

**LOW CARBON LYMM (LCL)
Forum Meeting Minutes
26th November 2012
Annual General Meeting**



1. Introductions and Apologies

Zoe welcomed everyone to our AGM for 2012, thank you everyone for your support throughout the year and especially to those who have done so much to help achieve the fantastic projects this year.

Apologies from Andrew Morris, Muriel, Keven Lester, Steve Walsh

Attendees

Marilyn Ashworth	Charlotte Burton
Zoe Cohen	Chris Matthews
Bob McCulloch	Pauline McCulloch
Marion McNaughton	Richard Pearce
Brian Smith	Nick Rigg
Rachel Waggett	Su Williams
Jo Yellen	

2. Finance

Copies of the financial statement were provided by Nick covering the period April 2011 to April 2012. In summary our closing balance at April 2012 was £290.84.

It was noted that as a result of the LEAF project, there was a donation in May 2012 of £1800. Therefore current balance is higher than this.

We are still asking for a voluntary membership fee of £10 per annum – via cash or payment in other ways including electronic payment or paypal. Nick has some sheets for those who pay in other ways. Anyone who would like to contribute please contact Nick who can inform you of ways to pay.

3. Achievements on projects this year

Local food in Lymm: (Charlotte Burton)

The successful website/newsletter is still being run by Charlotte, promoting and celebrating local food and shops around Lymm. Rachel reported that other groups in Warrington have been starting to develop local food maps and information based on Charlotte's work, so our influence is spreading beyond Lymm to include more local food producers.

Trees at Spud Wood: (Jo Yellen)

Clare from the Woodland Trust came to a meeting in July and organised a coppicing day at Spud Wood. This was done with TCV (used to be BTCV) and a wonderful day was had by all!

There is a lot of interest in doing more with Woodland Trust in the future, particularly at Spud Wood. There are other people interested in being involved, perhaps develop a 'friends of Spud Wood' group. From the Stage Lane car park, you can easily see what the coppicing group have done.

Have we got pictures on the website? Jo will find out the pictures and we can put them on the website. It would be good to do an information board but we haven't looked at this at the moment. Woodland Trust are very interested in getting more volunteer support to manage the woodland, they do not actively manage the woodland itself. Woodland Trust are talking about clearing some areas within the canopy and managing the woodland more actively. There are lots of opportunities for more work here.

Leaf project (energy efficiency): (*Richard Pearce*). Project completed.

Following this successful project last year, a number of homes have been identified from the EPCs (Energy Performance Certificates) with significant savings potential. Richard is now following these up and getting some very good responses – quite a lot of people have done things since the surveys, including loft and cavity insulation. One cul-de-sac when one person had it done, the whole close had it done! One older person Richard sat down with to help them with the process, and they subsequently had cavity wall insulation.

Plastic bag free Lymm (*Steve Walsh*)

This campaign is beginning to gain momentum with lots of publicity. Recently schools have been contacted to see if they would be interested in getting involved. Lots of potential to do more on this in the next year.

Save Lymm £1m (energy efficiency): (*Richard Pearce*)

As a result of the LEAF project it was decided to target Statham area where there are a lot of semi-detached bungalows and houses. A flyer with typical savings is going to be hand delivered to properties in Statham. We can identify these properties thanks to the house to house survey done as part of the Leaf project. We then need to refer them to reputable companies. Just done one street so far but just this has led to a couple of contacts already.

In parallel, Energy Projects Plus (who worked on the Leaf project) are working with Richard to identify the reputable companies. This should be resolved this week.

A number of people are willing to help distributing flyers and can do that this week.

Feedback so far seems that people are willing to take the advice where they might not have considered it before, due to the local advice.

Richard is working with EPP and Golden Gates to put in some funding applications to Government that are for early adoption of Green Deal (investments in energy efficiency) and demonstration homes. We will then be able to show people how it looks and what the implications are.

Su has just had a sedum 'green' roof laid onto her flat roofed house, and this had made a huge difference to the warmth of the house. Su is participating in Open Gardens so people can come and have a look at the 'living roof'.

Note: there's a good opportunity to target tenanted properties, we could target or have a meeting with the estate agents and letting agents to look at whether we could work with them?

4. What are we proud of in 2012

- The LEAF event - people came in off the street to see what was going on.
- LEAF funding; we would not have done this project without the funding and this was very useful.
- Good participation from volunteers on LEAF project, people really rallied round to get it done within the timescale. The co-operation between volunteers was really good.
- Advising community groups, this publicises the activity of LCL and raises our profile.
- Dickensian parade last year, kids in plastic bag dresses kicking off the plastic bag free Lymm campaign.
- Coppicing, good exercise and good fun as well as environmental!
- Getting people who wouldn't normally be interested in 'LCL' information involved in activities i.e. the film about raising pigs for meat etc which engaged a wider group of people.

5. What have we learned that we need to take on board?

- Raising public awareness, keeping the logo in the village so that people know what we are doing.
- Making tasks more specific, timed, deadlines etc to try and galvanise people.
- Constant reminders of LCL but we have to make it entertaining and interesting (if we can!)
- Something physical to touch and feel, that people can see and that would make these subjects more interesting.
- We need to do what we want to do, because we are all volunteers – we may have a wide spread of activities but if this is guided by passions that people have, then this should be the structure we follow.
- Rather than focussing on getting loads of people involved, perhaps we need to be satisfied with a core group of people who are able and willing to give their time.
- We need to prioritise, have a strategy and deliver it – volunteer recruitment on specific tasks.

6 Looking ahead to 2013:

a. What are we passionate about:

- Energy efficiency, helping people to understand how small measures can make a difference
- Energy efficiency and recycling. Trees, Spud Wood, allotments, local food etc
- General 'green' living across all projects
- Local food networks, supporting local farm shops

- Create a greater sense of community within Lymm, based on really good principles about doing the best for the locality. Getting people involved in our countryside i.e. Spud Wood, growing veg and allotments etc.
- Plastic bag campaign, car sharing, public transport i.e. Lymm Shoppers, more notice boards so that people know what's happening (Co-op will be putting one up at Heatley). Walking and cycling along the canal towpath and getting it maintained better by Peel Holdings. Scooter and bike stores at schools. Waste and recycling – particularly food waste.
- Water use is driving a lot of energy use – save water to save energy. Raising awareness – does Lymm feel like a low carbon village? It's not very visible. Still don't have all the stakeholders on side – some are engaged but some are not. We need this identity to get people engaged.
- Energy and fuel bills – the trick of changing behaviour in Lymm – perhaps green trail and demonstration.
- Trees (and cycling), helping to get people engaged i.e. set up the Friends of Spud Wood.
- Influencing decisions that people make.

b. What can we individually contribute?

- Marion - One to ones, going to see people and explain about these issues, and build trust. Presentations to local groups
- Pauline & Bob - Main contribution will be time – sometimes a lot and sometimes a lot less. Acknowledge that this might only be for part of the time. Will need direction from i.e. Woodland Trust, but would be willing to get stuck in!
- Rachel – happy to continue doing notes and booking rooms etc. Will help wherever possible with liaison with the council/other partners and bid support.
- Nick - happy to continue with finance and doing the website and comms, he and Charlotte are also working together on local food projects etc.
- Charlotte – encouraging people to take up local food and use the farm shops
- Marilyn - Strategic planning strength skills from work
- Su – car sharing in particular.
- Chris – stepped back a little bit but very keen to contribute ideas and thoughts. Will contribute when he can.
- Richard – technical knowledge and experienced in writing bids.
- Jo – Trees and spud wood.
- Zoe – tweeting, networking and influencing, practical hands on stuff.

c. How much time can we devote?

- Brian and Maureen. As and when to achieve objectives, but where more needed i.e. for presentation, then would be prepared to devote more time.
- Pauline and Bob: During winter 1-2 days per month, during summer away a lot more.
- Rachel: few hours a week but will devote more time on specific projects if possible.
- Nick: evenings during the week. Keep doing finance and comms.
- Charlotte: will continue to do local food and could find more time if there are specific projects.

- Marilyn: now retired so get in quick to get it booked!
- Su: no idea how much time she has but she'll fit it in!
- Jo: time stretches so she will find time!
- Richard: 3-4 days month
- Zoe: few hours a week but will find more time for specific projects!

7. Agreeing how we move forward in 2013:

Zoe proposes rather than having formal meetings we move to less formal meetings in the pub on a monthly basis. If we want to have films etc we could still hire a room to do this, or have more formal meetings. The only problem is that this might not give us enough formality to keep pushing forward our actions that we want to accomplish.

After a discussion it was agreed that we should have a formal meeting quarterly – in between we have pub meetings once a month. It would be best if these were on a specific date i.e. the first Monday in the month, so that people know when it is happening.

Newsletters – reporting progress and focusing on deliverability. We should update these at the pub meeting and put them together monthly.

Date of next meeting: pub meeting to be held 1st Monday in January (**7th January 2013**). Pub to be confirmed!