LCDL
Elizabeth Sullivan	South Ribble LSP (South Ribble Borough Council)
Jo Turton	Lancashire County Council
Ruth Wearing	Natural England
Alison Whalley	Environment Agency
John Wherry	Myerscough College
Bernard Whittle	Fylde LSP

	04/08/2010	Owner
1	<p><u>Minutes from the last meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.</p> <p>There was an outstanding action from the last meeting, to look at organising a meeting / event to address energy issues. However, it was agreed that it would be more appropriate to wait and see what happens with emerging government policy before organising such an event.</p>	
2	<p><u>Horizon Scanning – How the Environment Forum moves forward</u></p> <p>Clare Phillips presented a paper to the Forum detailing emerging government policy and the possible implications on the Environment Forum.</p> <p>Government have announced that current performance indicators will disappear, and the performance reward grant associated with meeting LAA targets has been pulled.</p> <p>In light of these announcements, the Lancashire Partnership is undergoing a review and will be making its recommendations for going forward in September. LSPs are also undergoing reviews and currently there has been no announcement on whether LSPs will continue.</p> <p>The government are undertaking a comprehensive spending review in October.</p> <p>It was proposed that the Forum should undertake a full review when the national picture becomes clearer so that it can effectively align itself with new emerging priorities. LCC offered to bring in a facilitator to assist with this process.</p> <p>Action Arrange a facilitator to assist with identifying priorities for the Environment Forum</p>	Clare Phillips
3	<p><u>LAA Update</u></p> <p>Debbie King updated the group on the latest LAA report.</p>	

	<p>The LAA is still in a reporting cycle, and we are currently in Q1 of the final year of the current LAA.</p> <p>Performance data for most environment indicators is reported annually therefore there is no data for the environment theme this quarter.</p> <p>Performance against the theme's actions is progressing well.</p> <p>Big Ticket Issue projects (the fuel poverty referral system and low cost insulation scheme) are still going forward, but with the assumption that there is no money available.</p> <p>Districts should be getting their aerial thermal survey data soon and at the next meeting may be in a position to discuss what they will do with this information.</p> <p>It was noted that following the end of the current LAA, if future priorities are to be decided at local level, the Forum should be involved in this.</p>	
4	<p><u>Water shortages</u></p> <p>Jackie Swire gave an overview on a paper produced by the Environment Agency relating to the recent water shortages. The majority of drought permit applications have either not been submitted or have been withdrawn.</p> <p>Reservoir supplies are not where they should be for this time of year, but they are getting better.</p> <p>A discussion on the past flooding and drought events followed the update.</p>	
5	<p><u>Biodiversity (NI 197) update</u></p> <p>Tim Mitcham gave a presentation on the progress and challenges in delivering NI 197.</p> <p>The aim of this indicator is to increase the active management of sites that are rich in biodiversity. The sites identified for NI 197 are of county significance.</p> <p>The target is to achieve a 3% year on year increase in the number of sites in positive conservation management in Lancashire.</p> <p>The LAA grant has enabled site survey work to be undertaken.</p>	

	<p>Achievement so far:</p> <p>Year 1: 1.4% increase Year 2 : 6% increase Year 3: not yet completed</p> <p>The challenges to the continued delivery of this work are primarily financial. There is the issue of how the survey work will continue when the LAA grant stops.</p> <p>Tim mentioned a 'Bioblitz' event that will be taking place on 7th August at Cuerden Valley Park. There are lots of activities taking place throughout the day including vegetation and wildlife surveys. For more information see: http://www.lancswt.org.uk/</p>	
6	<p><u>Adaptation (NI 188) update</u></p> <p>Clare Phillips presented a paper outlining the work that is taking place on adapting to climate change (NI 188).</p> <p>NI 188 is not reliant on finance and therefore the withdrawal of funding should not affect delivery. However, the input of information from partners is key to the delivery of this indicator, and therefore it is important for as many partners as possible to be involved in contributing information.</p>	
6	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>There was no other business</p>	
7	<p><u>Forward Look</u></p> <p>Suggested forward look items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated discussion to identify the Forum's future priorities and how it aligns with emerging government policy • Fuel poverty working group NI 187 update <p>If members have any suggestions for future meetings or would like to highlight up and coming issues, please contact Sarah Whitney (sarah.whitney@lancashire.gov.uk)</p>	

Programme of Future Environment Forum Meetings:

- **Wednesday 10th November 2010**