

**SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP**  
**Wednesday, 30th March, 2011**

**Attendees:-**

Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment (in the Chair);  
 Councillor J. Hamilton

together with:-

Martin Aislewood	RFT
David Burton	Director of Streetpride, RMBC
Bill Cooper	Greenspaces, RMBC
Deborah Fellowes	Policy Manager, RMBC
Sally Jenks	NHSR
Janet Johnson	Groundwork Dearne Valley
David Rhodes	Environmental Property Manager, RMBC
Dave Wilde	South Yorkshire Schools Climate change Officer, Sheffield City Council
Nikky Wilson	Voluntary Action Rotherham

**61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

The Mayor	Councillor R. McNeeley
Councillor J. Austen	RMBC
Councillor D. Pickering	Chair, Planning Board, RMBC
Carolyn Barber	Ecologist, RMBS
Karen Borthwick	Assistant Head of School Effectiveness 11 – 19, RMBC
Alice Rodgers	Maltby Environment Forum

**62. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY, 2011**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 were received and the contents noted.

**63. ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

**64. SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP - REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

David Rhodes introduced the submitted report which detailed proposed

revisions to this Group's Terms of Reference.

He explained that some amendments had been made to align the Terms of Reference with the recently revised Community Strategy.

Reference was made to the fact that the Strategy did not specifically refer to sustainability so it was difficult to word the vision and sections within the document.

**It was agreed:-** That revised draft Terms of Reference be circulated to members of the Partnership with a suggested 'vision statement' for their consideration and further comment.

#### 65. ROTHERHAM'S ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2011-2015 - DRAFT

David Rhodes spoke to the submitted report and pointed out significant changes had been made to various restructurings and changes in legislation.

Various comments were made including:-

- the need for a clear vision and an introduction including the importance of: CO2 reduction
- detail re: carbon trading scheme had not been included
- the need for the strategy to be a working document
- governance and management of the action plan
- the need to reflect changes to the LSP and the theme boards (i.e. the Economic Board and Health and Well-Being)
- much within the action plan for RMBC needed to be generic to apply to partners
- the need to include more partners
- the need to share best practice
- the need for the strategy and action plan to be more generic

**It was agreed:-** That the Policy Officer and the Environmental Property Manager RMBC look at the issues raised; amend the strategy to reflect the comments and distribute so that all partners have the opportunity to feedback any comments or views by 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2011, and that a revised draft be considered at the next meeting.

#### 66. ROTHERHAM IN ROOT

Dave Wilde and Nikki Wilson spoke about the success of the Rotherham in Root event which was held recently at The Hub in Canklow.

They reported on the following:-

- attendance of approximately 90 people
- performance by Madam Zucchini – Harry Potter and the Artichoke of Doom

- workshops re: barriers to producing local good: hen keeping: ways of getting information to people and community groups
- number of stalls
- issues highlighted – events, information, land
- follow-up/de-briefing meetings looking at whether land was available through allotments, parish councils etc; possible subdivision of allotments; conditions of existing tenancy agreements; handing down gardening and allotment expertise to a new generation.
- opportunities within the Council i.e. enabling people to use of small pockets of land which would help to save on maintenance and costs
- website of the Todmorden project and example of licence to enable local groups to grow produce on pieces of Council land
- involvement in the development of an Allotment Strategy
- links with 2010 Rotherham Ltd and their borough environmental trainees re: linking people who wanted to grow produce with people who had gardens which they found too big to tend
- Golden Sevens Scheme – relating to the 7 area housing panels particularly Rother Valley South and Wentworth Valley
- creation of a demonstration site with support from Groundwork Dearne Valley
- linking with the Clifton Park Spring Bank Holiday event and also Rotherham Show. It may be possible to ‘piggy-back’ a further event planned for October at the new Clifton Park walled garden.
- the need to explore funding for specific projects in conjunction with Groundwork
- plans for the area previously occupied by the All Saints Building – any scope to plant fruit and vegetables mixed with flowers and trees – also possible to use land outside the town hall
- the future beyond June 2011
- the need for wider publicity amongst Councillors

Janet Johnson from Groundwork Dearne Valley added that there were left over fruit and vegetable plants from a trainee scheme that could be distributed for a donation to Groundwork. Reference was also made to a scheme on Newcastle’s waterfront where vegetables were grown in tubs. It was suggested that there could be a link made with the Ministry of Food.

A continuous slide show of the event was presented during this item. Also a proof was circulated of a brochure which would also be available on VAR’s website.

Reference was made to the fact that Dave would only be in post until June 2011 and that this was Nikki’s last meeting.

**It was agreed:-** (1) That the success of the Rotherham in Root event be noted.

(2) That Nikki be thanked for her work on this project.

**67. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following issues were raised:-

- (i) South Yorkshire Schools Climate Change Project Officer's continued work focused on schools to promote sustainable development and climate change in education throughout the 4 local authorities.
- (ii) Clifton Park – 19<sup>th</sup> May Celebration Day of what schools had achieved in working towards ECO Schools Accreditation and integration of climate change/environmental education into mainstream education – event to be student lead, with exhibition stands from other organisations. Invitations had included Waste Management, Greenspaces and the Education for Sustainable Development Group.
- (iii) Newhill Park – planting of 14 fruit trees on the edge of an old orchard and cuttings taken from the elderly existing apple and pear trees for grafting and planting in a couple of year's time.
- (iv) Direct.gov website:- availability of £4.2 m for The Big Tree Plant – available to community groups to plant trees in residential areas and other public sites. This information could be sent out in the VAR e-bulletin. Caution was advised regarding future maintenance and upkeep costs.

**68. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was agreed:-** That the next meeting of the Sustainability Partnership be held on WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2011 at 2 p.m. – Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.