

MINUTES OF FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2008, 10.00 am

held at Luton Town Hall, Luton

		Action
	<p>Attendance list:</p> <p>Tony Mitchell (Chair) Hazel Mitchell (Secretary) Gordon Glass (MKEA) John Crookall-Greening (BCCF) Joel Carré (BRCC) Sarah Wells (University of Bedfordshire, Bedford) Sarah Leeming (University of Bedfordshire, Luton) Janet Millar (Bedford College) Nick Costin (South BedsDC) Obafemi Okusipe (LutonDC) Steve Tomlin (BedfordBC) Jo Broughton (BedfordBC) Observer Clare Harris (BedfordBC) Observer Cathy Moorhouse (BCCF)</p>	
1	<p>Welcome by the Chair, to a first time in Luton, and the first open Forum, replacing the Steering Group. All members were welcome to the meeting, and all had been sent the agenda with an offer of the minutes if they wished to attend. He thanked Obafemi Okusipe for arranging the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies: David Green, Sandra Einon, Peter Tyldesley, Lynda Aylett-Green, Paula Judd.</p>	
2	<p>Introductions were made.</p>	
3	<p>Agenda review – no changes requested.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of meeting held 13 February:</p> <p>Item 8a. should read “Joel Carré has prepared an Award for All grant application”.</p> <p>Item 11 – should read “Bedford” College (not “Beddford”)</p> <p>Otherwise agreed as an accurate record and signed.</p>	
5	<p><u>Matters arising:</u></p> <p>5b. – Bedford Borough has failed to respond to a “nudge” dated 20.3.08 plus reminders, regarding plans 6 months after the signing of the Nottingham Declaration.</p> <p>5c. – TM reported on the two BCCF articles printed in Beds on Sunday on Nuclear Power and CRed. Based on G Brighty’s presentation at the Stewartby Energy from Waste Meeting has been accepted. The Chair is working on the contributions from P Davies on Waste to Energy and</p>	

	<p>the FOE. Derek Jones, Gareth Ellis, Hannah Thorogood, and Ian Rowlands have also been asked to provide articles based on their contributions.</p> <p>5f. – P Hall (MP) and the Mayor of Bedford have been thanked for their contributions towards the costs of the AI Gore film event.</p> <p>6f. – Membership forms – a request was made for completion of these by members who have not already done so in line with the AGM resolution.</p> <p>8e. – Launch of ZCC Zero Carbon Castle project was held 20 April, and a briefing was prepared for those who staffed the BCCF stall. A copy is available for anyone interested.</p> <p>13 – Green Business Network – TM to contact them. GG will give contact details to TM. (Also on Google)</p> <p>14 – TM reported attendance at PRASEG conference, London (6 May). Was offered a much-reduced attendance fee of £50 which he was happy to pay. He requested £32.00 for travel. Treasurer needs guidelines so that attendance and travel can be agreed. Meeting agreed to refer to the EC.</p> <p>A summary of the conference will be made available both on the Web and by e-mail. [PRASEG is the Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group consisting of MPs, representatives of NGOs, some individuals from industry, etc. Wide-ranging topics were covered during the day’s conference].</p> <p>Feedback to go to GG to put on the Website.</p>	<p>All – if approp</p> <p>GG</p> <p>Exec</p>
6	<p>Chair’s Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Market stalls may be offered for us by Bedford Borough. b. 5 June – BCCF stall at County Hall Exhibition. c. Banner – GG reported that a banner will be prepared in due course. UES wishes to have its logo included. Contents explained by GG and confirmation that Forum would be consulted. He requested images from members. GG to contact TM re ways to show the wider supporting partnerships. It was suggested that the many ECO sites could be investigated for future opportunities. (“Card” banner fabric – details to go to GG from SLeeming). It was agreed that current partners could submit their logo for inclusion. d. “Cut Your Carbon” meeting was attended on 28 April by TM. Worth noting their information which may help small organisations. e. Members were asked for articles for BoS of 3-600 words. f. PRASEG – 6 May – report circulated and will go out generally. Over 20 speakers during the day; it was very informative Phil Woolas (MP) was a good speaker and seems to know his brief on the environment. g. Discussion on our stance over issues. ‘Do we take a <u>position</u> on incinerators and the establishment of a wind farm? TM suggested we could not offer active support, but this raises the question of whether we are a campaigning or “sitting on the fence” organization. SEinon had asked for a position statement – TM has put a draft together to go to the EC for a response. 	<p>TM</p> <p>GG All GG</p> <p>SL Supprts</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>TM welcomed other responses and ideas. Implications for LA representatives were noted. Suggestions about the wind farm application at Santa Pod had been helpful, so EC will hear from the proposers of the site and CLOWD have sent a statement. Borough information on the planning decision of refusal has been obtained. ST – clarified difficulty for LA members and conflict between planning authority. Specific statement might be tricky. CM – take general approach and look at the situation from all angles to avoid polarization. It was felt there were no simple answers, so role of BCCF could be to show there is a need for an analysis of the many and complex sides, and to lift levels of awareness, not coming down strongly on one side. Biofuel was a good example. Generally agreed.</p>	
7	<p>Secretary: HM had been in touch with MKEA and ZCC regarding a possible stand at the River Festival. It was an administratively complex and expensive matter. She was asked to pursue interest and possibilities, but bear this in mind for a future River Festival. She would keep everyone informed. It was noted that there are many “green” organisations to join with at public events. We also needed a very high profile stand at large events. The market stall offer from the Mayor might be the best way to reach people. EC to discuss and give the Forum a steer.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>EC</p>
8	<p>Treasurer: Awards for All documentation ready – just waiting for a signed copy of the accounts. Name of bank account now changed but stationery “Bedfordshire Climate Change” (ie – no “Forum” at the end). Delay once more but not disastrous. Balance in current account £252.34; Cash in hand £42.39; Total £294.73. Once the banking matters are sorted, an application will be made for adding the new Treasurer’s name as a signatory. HM hopes to hand over all current matters fairly soon. The Treasurer called for donations from members for 2008/09 as soon as possible.</p>	<p>HM</p>
9	<p>Membership: LA-G is not available at the moment. Chair reported that numbers were up to around 80.</p>	
10	<p>Zero Carbon Castle: CH (BBC) reported the official launch on 20 April which was highly successful with large numbers attending. Piloting of carbon footprint measuring, cotton bags sponsored, planned planting of food for local people, website up and running, pilot for smart metering – and many other activities and it was felt a good community spirit was being created. Bedford College and University of Bedfordshire were involved.</p>	

	Large pool of high quality skills among residents have led to its success. It was reported that Shane Hughes on their behalf had won a Community Award at the “Pride in Bedford” event on 12 May	
11	CRed: TM reported on a meeting. At the last EC meeting further questions had been raised, so another meeting has been arranged for 3 June at 3 pm at County Hall with the EC and Sarah Williams.	EC/SW
12	Website: GG (note – bedsclimatechangeforum.org.uk) reported a simple, 4-page, updated site. Documents can be sent through and they can be put on the site with as much information as we like. GG requested images which represented the Forum such as communities in action. “Hits” were not known at this point. OO suggested we considered a wristband idea to direct people to the site. EC to explore. GG would also consider links to other organizations. (Stephen Mooring at BCC had been helpful on this)	All EC
13	Future Plans: TM circulated a copy of his document. a. A response from Joe Morris is awaited. b. Kevin Owen – suggested a speaker for sustainability and modern construction techniques and materials. Telephone and e-mail approaches have failed to make contact so far. OO to chase. c. Autumn – P Cox (IPCC) and Prof K Tovey (UEA) considered. KT to be asked first. d. Meeting agreed program should be pursued re Climate Change Bill. e. EE Construction Strategy developed and therefore information available. JC-G to pursue this matter. (Note – Barratts are considering ECO homes for Bristol project). f. Noted - our need to be clear about who we are trying to reach, who are our audiences for the events program. g. Aim of event – need to look at number of member organizations already planning outreach, so BCCF could promote and support with assistance as partners. This could allow a share of both personnel and costs. h. Meeting agreed that the future plans should be pursued. i. Possibility that Maria McCafferty of the Wind Energy Association could speak at an earlier meeting. TM to chase up. j. Developers’ Land Bank Group could be invited to a Forum meeting. These are the people who actually deliver developments and standards.	OO TM? JC-G TM ST
14	Annual Work Program – JC’s report going to Executive on Aims and Objectives.	

15	<p>COVE: (JMiller)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Paper circulated. Green Gown Award won for green courses. Sustainability Day on 24 April showed biodiesel fuel pod from waste oil. b. "Greeny" website noted. c. Art students were involved in encouraging the reduction of people's carbon footprint. d. JM's contract is ending. Esin Esat to be notified of meetings in future. JM was thanked for her valued contribution. e. Similar reports could be sought from the other Beds Colleges. 	
16	<p>Smart Meters:</p> <p>JC-G reported that in the new Energy Bill they are mentioned and it is hoped they will be available for small businesses and domestic use. They are available via the Web. Can help to save between 10 and 20% electricity use. JC-G is negotiating a meter to lend to others costing £40. JC-G will e-mail information re sources. (ZCC is a pilot for these).</p>	JC-G
17	<p>RTPI Conference, 22 April: OO (copy previously circulated)</p> <p>OO spoke to his paper on a climate change and management conference which he attended in Norwich, and answered questions on issues raised.</p>	
18	<p>Publications:</p> <p>"National Geographic, October 2007" includes an article on "Carbon's new Maths". It updates Al Gore's facts and is basic science.</p> <p>"Desertec" – solar farms in deserts to supply the whole of the European and Middle East needs. TM offered copies of his papers.</p>	
19	<p>AOB – none</p>	
20	<p>Date of next meeting – Thursday 11 September 10.00 am – venue to be notified.</p>	

NB: Chair forgot to mention in his report that he had contacted Beds MPs re a meeting as requested by the EC, but had received no responses.

Ref: BCCF/Forum140508