



Dacorum Environmental Forum
Full Meeting – 4 September 2014

MINUTES

Attendance

Name	Organisation
Gruff Edwards	Chair DEF
Steve Wilson	Vice Chair DEF
Chris Ridley	DEF
Mike Ridley	DEF
Paul Harris	Green Party
Cllr Garrick Stevens	Berkhamsted Town Council
Phil Pennington	DEF
John Webb	Herts WoW
David Ashton	Herts WoW
Cllr Julie Laws	DBC Environmental Services & Sustainability
David Austin	DBC Environmental Services
Cllr William Wyatt-Lowe	DBC/HCC Councillor
Emma Norrington	HMWT / local resident

1. Apologies

Dennis Harvey	Hemel Nature
Siva Niranjana	West Hemel Action Group
Fiona Guest	DBC

Meeting started at 7:30pm

1.	Apologies Cllr Fiona Guest, Siva Niranjana
2.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held Agreed
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Hay Golf Course – revised application has been submitted – details as follows: (re the proposal at Little Hay Golf Complex, Hempstead Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 0DT, application reference 4/1072-13- for remodelling of golf course, importation of 247,000 cubic metres of material, construction of multi shot range, drainage/ water harvesting works, and formation of access on Upper Bourne End Lane for construction traffic.) Since the original consultation carried out in July 2013, changes have been made to the application. The changes are summarised as: * proposed permanent widening of Upper Bourne End Lane to accommodate

	<p>construction vehicles,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * changes in levels to the driving range, * reduction in level of material to be imported, * change in design of the supports for the driving range netting. <p><i>Subsequently Gruff Edwards has submitted an objection as Chair of Dacorum Environmental Forum, based on considerations raised at the DEF meeting on Aug 22nd 2013 when the Forum indicated its support for the Bourne End Village Association in relation to objecting to the proposals for landfill and associated road alterations at Little Hay.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halsey Field (Roman Snails etc.) – The DEF site visit took place 8th June. Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust has carried out a survey, whose results are due to be discussed at the Wildlife Sites committee meeting late October. The meeting will confirm whether the site meets Wildlife Site criteria and will make management recommendations. In addition, Dennis Furnell of the Boxmoor Trust has offered to raise the possibility of the Trust taking on management of the site, but the matter was not discussed at a recent Trustee meeting. • LA3 (Green Belt redesignation for housing) – A meeting facilitated by Mike Penning MP took place between DEF members and DBC planners on 6th August. DEF’s draft report of the meeting awaits minutes promised by DBC for its completion and circulation. Attendees at the meeting were: Laura Wood, James Doe, Francis Whittaker, Mark Gaynor (DBC Planning), Andrew Williams (DBC Council Leader), six DEF members and Mike Penning MP. DEF called for LA3 to be a “flagship development” in terms of environmental standards, and posed questions on Wildlife and Green Corridors, particularly with regard to Shrubhill Common Local Nature Reserve, other open spaces and their protection from parking abuse, existing public footpaths, water supply and drainage, new roads, public transport, and self-build opportunities. DEF were invited to make more detailed suggestions for a Wildlife Corridor for Shrubhill Common, and this has subsequently been done (see attachment). The public consultation on the Master Plans for LA3 and other “Local Allocations” (Green Belt areas re-designated as housing) go live from 24th September. DEF
<p>4.</p>	<p>Zero Waste in Dacorum</p> <p>a) John Webb introduced Herts Without Waste (Herts WoW) – an information hub supporting and engaging with local groups and all parties involved in waste management and prevention in Hertfordshire; not a campaign group. He referred to the recent planning refusal by Eric Pickles, Secretary of State at Communities and Local Government, for an incinerator at New Barnfield near Hatfield - please see his attached “DEF Notes” for detail. Cllr Wyatt-Lowe reported from cabinet meeting that Veolia is expected to find another way to deliver their plans</p> <p>b) David Ashton gave a detailed presentation about the need to rethink waste management by adopting a Zero Waste approach. Zero Waste means more than zero waste to landfill and has to include all solid waste in the system. David gave a number of encouraging examples of positive systems that follow this approach, some driven by local policy, others by local community demand.</p> <p>His key local point for Dacorum was that it is best practice to collect all dry recyclables together to get maximum household recycling capture – DBC is</p>

about to launch this approach in the Borough which is great news locally.

Files detailing David's presentation are attached, as is his Email concerning some of the questions raised during the meeting.

If members have any further questions or would like to discuss further they can contact David direct: davidga@phonecoop.coop

c) John Webb summed up the session:

Herts WoW suggests that we turn to the Herts Waste Partnership to lead a positive way forward in this area;

He suggested that local groups like DEF ask HCC to reconsider asking Veolia for a new plan and instead to rethink the way ahead on a more sustainable, localised basis.

He also suggested that local groups like DEF work to influence households, companies and institutions to divert materials towards local reduction, reusage, recycling and composting.

He subsequently E-mailed as follows:

"A good point that (Cllr William Wyatt-Lowe) raised about what I said was that the Veolia ES / Herts. CC contract refers to a waste processing service, not the RERF/incinerator proposed for New Barnfield. I've amended my script accordingly....."

As far as I can tell, DEF with its Agenda 21 origin is unique in coinciding with the local authority area and being capable of engaging constructively with the powers-that-be. The other districts/boroughs have patchworks of local community groups.....

Your collective experience in monitoring local proposals for development, your close contacts at Borough and County levels and your initiative regarding supermarkets (see below) are of particular interest, as is your ability to focus on avoidance-of-waste matters when needed....

Another useful item would be an up-to-date map of actual & proposed waste treatment facilities (and perhaps energy generation, esp. where combined) across the County and across its borders.....

When we in HertsWOW have a clearer view of DBC's performance in that regard, I hope we can review with you comparisons within the Herts. Waste Partnership and potentials in Dacorum e.g. for education, local processing of materials etc..."

(Any DEF members interested in taking the above issues forward are invited to contact Gruff in the first instance.)

- Gruff Edwards noted that DBC's new waste/recycling collection system is a positive step, since more packaging types, including aluminium and TetraPak, will be included in doorstep collection.
- Cllr Wyatt-Lowe raised the need for a more enlightened consultation (than the recent HWS opening hours reduction) to find out what more we can do and what is possible, taking a more enterprising and business-led approach to our waste in the County.
- Christine Ridley asked how we can reduce the amount of plastic waste in

	<p>the first place. David reported that in the USA plastic recycling is largely funded by packaging companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gruff reminded the group that in 2008 DEF had led a local campaign featuring a joint letter from Dacorum Borough Council and the Dacorum Environmental Forum to local food retailers asking them to reduce the amount of packaging waste, and non-recyclable waste in particular that was currently either collected within the Borough or spread around it as litter. This had resulted in a number of meaningful responses and pledges.
	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None raised</p>