



**Dacorum Environmental Forum
Full Meeting – 11 January 2007**

MINUTES

Attendance

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Phil Pennington | DEF Chairman |
| Roger Hands | DEF Water Group/Box Moor Trust |
| Andy Hardstaff | Countryside Management Service |
| Gruff Edwards | New Conservation Society |
| Sylvia Davidson | Friends of the Earth |
| Douglas Walker | Resident |
| Hazel Johnson | W.W.F. |
| Alan Johnson | Gt Gaddesden Parish Council, Green Party |
| Adrienne Gear | Community Action Dacorum |
| Jean Blackman | FOE |
| Richard Blackburn | Dacorum Borough Council |
| Michael Blackman | Rambling Club |
| Norman Cutting | Berkhamsted Citizens Association |
| Sherry Robinson | Groundwork Hertfordshire |
| Dennis Harvey | Hemel Nature |
| Rudolf Kirst | Hemel Hempstead GM Action Group |
| Mary Dyson | Berkhamsted Lion Club |
| Olive Darvill | F.O.E. |
| Gerald Darvill | F.O.E. |
| Peter Thring | CPRE Hertfordshire |
| Paul Harris | F.O.E. |
| Marion Baker | F.O.E. |
| Chris Jones | Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead |
| Jenny Habib | Chiltern Society |
| Chris Riley | Hemel Hempstead Conservation Volunteers |
| Donald Lamb | Northchurch Parish Council |

Apologies

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|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Kay Völger | Dacorum Borough Council |
| Nick Graham | Dacorum Borough Council |
| Cllr Carol Green | Dacorum Borough Council |
| Peter Ablett | DEF Vice Chairman |
| Guy Patterson | Chiltern Society |
| Mike Peters | Dacorum Borough Council |
| Graeme Cannon | Ashridge Estate |
| Elizabeth Ranelagh | FWAG |

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Norman Jones | Ramblers Association – Dacorum Group |
| John Morris | Chilterns Woodlands |
| Mrs D. Hudson | Resident |
| Councillor Jane Collier | Dacorum Borough Council |
| Councillor Ian Reay | Dacorum Borough Council |
| Councillor Neil Harding | Dacorum Borough Council |
| David Nobbs | Chipperfield Parish Council |
| Sandy Coyle | Dacorum Borough Council |
| Greta Brown | Chiltern Society |

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2006 and Matters Arising.

The minutes were agreed.

Rudolph Kirst shared some points on emerging issues from the HH GM Action Group. Potato research and co-existence consultation – 63 page petition has been sent to DeFRA as the public are not to know where GM groups are planted- eg bee keepers, allotment holders and people with gardens.

Reported that Dr Mae Wan Ho giving a talk at Iver Heath on 29th January

Buncefield information – DEF Water Group were directed to EA website – was asked if questions can be submitted via this website

3. Planning Consultations – Richard Blackburn, Dacorum Borough Council

Richard Blackburn of the DBC planning department gave a presentation on the consultations relating to the proposals in the East of England Plan for additional housing in Dacorum.

Copy of Richard's Powerpoint presentation is available

Two responses needed

Blue documents – Growth at Hemel Hempstead – by 19th January 2007

Yellow documents – Site allocation – by 16th February 2007

Agreed that DEF steering group would meet to formulate responses

Paul Harris FoE asked if DBC were being too accommodating. RB replied that the plan prepared by East of England Regional Assembly - that figures had come from panel and DBC had had 5 minutes of representation on one day. Once Government adopts plan DBC has to be a responsible authority and facilitate final housing allocation figure.

Roger Hands DEF Water Group – need to look at water related infrastructure that would provide for growth over the next 50 years.

Norman Cutting – unlikely to change Government view.

Jenny Habib (Chiltern Society) – River Gade is endangered and the whole of East of England is short of water. Inadequate infrastructure – trains overcrowded, losing schools and hospitals. Can dispute figures – assumptions made on number of jobs which will be created.

RB - Local delivery Vehicle to be developed with St Albans City and District Council. Sustainable communities providing houses for growth not profit. Findings of Barker report 2004 and 2006. Historically development in Dacorum lower than household growth (7.2K compared to 10 – 11K).

Gruff Edwards thanked RB for presentation pointed out net inward migration to E of E region made up 77% of population increase 1998 – 2003.

Dennis Harvey – are demands in Dacorum proportionate to rest of country? RB replied saying that it is not disproportionate with Growth Areas although historically yes.

Chris Riley – asked to what extent is government open to bargaining? – Some scope for adjustment

Jenny Habib can details of required infrastructure be represented?

4. Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Phil Pennington had met with Councillor Ron Coxage who was keen that the link between DEF and DBC members be strengthened – asked that DEF pass items to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. DEF Website

Marion Baker was thanked for the work she had put in to developing the DEF website. Marion introduced it as a starting point – it needed commitment from DEF members. Marion asked for comments on layout, colours and pictures. Need text contributions from members – pages on projects and a links page.

Gruff Edwards said he would demonstrate how easy it is to submit information by sending an example to people

6. Any Other Business

Water Group to give a presentation at next DEF meeting

DEF members reminded that Chair and Vice Chair elections to be held at that meeting

Cllr Andrew Williams (Leader of DBC) will be meeting a delegation from DEF on the 26th March.

The next meeting of the Dacorum Environmental Forum will be on Thursday 19th APRIL 2007 at 7.30 p.m. Room 201, Civic Centre.

Note: The Agendas and Minutes from the Dacorum Environment Forum meetings can be found on the Environment Section of the DBC website. www.dacorum.gov.uk