

Minutes

Place Re-Useful Centre, Ramsey Road, CV31 1PL

Date Thursday 16th July 2009

Time 7pm

Item

1 Present

Staff – 7

Board - 6

Volunteers – 11

Members – 8 (NB Volunteers are also automatically members)

Visitors – 4

R Smith, E Perkins, B Perkins, J N Dally, B Coling, R Moore, G Davies, K Naimo, G Church, Shawn, B Aust, M Aust, C Pollock, N Jones, K Sinfield, B Weed, B Crowther, A Goodwin, H Portney, S Baylis, P Gladwin, R Johnson, S Griffiths, S Coulsting, P Essex, T Grover, L Male, M Turner, Cllr Mrs E Higgin, P Gerrard, M Gerrard, J Liddamore, J Yates, C Philpott

2 Apologies

M Rhodes, M Begg, A Footer, S Tyrrell, C Shelton-Mills, J Steele, J Lawrence, J Horsfield, R Soans, C White, M Cutforth, E Hale, K Haines, F Rock.

3 Minutes of the last AGM

Approved

3.1 Matters arising

None

4 Chair's Report – Gareth Davies

Gareth Davies gave the report summarising the great work that Action 21 has undertaken over the past year. Heartfelt thanks were given to the volunteers, now numbering nearly 100, who give so much in terms of time and skills. Without them Action 21 could not achieve what it does. GD invited anyone interested to become a volunteer.

Reporting on the new members of staff that Action 21 has taken on in the last year, GD pointed out that this was another sign of Action 21's growth. GD then gave an overview of the new projects and talked about the potential they have to enable us to meet the challenges of the future.

Energy: the Solar 300 Challenge is now in progress. GD reported that he will be visited by Eco2solar within the next week. The Sydenham Community Insulation Challenge, looking at

energy reduction in Sydenham Community, is progressing well and has received 90% funding from Scottish Power Energy People Trust. The Leam Hydro project is also under way, and has been a dream of Action 21 for a long time.

Food: Action 21 has received funding for five new food co-ops. Action 21 continues to run an allotment on Black Lane (with Sure Start) and is working on a project at Dobson Lane with the aim to set up an allotment society there. GD invited any interested people to get involved in the food group.

Re-Use: GD showed a slide demonstrating the tonnage of re-use sales at the Recycle Warehouse. Sales in 2009 have been significantly higher than in previous years. GD reported on the new site in Sydenham which opened in May 2009. Action 21 was again involved in recycling at the Leamington Peace Festival in June 2009.

Education: GD commented that education is a theme which runs through the other theme groups. A particular education event which Action 21 is annually involved in is the '200X and Beyond' event at Coombe Country Park, run in partnership with other local authorities. This event gives children from local primary schools the sustainability message. Action 21 also aims to work more with schools in and around the area, GD reported.

5 Financial Report – Richard Smith

RS reported that last year was a successful year in financial terms. The large growth was due to the amount of profit that Action 21 was able to create. It has therefore been possible for Action 21 to use some of the large reserves to fund further projects. Whilst it may look like the financial projection is for Action 21 to make a loss in the coming year, RS emphasised the importance of seeing the finances in perspective.

6 Questions

At this point, GD invited the audience to ask questions.

RJ asked what the Hydro project would look like and whether it would change the appearance of the weir. Bernard Perkins answered that it would not change the appearance, as it would be re-using the Victorian culverts. BP also informed the audience that the installation would generate 100 Mwh/yr of electricity, which would be enough to serve around twenty houses. BP emphasised that this would be a flagship project, and how Action 21 would set up an ESCO to manage it.

Another question concerned the amount of reserves Action 21 has and how this would impact on our charity status application. RS answered that it would not pose a problem.

The final question also related to the finances of the company, and concerned the link between the recession and Action 21's growth. RS commented that Action 21's turnover has been consistent and not falling, and that Action 21 is in a good position financially.

7 (Re-)Election of Directors

Steve Griffiths stood down from the Board of Directors, as he has now become a member of staff. GD thanked him for his work as a director representing the volunteers. GD invited Nancy D to attend the next board meeting.

David Beal and Barbara Weed stood down by rotation, and were unanimously re-elected.

GD has invited Keith Sinfield to be on the Board of Directors. GD proposed that he be re-elected. Keith Sinfield said a few words on the re-forming of the energy division. Keith Sinfield was unanimously elected onto the board.

GD called for more people to join the board of directors.

8 Any Other Business

MT asked what had happened to the Transport Group. GD replied that the group has had a

slight hiatus. Action 21 now intends to revive the group, the aim of which is to get people to cycle short journeys (less than five miles). Keith Sinfield also asked about Pool Bikes, and GD commented that Action 21 is looking into this matter.

Another question concerned the location of Dobson Lane allotments.

GD thanked the staff for their work over the past year.

Gareth Davies closed the official business of the meeting.

9 Talk on Re-Use

David Beal spoke to the audience on Re-Use, based on the hierarchy of waste, and he touched on the local initiatives active, including Action 21.

10 Date of next meeting

Will be announced a month in advance of the meeting date.

"Taking practical steps to reduce our environmental footprint"