

**SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP  
Wednesday, 18th May, 2011**

**Attendees:-**

Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillor Pickering

together with:-

Martin Aizlewood	RFT
Carolyn Barber	Ecologist, RMBC
Dominic Beck	BRChamber (for Andrew Denniff)
Deborah Fellowes	Policy Manager, RMBC
Steve Hallsworth	Leisure Services Manager, RMBC
Sally Jenks	NHSR
Hugh Long	Projects, Customer Interface Officer, RMBC
David Rhodes	Environmental Property Manager, RMBC
Alice Rodgers	VAR
David Wilde	South Yorkshire Schools Climate Change Officer, Sheffield City Council

**69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

The Mayor, Councillor McNeely	
David Burton	Director of Streetpride
Andrew Denniff	BRChamber

**70. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30TH MARCH, 2011**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Sustainability Partnership held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2011, received and the contents noted.

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

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by the agenda items.

**72. SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Further to Minute No. 64 of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2011, consideration was given to the Terms of Reference of the Partnership.

David Rhodes explained that partnership members had not been totally happy with the vision statement, and therefore two options had been compiled for discussion and decision:-

Option 1:- "We will make Rotherham a sustainable community, with a

good quality of life, a healthy environment, prosperous economy and inclusive society.”

Option 2:- “We will strive to make Rotherham a community that meets the needs of its citizens by creating a sustainable environment through partnership working.”

**It was agreed:-** That Option 1 be adopted as the “vision statement” for the Sustainability Partnership.

**73. ROTHERHAM'S ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2011-2015 - DRAFT**

David Rhodes submitted a report which highlighted proposed changes following further consultation with partners.

The proposed changes had taken into account the various comments made at the previous meeting.

It was however pointed out that there were two additional comments:-

- (i) the need to identify proposed reporting links within the revised Local Strategic Partnership
- (ii) the Challenge of Climate Change – the need to specifically mention Carbon Reduction

Dominic Beck reported that there was a local procurement supply chain event being held on 31<sup>st</sup> May at Magna being promoted by JMI (Rotherham Community Football Stadium) and was open to local businesses. A further event was scheduled at the end of June.

**It was agreed:-** (1) That Deborah Fellowes would pursue this with the LSP and action comment (i) above.

(2) That David Rhodes ensures that Carbon Reduction is included in the strategy and action comment (ii) above.

(3) That Dominic Beck provides David Rhodes with the information regarding the procurement supply chain events for the Procurement Panel.

**74. BRIEFING NOTE: SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP MAY 11**

Hugh Long, spoke to a briefing note in respect of a workshop held on 11<sup>th</sup> May re: School Sustainability Workshop (promoted by the South Yorkshire Climate Change Project) which took place in the Walled garden centre at Clifton Park.

Reference was made to:-

- the opportunity for Rotherham schools to showcase their various initiatives promoting sustainability in schools.
- school that have signed up:-  
Aston C of E  
Abbey School  
Rudston Prep  
Brampton Cortonwood infants  
Treeton C of E  
Aston Fence  
Newman School  
Kilnhurst St Thomas
- number of schools that volunteered to present their successes in an informal manner.
- variety of 'experts' on hand to provide advice to schools on a number of topics e.g. waste minimisation, composting, recycling, energy, carbon foot printing and waste free lunches.
- how to produce useful and decorative items from waste aluminium cans e.g. keyrings.
- workshop provided free of charge by Community Casting

Members commented on:-

- Development of social enterprises
- Facilitated workshop by Rotherham based Casting Innovations Ltd – Recycling, education, schools, community etc. (offering a unique range of interactive recycling workshops, using aluminium and glass, that are completely mobile.  
[www.leejamesbrooks71475.rotherham.towntalk.co.uk](http://www.leejamesbrooks71475.rotherham.towntalk.co.uk))
- Engaging and inspiring children in recycling in an imaginative way
- Funding to concentrate on schools within the Dearne Valley to get them through ECO Schools
- Working with 10 schools outside of the Dearne to reduce CO2 emissions

#### 75. BRIEFING NOTE: WASTE PAPER RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS UPDATE MAY 11

Hugh Long presented a briefing note updating the Partnership about waste paper recycling in schools.

The following aspects were highlighted:-

- Growth of the waste paper recycling scheme in Rotherham's since its introduction in 2006.
- Last year over 119 tonnes of waste paper were collected from 90 schools.
- 77 schools have paper banks.
- 11 schools have a kerbside blue bag collection service.
- 2 schools now have trial 140 litre blue waste paper bins.

- The scheme is offered to schools at no cost.
- Waste management have trialled a new 140 litre blue waste paper container for the collection of waste paper from schools.
- This new container has proved successful and it is now being offered to schools that are on the kerbside blue bag collection service.
- The Waste Minimisation / recycling team will be visiting schools to develop the new scheme and also to promote recycling / waste minimisation advice.
- Developing our own in house waste paper recycling scheme for schools will mean that the Council can generate income from the recycling of waste paper, while still providing a free service to schools.
- Waste Management will look to gradually phase out the kerbside blue paper bag in schools and replace them with 140 blue bins.
- Once this is complete Waste Management will look to replace the paper banks in schools with a number of 140 litre blue bins.
- Waste management will also continue to offer the service free of charge to all schools in Rotherham.

Members commented on:-

- % of waste paper recycled in schools
- Excellence of Trinity Croft Primary school
- Informal league table
- Proposed visits to school to provide updates
- Pupils' concern about the amount of packaging from YPO

**It was agreed:-** That the issue of YPO packaging be followed up by David Rhodes.

## 76. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were raised:-

- (i) Rotherham in Root

Dave Wilde reported that the feedback report on this project was being finalised. Consideration would be given on how to take this project forward.

It was reported that Rotherham in Root would be at the event at Clifton Park on 29<sup>th</sup> May to gather more information about what was going on in Rotherham re: growing your own food etc., and a way forward would be formulated.

- (ii) Urban Parks Bee Project

Carolyn Barber reported that the project had been established and delivered in conjunction with Greenspaces with £2,000 of funding from LABGI.

The Project had:-

- Planted 1500 crocuses, 500 bluebells, 500 wild daffodils, over 5 sites (Maltby Manor, Bradgate, Greasbrough, Ferham, and Greenlands parks)
- Planted 1 extra heavy standard Whitebeam, 1 extra heavy standard Rowan, 1 extra heavy standard Field Maple. A native hedge inc Hawthorne (200), Hazel (20), Guelder Rose (10) and Spindle (10). All planted on Maltby Manor Fields.
- Built 2 insect hotels, one in Greasbrough, the other in the school grounds at Anston Greenlands.
- Made and planted 16 underground bee nests, 8 in Ferham and 8 in Bradgate
- Sown 5 wildflower meadows with a cornfield annual mix and a bee mix over 4 sites (Bradgate x2, Greasbrough, Ferham and Greenlands). We had to spay and rotovate the areas prior to sowing.
- Planted 312 wildflower plug plants, Primrose (104), Red Campion (104), Cowslip (104)
- In total 362 children and 42 adults had been involved in the project.

It was reported that Donna Morton, Green Spaces Officer, undertook the vast majority of the delivery work and received very positive comments from teaching staff whilst on site. The children had benefitted from helping with all elements of the project, most of which fitted in with the National Curriculum.

Members of the Partnership commented on the terrific results of this project.

(iii) School Governors

It was pointed out that the majority of elected members were also school Governors. Reference was made to ways to encourage the remaining 43 schools to become involved in the waste paper recycling in schools.

**It was agreed:-** That Hugh Long would compile a paper for circulation to schools explaining the benefits.

(iv) Survey of Fruit Trees

Reference was made to fruit trees throughout the borough many of which were often ignored.

It was reported that there was no Council resource to do a survey.

(v) 2010 Rotherham Ltd

It was reported that 2010 Rotherham Ltd, in conjunction with Groundwork and staff at Clifton Park, was looking at a scheme to design gardens (currently not well tended) that were not purely ornamental i.e. including vegetables.

**77. DATE, TIME AND PLACE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed:- That the next meeting of the Sustainability Partnership be held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 at 2.00 p.m.