



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Thursday 21st November 2013
Burlison Room, Durham Town Hall**

Apologies

John Reed - Durham County Council
 Julie Bradbrook - Durham County Council
 Steve Hunter - Climate Change Group
 Alan Hunter - English Heritage
 Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust

Attendees:

Chair: Terry Collins - Durham County Council

Julie Form - Groundwork North East
 Julian Carrington - Environment Agency
 Adrian Vass - Natural England
 Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
 Stuart Timmiss - Durham County Council
 Steve Bhomick - Durham County Council
 Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
 Stephen Beresford - Durham County Council
 Bryan Harris - Durham County Council
 Tony Walsh - Durham County Council
 Chris Scorer - Durham County Council
 Vicki Burrell - Durham County Council
 Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	Welcome and Introductions The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising Stephen Beresford provided a breakdown of the 40% reductions in carbon emissions:- Carbon Emission trends from 2005-2011 Durham emissions have reduced from 3,494,000 tonnes to 2,882,000 tonnes (a 17% reduction) whilst population has increased by about 3% During this time emissions from Commercial/Industry sector dropped by 22%; Domestic dropped by 17%; Transport dropped by 10%	

	<p>The domestic and industry/commercial sectors show significant drop-off after 2008. Where other authorities have shown larger savings, the root cause has been large scale industry closure or other factors related to the economy.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Environment Awards Update</p> <p>Bryan Harris gave a presentation on The Environment Awards 2013 which took place in October. Some of the main points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 applications across 10 of the 11 categories (no applications in waste management). • Highest ever sponsorship of £7,500. • 3 Gold Sponsors. • Largest number of presentations, 32 in total. • The ceremony was successful with excellent feedback. • Durham University's science site and Seaham Harbour Marina were highlighted as outstanding projects. • 25th Anniversary/Silver Jubilee. <p>It was stated that we need to pick up on how to market the waste management category next year. Vicki Burrell proposed that the groups from Durham's Furniture Forum could be included next year.</p> <p>A discussion took place on where the venue should be for the 25th Anniversary awards with suggestions of Durham University buildings, Durham Castle and Spennymoor Town Hall.</p> <p>Bryan asked if anyone had ideas for the 25th Anniversary. Ideas put forward included :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxes of sunflower seeds, nicely presented to mark the Anniversary. • Raise the profile of the chairs of each group, maybe present an outstanding award. • Include an under 18 volunteer of the year award. • Use a winning Environment Award winning building as the venue. • Involve Parish and Towns Councils and AAP's. • Create a business type award. • Perhaps DEFRA family can provide some sponsorship. • Create a Health award. • The County Durham Foundation has funding up to £1million with links to energy. DCC will be a lead partner. • Terry volunteered DCC sponsorship money towards the prizes for next years awards but will determine what level of external funding is available first. 	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Environment Partnership Revised Structure Copies of the draft terms of reference were circulated. The idea of a joint forum between the Local Environment Partnership and the Economic partnership was suggested; it could meet perhaps twice a year with the first being held in February. Vicki Burrell to discuss this proposal with Terry. A discussion was held regarding Core Membership of the Board. Vicki to amend this paperwork in light of the discussion.</p>	<p>Vicki Burrell Vicki Burrell</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Updates from Group Chairs <u>Coastal, Heritage and Landscape</u> Members of the group attended a workshop at the end of October. Formulated that part of the role of the group will be information sharing. There is a number of groups that already exist. It would be useful to give highlights of work achieved and share good practice. Need to be more action orientated. Possible projects include :- Wildflower meadows :- provides wider benefits in terms of landscape and possible savings. Heritage skills and green jobs :- would like to do more in that regard. Heritage at Risk :- Identify buildings that need a higher profile and work on preservation. Existing partnerships – recognising there is a gap potential. The group discussed that raising the profile of the ongoing good work is essential. Raise the profile of on going good work. A revised PID is in draft and it will be available soon. The next meeting of the group is 12th December. Concerned about getting some real projects off the ground. Have another meeting on 12th December. One exciting project to take further forward is Britain in Bloom. Durham City has been nominated for Britain in Bloom and we await an announcement very soon to determine if it has been shortlisted. Looking for community involvement if nominated. Need to get Durham University and Durham Cathedral involved. <u>Environment in Your Communities</u> An initial meeting of the new group had been held on 7th November. The group is meeting again on 12th December to progress proposals in relation to key projects. <u>Climate Change</u> The Climate Change Strategy Group (CCSG) has considered the proposed structural changes as outlines at the last board meeting and welcomed the challenge of a greater emphasis on adaption to extreme weather and climate resilient communities. There is a target of 55% reduction in carbon emissions across the county by 2031 and a 80% reduction by 2050. A mid-term Renergy conference was held in Germany in October attended by</p>	

	<p>Cllr Neil Foster, officers and chair of the CCSG. The conference considered best practice highlighted by the Renergy project so far and the impact of local energy labs. The CCSG is supporting the development of proposals to draw down EDRF funds and has agreed to provide a stakeholder group and to assist in identifying potential match funding from its network. The Warm Up North scheme was launched on 19th September.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u> In the absence of Jim Cokill Julie reported that work with the LEP is ongoing.</p>	
6.	<p>Council Budget Consultation 2014-2017 Durham County Council is carrying out a public consultation exercise to find out views on how to make savings of an estimated £100 million by 2017 (about 25% of the current budget). As well as an online consultation there are a series of AAP public events being held on Saturdays across the county (with paper copies available). Also writing to partners regarding budget proposals. A Sustainable Community Strategy update was circulated.</p>	
7.	<p>Health Mapping Tool Tony Walsh and Chris Scorer gave a presentation on the health mapping tool. The tool is used to stimulate thoughts and discussions across groups. A thematic leads workshop was held in June which went on to influence the SCS refresh. It was reported that volunteering is crucial to the health network. There is a need to look at the high level strategic objectives against the wider determinants tool.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB Faith in Sustainable Communities Stephen Beresford circulated Faith in Sustainable Communities document summarising the results of their Altogether Greener workshop that have been held this year. Further engagement is planned in the New Year.</p>	