

LOW CARBON LYMM (LCL)
Forum Meeting Minutes
26th March 2012

Attendees

Richard Pearce
Muriel Kidall
Rachel Waggett
Keven Lester
Cath Lester
Duncan Yellen

Steve Walsh
Zoe Cohen (Chair)
Chris Reeves
Andrew Morris
Maureen Dunford
Marion McNaughton

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Brian Davies, Chris Matthews, Nick Rigg, Charlotte Burton and Jo Yellen.

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 30th January 2012

It was agreed that the minutes were accurate.

3. Tribute to Ann Wilson

Zoe paid tribute to Ann Wilson, a long standing and much loved member of Low Carbon Lymm. Ann's death is a sad loss to Lymm as a whole and especially to our group – she was an inspiration to us all.

4. Matters arising

LEAF event: Many thanks to everyone who was involved with the successful LEAF event on Saturday, especially Richard for organising and project managing. Progress update on the LEAF project is provided later.

Steering Group: Andrew has volunteered to act as chair for the Steering Group. Many thanks to Andrew to offering to act as Chair – anyone else who would like to attend steering group meetings you are very welcome!

Parish Council presentation on 14th Feb: Zoe and others went to present to the Parish Council on our recent activities. Zoe produced a briefing note of the achievements in the last year or so (attached as separate document on www.lowcarbonslymm.org.uk). Questions were asked to the Parish Council about how we can support them in the future as a Council in terms of sustainability. The PC Chair suggested wait until next PC meeting as this will be in May (2nd Tuesday) when the local elections have been completed. There is an action on us to make suggestions to the PC on sustainability. We will produce these as a Steering Group and will forward it to them for their first meeting with the new Council members.

Most matters arising are covered within the project group updates (item 5). Two items of news since the last meeting:

5. Project Group updates

5.1 Trees in Lymm Group

Recent focus has been on the takeaway trees project – Chris Reeves has donated sapling trees from her garden which volunteers potted up. These were given away at the LEAF event – found difficulty with giving away oak trees. A lot of people said that they had to have trees chopped down in their garden mostly because they were too big. People were particularly interested in smaller trees and not in larger species as they were apprehensive about the size. A hedge planting focus might be useful? Donations raised £24 on that day.

Could we look outside of gardens to public places and areas where larger trees are more appropriate? Suggestions included:

- Golf club? They cut down a lot of trees as they were diseased, and they need to replant.
- Barchester Care Homes might be interested in taking some as they need to re-landscape.

Claire from Woodland Trust is very keen to make connections within the local community. She is involved with Spud Wood and is keen to come to one of our meetings. The planned theme of July's meeting is on trees and could be focused on this and include a visit to Spud Wood. We can be preparing for this by thinking about what we want to ask them and how we could work together. There is a lot of interest in the future of Spud Wood. We could invite people to submit questions in advance and write these up as a Q&A which would then be accessible to those people unable to attend via the website.

Ian Marks was apparently interested in Jubilee woods and planting.

5.2 Plastic bag free Lymm

Ron has designed stickers for the group which have been discussed at the steering group.

Meetings have been held with Sainsburys and Co-op, also David Mowat is supportive and has offered to meet with the supermarket managers.

Need a final meeting with Ron to get this organised.

Cheshire Property (Ken Chambers) have worked with Sextons to produce a jute bag with Lymm.com and Sextons on the other side. They have ordered 2500 bags which will be arriving soon. They will be selling these as soon as they arrive. (NB: later note added: these bags were given out free to runners at the Lymm.com 10k run)

Steve needs about £250 to fund stickers. He has been exploring options but in the interim will fund himself and will be repaid over time out of the subs account/donations.

Possibility of WBC funding in the new financial year and after the election, RW will report back on this. Also potential for invest to save through Lymm Traders. Possibility of selling plastic bags and putting profit from this sale into a fund for community projects. This is something that all the traders would have to agree with ideally.

There are pros and cons of whether we get the buy in from traders first, or whether we get the stickers etc out first. Any comments or thoughts on this send to the LCL information email address with PLASTIC BAGS in the subject line.

5.3 Local food

Lynne (local food champion) was at the LEAF event. She works with Louise Shannon who is championing local food throughout Warrington (at the council). She is keen to develop a community garden project and is trying to raise the profile of cooking fresh local produce. Two trees are going to be planted at Statham Lodge with the memory boxes underneath, she is involved with this project. She would be keen to be involved with future relevant projects.

Visit: <http://localfoodinlymm.wordpress.com>

Follow twitter @localfoodinlymm

Contact: localfood@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk

6. Proposed focus for 2012 to 2015

Zoe went through the presentation that outlines a proposed strategy for the group in the next few years. LCL has been a great success in the first couple of years however the feeling from various ideas sharing workshops and from the steering group is that a greater focus needs to be achieved to stop us spreading our resources too thinly. The presentation is available on the LCL website and was also circulated with the agenda; the main proposals were for a clear focus on two areas:

- Energy efficient homes for Lymm residents (Green Deal); and

- A more sustainable Village Centre with a recognisable Low Carbon presence and easy 'feel good' choices

...with specific 2012 goals for the year for each of the areas

Comments/questions

Lymm High School was mentioned by Eon as the biggest opportunity for change in Lymm, particularly through influence in the curriculum and through pupils. This opportunity is missing from the current vision. There was much discussion about schools and the key need for buy-in from the Head in order to make progress. This may be an area for valuable work, but with limited resources we must choose where we focus our energies.

Social meetings to grow the resource available – perhaps tying in the local food theme with a barbeque etc.

7. Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF)

Richard reported on the progress of the LEAF project. There has been a lot of work by volunteers and by Dominic (Energy Saving Trust) and Keven throughout the project. The maps of the different village areas are all now completed.

In addition the EPCs have now been done, and there are several opportunities coming out of this.

Cavity walls are a primary opportunity, but also gas boilers are coming out as an opportunity.

Lofts full of stuff or boarded are one of the barriers as people don't want to clear their loft. Maybe this could be tied in to future opportunities.

Low energy lighting is coming out as a big opportunity – possibly halogen light replacement project *RW to look into.*

£142 per household is the average saving possible in Lymm, just on heating, lighting and water. If this is extrapolated up, this is a saving of **three quarters of a million pounds**. So far £640 per year is the record saving possible, this was for a large detached bungalow. These energy figures do not include appliances or white goods.

The project has calculated that there is a **£7 million** spend on energy in domestic properties across Lymm.

Where next for LEAF?

The final report is to be completed by the end of April. Need to decide how we will disseminate the results, certainly will be doing a presentation to South Warrington Neighbourhood Board and to LCL. Will also be presenting within the Cheshire and Warrington low carbon community network and through the press in local papers etc. It was suggested that we could digitise all the maps so that they are available ongoing electronically.

8. Green Deal

Duncan was tasked with exploring Green Deal as part of the LEAF project. Green Deal is a government backed scheme to improve home energy efficiency that will be launched in around October 2012. Amongst other things, Duncan has talked to all the big 6 energy providers. At the moment they are spending a lot of money to reach their CERT targets this year (free and subsidised energy improvements focussed on deprived neighbourhoods), and this is delaying their implementation of Green Deal.

Scottish Power – more towards end of year, very interested later this year

nPower – interested in paying for leads if we could provide them

Scottish & Southern – would pay to have volunteers trained as assessors – but this is a 5 week training course!

Mark Group, Kingspan and Anglian Windows are all gearing up to make Green Deal offers in October, they are not releasing what they are doing now but will be happy to work with us from October.

EON – Committed to doing a large scale Green Deal pilot very shortly. They want to work with a community with more than 3000 homes who is committed to working with them on a 2 month pilot. One suggestion is a programme called “Love your Loft” – they will empty your loft and store it whilst you decide what you want to keep, they will then board your loft in the meantime and will replace what you want to keep.

Duncan enquired if there was a possibility of overlaying the free loft insulation scheme currently available in the Warrington area with the ‘love your loft’ scheme to provide better value? If we write to them they will consider this. They could also do a boiler replacement scheme. They don’t want this to go out as an EON deal; it needs to be a community marketing initiative. They will pay a certain amount per installation into a community fund although they would like us to use this money on an EON energy project. Suggestions round the table were to improve a community building’s energy efficiency, for example.

They would expect to get about 10% of those targeted to a meeting, and a further 10% of these convert into actual sales, if they were marketing it themselves. People would not have to be EON customers nor would there be a ‘hard sell’ to people to switch to them as energy supplier.

Discussion about the offer from EON – is this just an opportunity for EON to get good marketing for free? Does this expose our group to risk in case things go wrong, will our reputation be damaged?

The benefit to homeowners is that they get this opportunity sooner than they would get it otherwise, and they have a ‘friendly face’ presenting the opportunity. We need to be clear about what message we are giving to homeowners. We must also be wary of being used to promote EON to the exclusion of others. What would they expect us to commit to in terms of sales and marketing?

Decision to talk to EON and determine more about their offer. Duncan and Richard will put down our ideas and forward them back to EON.

Questions, concerns and points to note or ideas to implement. BY THURSDAY please, to Richard and/or Duncan.

For feedback in the interim, there is a Steering Group meeting that anyone is welcome to attend.

9. AOB

Note that Forum meetings will be held every two months from now on, so if you wish to keep up to date with what is going on, please check the website/facebook/twitter accounts, and come along to the steering group, to which all are welcome! The date will be circulated by email and is on the website.

Margaret Mead – *“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world; in fact it is the only thing that ever has!”*

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **21st May 2012, Oughtrington Community Centre at 7.30pm.**