



**Dacorum Environmental Forum
Full Meeting – 21st July 2011**

MINUTES

Attendance

D Harvey	Hemel Nature
Roger Hands	DEF Water Group
Cllr Garrick Stevens	Berkhamsted Town Council
Cllr David Nobbs	Chipperfield Parish Council
Cllr P Matthews	Berkhamsted Town Council
Cllr J Laws	Dacorum Borough Council
P Harris	Great Gaddesden Parish Council
M Harris	H H S A L G & Resident
Jean Blackman	F.O.E
Norman Jones	Ramblers – West Herts Group
Cllr William Wyatt – Lowe	Dacorum Borough Council
Jason Williams	Hemel in Transition
Sheila Doyle	H H G M Action Group
Marion Baker	Transition Town Berkhamsted
Adrienne Gear	Community Action Dacorum
Emma Norrington	Groundwork
Lizzy Staincliffe	Dacorum Borough Council
Louise Dolphin	Dacorum Borough Council
Phil Pennington	Chair – Dacorum Environmental Forum

Apologies

Gruff Edwards	Vice Chair DEF
Cllr Fiona Guest	Dacorum Borough Council
Veronica Allan	Tring in Transition
Cllr Anthony Armytage	Berkhamsted Town Council
Rudolf Kirst	Hemel Hempstead GM Action Group
Douglas Walker	Resident
Cllr A Johnson	Parish Cllr, Great Gaddesden
Hazel Johnson	Green Party
Sylvia Davidson	Resident

The meeting started at 7.30pm

100. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th April 2011

These were agreed.

101. Matters Arising

101.1 The Chair announced the apologies on behalf of Rudolf Kirst who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. The Chair passed on his best wishes to him and his family.

101.2 The Chair mentioned to the forum that S Davidson had offered his resignation with a service of over 20 years.

101.3 The Chair referred to Page 2 of the Minutes from the last meeting on the Dairy in Aylesbury. He asked P Harris for an update, P Harris reported that a planning application for the dairy had been submitted.

101.4 The Chair referred minute 98 of the minutes of the last meeting and asked if Mr Barwise had had his meeting with the relevant officer to discuss his concerns regarding the hedgerows and long grasses in the Borough by Dacorum Borough Council, which Councillor Chapman had agreed to organise.

L Staincliffe reported that she was not aware as to whether he had had his meeting.

102. Election of Chair & Vice Chair

102.1 L Staincliffe reported that she had received 2 nominations for P Pennington to remain as Chair and G Edwards to remain as Vice Chair, she said unless there were any other nominations from the floor, if P Pennington and G Edwards were willing to remain in their positions they would be re-elected. No further nominations were put forward. P Pennington & G Edwards agreed to remain in their positions and were re-elected. The Chair thanked the Forum.

103. Herts CC Land Holding

103.1 The Chair informed the forum that Rudolph had received a response from Herts County Council and said that his letter will be brought up in the next Steering Group meeting which would be held in September.

Discussions & Questions

103.2 Sheila Doyle from H H G M Action Group told the forum that Rudolf had written a letter to Cllr Robert Gordon the Leader of Herts CC with regards to selling farmland. However she stated that the renewals of farms would be dealt with as and when the renewals came up. She also mentioned that Cllr Gordon had to seek advice on the content of Rudolf's letter and he stated that he would not be making any decisions as of yet as Rudolf was asking about all of the land and not one plot specifically. S Doyle highlighted that this should be taken to be discussed at the next Steering Group as it was not very clear. Finer details were required in order to action his request.

The Chair referred to the open spaces and not just the farmland. He highlighted that in Cllr Gordon's reply that he just refers to the rental of farms in Kings Langley and no others in the county. The Chair informed the forum that Oldenham Country Park had been sold and that there were large bits of land around the county that he was aware of.

- 103.3 Norman Jones from Ramblers – West Herts Group, mentioned that there was large states of land in Kings Langley and in Tring and highlighted the importance of rural estates in our environment.

The Chair pointed out that the Council would keep control over the land.

- 103.4 Cllr Peter Matthews from Berkhamsted Town Council asked the forum if DEF were aware of any plans that were in place and if there were no plans in place, how would the forum be expected to oppose on this without any details.

The Chair said that they were not looking to object to anything at present but gain a greater understanding of the issue.

Cllr Matthews pointed out that he considered that there was already an objection in place and asked the Chair how this came about.

The Chair confirmed that there wasn't and that the item came up for discussion at the last forum's meeting which was held in April.

- 103.5 Councillor William Wyatt – Lowe made a comment with regards to there being 11,000 acres of land in question.

The Chair thanked the Councillor for his information to the forum. He said that he had concerns surrounding other industries relying on the land for business. He pointed out that there was a small holding of land which was situated in Kings Langley however, it may be sold off.

S Doyle confirmed to the forum that this plot of land was indeed up for renewal.

The forum said that they would all be happy for the item to be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting.

104. Allotment Review – Update

- 104.1 L Staincliffe presented to the forum, an update on the Allotment Review which was up for discussion at the last DEF meeting held in April. She confirmed that the report went to Overview & Scrutiny on the 21st June 2011 for discussion. All members would receive a copy of the report which would be distributed with this set of minutes.

Discussions & Questions

- 104.2 Mary Harris from H H S A L G told the forum that she had spoken to Councillor Lawson regarding the task and finish group meeting and said that she had been invited but wasn't aware if others from the DEF forum had been.

104.3 Councillor Garrick Stevens asked if it would be possible to have someone representing the DEF forum at this meeting.

Mary Harris confirmed that she would act as a representative if asked to do so.

Outcome:

104.2 L Staincliffe reported that the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources has set up task and finish groups. Councillor Lawson will act as Chair for these meetings. She also mentioned that Katy D'Souza will attend the next DEF meeting which will be held in October.

105. Dacorum Partnership and DEF Action Plan Update

E Norrington, DEF representative on the Dacorum Partnership Board gave a presentation and an update on the DEF Action Plan.

She highlighted that as a result of a Partnership Carbon reduction workshop in March, 3 priority areas for action had been identified;

1. Domestic Energy
2. Integrated Transport
3. Efficiency for Businesses

The Forum was informed that more information surrounding these key points would be given in due course. It was also mentioned that James Doe had been working on ideas for efficiency for businesses.

She reported that DEF had put in 2 applications for funding to the Partnership:

1. Purchase apple press equipment – Hemel in Transition
2. Groundwork Project – to set up a mental health project

Both of these applications were successful.

Discussions & Questions

105.1 L Staincliffe provided updates on the last action plan. She said that this would be sent around to the Forum with the next set of minutes.

105.2 Marion Baker from Transition Town Berkhamsted, mentioned that she would be organising a second Local Food Initiative meeting in February 2012 at Ashridge Management School and asked the Forum to let her know of any ideas they had regarding the food initiative.

105.3 E Norrington told the Forum that there would be a car free weekend being held on the 16th – 18th September in Berkhamsted to promote public awareness of green travel around the town.

106. Any Other Business

- S Doyle stated that Rudolf had asked her to take over his role as representative of HHGMA group. She mentioned that Rothamsted Research in Harpenden had put in an application to grow GM wheat. This was something

that she stressed would be objected to by both the GM Action group and F.O.E. She asked if the DEF would also like to put in objections to the application.

G markers were being put in the wheat – the plan to make it resistant to aphids. This was a major concern with the GM Action Group as there were 4 different genes going into it. The government has decided to back the high security sites so that they are not in a position to get trashed. The deadline to object to the appeal is the 19th August 2011. All local MP's can be written to with letters of concern.

M Baker confirmed that she would circulate the GM Freeze document to the members of the DEF Forum.

- Roger Hands from the DEF Water Group pointed out to the Forum that they had been very busy this year. He confirmed that Two Waters and the Eco Centre were being considered for the Hemel 2020 project.
 - The Public consultation had taken place on 16th May 2011 – Positive feedback has been received.
 - Water Resources – There was a concern for many years surrounding this. Referrals have been made to Three Rivers regarding the Gade and the Bulbourne.
 - He said that there would be a need to look at the river basin concept in more detail.
 - Veolia Water had published a Draft Management Plan and the Water Group had been invited to comment on this.
 - Roger Hands suggested the need for a River Basin Trust to be set up as this was an idea suggested by many. However, many different organisations would need to collaborate together on this.

- The Chair congratulated the work of Roger Hands and the E Norrington on her new position.

The next meeting of the Dacorum Environmental Forum will be on Thursday 20th October 2011 at 7.30pm.

Note: The Agendas and Minutes from the Dacorum Environment Forum meetings can be found at www.dacenvforum.org.uk

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

DEF Action Plan 2011 – July 2011 update

Objective	Action	By Whom	By When	How will we measure success	Update
Increase local food security and independence	Increase the number of allotments available for use through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passport to Go, • Projects developed by DBC Residents Services 	Groundwork DBC	July 2014	Increased % of allotments in use within the Borough.	Bennetts End allotment sites have been marked out, this will increase the plots from 21 to 46 plots. The new Grovehill site has also been marked out, providing 42 plots.
	Host a local food workshop	Dacorum Local Food Initiative	February 2011	No. attendees to workshop	Marion Baker organised a Food Initiative meeting in February 2011, to which there were 35 attendees. A second workshop is planned for the same time next year.
Maintain and improve biodiversity	Publish the BAP website	DEF Biodiversity group	December 2011	Website live	No update
	Monitor the retention of designated open land	DBC	Ongoing	Zero loss of designated open land in hectares	No update
	Monitor change in areas of recognised wildlife habitat importance.	DBC	Ongoing	No Net loss	Monitored once per year. New data expected to be available Dec2011
Manage and live within our natural resources	Start monitoring the carbon savings from new development	DBC	July 2011	Tonnes of carbon dioxide	Monitoring started through C-Plan figures will be available at October meeting
	Start monitoring the number of new homes built with on-site generation of renewable energy	DBC	July 2011	Number of new homes built with on-site generation of renewable energy (for heat and electricity)	Monitoring started through C-Plan figures will be available at October meeting
	Increase the rate of household recycling and composting	DBC	April 2013	49%	Current rate 48%
	Promote waste awareness to residents	DBC	Ongoing	Number of campaigns	Data expected to be available at October meeting
	Hold litter picks	DBC	Ongoing	Number of litter picks	Data expected to be available at October meeting
	Start monitoring the number of new	DBC	July 2011	Proportion of new homes	Confirmation of data

Objective	Action	By Whom	By When	How will we measure success	Update
	homes with reduced water consumption. Develop increased access to cycling through DBC park project	DBC	TBC	designed to reduce water consumption to 105 litres per person per day Length of available cycle paths/ number of cycle racks installed	awaited No information
Minimise pollution and harmful substances	Develop Air Quality Management Area action plan Continue to monitor the air quality within the Borough	DBC DBC	February 2013 Ongoing	Action plan developed Change in extent and air quality of Air Quality Management Areas	Report going to Cabinet to seek approval to designate the Air Quality Management Areas in the Borough No changes
Increase public engagement and awareness	Co-ordinate environmental campaigns.	DEF	Ongoing	No. of campaigns organised. Events attended	None