

LOW CARBON LYMM (LCL)

Meeting 7th December 2009

Attendees:

Peter Astbury
Brian and Marie (Co-op, Cherry Lane)
Charlotte Burton
Zoe Cohen
Richard Cowley
Edd Duncan
Heather Gott
Roy Kemsley
Murial Kidall
Richard Pearce
Diane Porter
Alan Quayle
Chris Reeves
Richard Rust
Jack Tidswell
Chris Wakefield
Steve Walsh
Dave Watson
Su Williams
Ann Wilson
Jo Yellen

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Paul Morgan, Hilary Paskins, Paul Mc Henry, John Ogle, Jack Tidswell and Ann Wilson.

2. Minutes of meeting on 19th October 2009

These were approved without alteration.

3. Membership

Richard Pearce received membership fees from Alan Quayle and Chris Reeves. He will inform John Ogle and we will issue members with receipts.

4. Funding Progress

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

We have been successful in our bid to the South Neighbourhood Local Fund for £920 to provide funding for core activities including the acquisition of leaflets, posters and a banner for future events.

We have also received a grant from the Energy Savings Trust for £200 to contribute towards promotional costs.

The bid into the North West Climate Fund on the "Carbon Conversations" approach has been delayed whilst we have been awaiting responses from other communities in the Cheshire & Warrington area.

We have decided not to submit a bid into the Low Carbon Communities Challenge due to lack of time and resources to work-up a credible proposal.

5. Green Communities

Heather Gott, our local community advisor, has been designing leaflets and posters to promote the group at future events. Two leaflet designs were presented to the group and the Lord Kitchener design was approved. This will be distributed during the Dickensian Day parade. As part of her role as Merseyside and Cheshire Programme Manager, Heather is also able to provide a range of support activities including training courses and energy audits.

Meetings were held on 4th and 13th November with Heather and the small working subgroup and work is underway to produce an action plan for future development of LCL. The first main activity will be the New Year event – see below.

6. Schools

John Ogle and Edward Duncan provided a free energy audit to Ravenbank Primary School which will give recommendations to help the school increase its energy efficiency and reduce costs and CO2 emissions. The schools competition idea was introduced to the new Head who said he would give his full support. The Head also said that they may also be interested in installing PV on the school roof in the future.

7. New Year Event

We will be holding an event on the 23rd January 2010 from 10am to 3pm to promote LCL and to encourage people to sign-up to the 10:10 campaign. (See: www.1010uk.org for further details). The event will be held at the Village Hall and the day will include stalls giving practical advice on energy saving, sustainability, reducing carbon emissions as well as a stall for signing up to the 10:10 campaign itself. Local PV, solar hot water and wood burning stove suppliers will also be invited to participate. Children's activities will also be held to engage the younger members of the community

8. Dickensian Day

The Dickensian Day parade held on the 12th December was a great success with LCL members promoting the group by dressing in green & distributing leaflets while marching around Lymm. Over a thousand leaflets were distributed on the day to raise awareness of LCL in the local community and to promote the New Year event. Many thanks to all those who participated.

9. Waste Management

Steve Walsh raised the possibility of investing in an anaerobic digestion plant in Lymm to treat food waste. Edd Duncan has been doing some work in this field and will discuss the potential with Steve.

Steve Walsh is continuing to pursue the idea of a campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags in Lymm. Representatives from the Co-op in Lymm (Brian and Marie) kindly attended the meeting to discuss and offered their full support to the initiative. They would also be happy to display campaign posters in the shop notices and will talk to the store manager, Wayne, about the possibility of providing reusable bags with the LCL logo.

Sue Williams presented her design for a reusable bag, using Warrington Borough Council's cotton bags and printing the LCL logo on the blank side. The design was well received and it was suggested that our website address should also be included. Dave Watson offered to put forward the idea to the Council to see whether they would be able to supply and possibly also print bags with our design to use in future campaigns.

10. Hydro Scheme

Richard Rust reported that unfortunately we were unsuccessful in the EDF energy application for initial feasibility study funding and they will not provide any feedback on our bid. However, we were told just before Christmas that we have been successful in obtaining support from MWH (a large international firm of consulting engineers with an office in Birchwood) and have received a cheque for £1000 for the feasibility study.

Many thanks to Tania Flasck who used to work for MWH and submitted the bid based on information from Richard Rust. Tania has now moved to the USA so will not be able to help us in the future – but we wish her every success in her new job.

11. Local Food Map

Charlotte Burton presented her ideas for the local food map and will be circulating a document which contains details on sources of local food within a five mile radius of Lymm for the group to check and add to. Dave Watson has kindly offered to help with the production of a GIS map which Charlotte hopes to have published in Lymm Life. Zoe Cohen will also add the local food producers list to the website.

12. Transport

Fellow Travellers

Steve Walsh has been in touch with Michael Wharton who is promoting a scheme called Fellow Travellers (www.fellowtravellers.co.uk) which is an alternative transport system that puts control of public transport in the hands of the people who use it – by enabling users to create new bus, minibus and shared-taxi routes which meet real need; and by raising efficiency, economy, and reliability across the board.

Michael has suggested that we could examine what nil-cost or low-cost opportunities can be developed locally. He could, for instance, set up a number of 'provisional' local routes (i.e. routes which are simply posited to gain expressions of interest without actually being live) and with LCL's support market the initiative extensively in Lymm to determine which route(s) generate sufficient interest to justify being translated into real routes - which Fellow Travellers would then establish. The cost for this would be minimal, and if the local authority were to offer support, Michael would be happy to work with us to get something along these lines off the ground.

The first stage would be to see if there is enough support for the initiative in the wider community, and if the consensus is positive, then Michael Wharton would come to one of our meetings to explain the scheme in more detail. One of our members, Gareth Davies, who is experienced in the transport sector is looking into the scheme.

Other Topics

Links to car share and lift share websites will be added to the LCL website to make members and visitors aware of such services – Richard Pearce will send details to Zoe Cohen.

Heather Gott can organise smarter driving lessons for Lymm residents, improving energy efficient driving techniques. We should promote these at the New Year event.

Chris Wakefield of Higher Lane reported on his campaign - www.safehigherlane.org.uk - which campaigns to reduce speed limits on Higher Lane due to high levels of speeding currently on this road. Warrington Borough Council has conducted speed measurement trials on the road recently and speeds recorded often reach 50mph in the 30 mph limit.

Charlotte Burton suggested that we organise a week long cycling initiative for Lymm in the New Year to encourage residents to cycle more.

13. Wood Biomass

Richard Pearce has been looking into the possibility of sourcing wood for wood burning stoves from local woodland areas. LCL member, Paul Bullimore, has suggested that a group of local people could get together and negotiate with local woodland owners whose woods are in need of management to remove unwanted trees in exchange for the timber. Rhododendron makes good firewood and is often invasive in woodland. Removing this for firewood would kill two birds with one stone.

Nigel Blandford of Mersey Forest has kindly provided us with a map of local woodlands (shown at the meeting) and is looking into providing details of ownership.

14. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 11th January 2010 at 7.30pm at Oughtrington Community Centre.