

LOW CARBON LYMM (LCL)

Meeting 19th October 2009

Attendees:

Ian Carter
John Condy
Edd Duncan
Tania Flasck
Stewart Lever
Richard Pearce
David Perry
Diane Porter
Alan Quayle
Chris Reeves
Richard Rust
Jack Tidswell
Ann Wilson

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Heather Gott, Paul Morgan, Alan Turner, Dave Watson, Steve Walsh.

2. Minutes of meeting on 7th September 2009

These were approved without alteration.

3. Membership

Tania Flasck, Alan Quayle and Chris Reeves would like to join as 'voting' members – Richard Pearce to inform John Ogle re membership fees.

4. Funding Progress

Richard Pearce reported on his progress with various grants for core funding.

He has submitted a bid into Warrington Borough Council's community grant scheme known as a "South Neighbourhood Local Fund" totalling £920, and if granted, this will provide funding for core activities including the acquisition of leaflets, posters and a banner for future events.

[LCL could also be eligible for another grant scheme run by the Council; Community Chest – similar to the Local Fund but is to be used for one particular initiative and offers a maximum of £500.]

A Bid into the North West Climate Fund is in the process of being submitted with the LCCN for Cheshire & Warrington. The bid would be for LCL and other local groups such as Bollington and Broken Cross. The proposal is for what is called "Carbon Conversations" which is based on a model pioneered in Cambridge where community mentors are trained to encourage local people towards low carbon lifestyles. The technique is intended to cascade through groups, working its way through the whole community aided by volunteer champions.

We are also considering another funding option which has recently been announced – namely the Low Carbon Communities Challenge managed by DECC. This will provide both financial and advisory support for 20 communities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with up to £500K available for each community for capital expenditure on carbon reduction

initiatives. Phase 2 of the Challenge is for communities which are at a relatively early stage in the development of their carbon reduction plans i.e. like us. We have submitted an expression of interest to put in a bid for this which has to be in by 30th December 2009. If successful, we would have a year to work up detailed plans.

5. Green Communities

We have been successful in gaining support via the Energy Savings Trust's Green Communities Programme. Heather Gott, our local community advisor, will be able to provide up to one day per week of her time to help develop and implement an action plan and provide practical help and support. A small working subgroup has been formed to help to develop the action plan with Heather and a meeting with her will be arranged in the near future.

Subgroup members include Zoe Cohen, John Condy, Richard Pearce, Diane Porter, Su Williams and Steve Walsh. Tania Flasck also expressed an interest in being involved. Meetings have now been held on 4th and 13th November and Richard will circulate details to LCL members.

6. Schools Competition

John Ogle was unable to attend this meeting and so progress will be reported at our next meeting.

7. Lighting

Chris Reeves explained that North West Tonight will be reporting on the successful campaign to tackle the light pollution caused by the floodlights on the sports pitches at the High School, resulting in the replacement of the floodlights with a more energy efficient and less light-polluting system.

This feature went out on 22nd October and Richard has recorded this for those who are interested in seeing it.

8. Waste Management

Paul Morgan is trying to catch Andy Cutts at WBC to discuss initiatives like the Zero Waste Places to make sure that if such schemes come forward in the future we are in the frame to get involved.

Steve Walsh is pursuing the idea of a campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags in Lymm. He is hoping to get a representative from the Co-op to discuss this at our next meeting.

9. Hydro Scheme

Richard Rust updated the meeting on the plans for a hydro scheme for the Village with three locations being considered. He has not heard yet from EDF about the results of our application for initial feasibility study funding. We have identified a number of other sources of funding and he will be submitting bids in the near future. Tania Flasck offered to help Richard with this.

Subsequently we have heard that we have not been successful with the EDF bid so we will be trying the other options.

10. The Wave

Diane Porter drew attention to the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition campaign and The Wave event in London on Saturday 5 December 2009. This has been organised ahead of the crucial UN climate summit in Copenhagen, tens of thousands of people from all walks of life will flow through the streets of London to demonstrate their support for a safe climate future for all.

Part of a global series of public actions, The Wave will call on world leaders to take urgent action to secure a fair international deal to stop global warming exceeding the danger threshold of 2 degrees C. Transport to London on that day has been organized by the Co-op and others – see the Stop Climate Chaos website.

Diane also highlighted the 10:10 campaign to encourage people and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions by 10% in 2010 and suggested that LCL members should sign-up to the campaign – see www.1010uk.org We are planning to organize an event on 23rd January 2010 in Lymm to link into this campaign.

11. Transition Towns

David Perry, who lives in Warrington, provided some background on the fast growing Transition Town movement which has similar objectives to the Low Carbon Community approach we are adopting in Lymm. In Transition Towns, the aim is to move towards a low carbon society through a structured approach which was first used in Totnes, Devon. It addresses peak oil as well as carbon reduction issues. More details can be found on the website: <http://www.transitiontowns.org/>

David is hoping to get a Transition Town project going in Warrington in the near future and suggested that we should keep in touch with each other to exchange ideas and experiences.

12. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 7th December at 7.30pm at Oughtrington Community Centre.