

## Solihull Visioning Sustainability Group

1.00pm Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013  
Room 3 - Solihull Council Civic Suite

### Action Points

#### Attendees

- Alexander Heath (AH) – SMBC Economic Development & Regeneration
- Clare Ireland (CI) – Coventry University Enterprises
- Paul Jenkins (PJe) – NEC Group
- Henry Jerwood (HJ) – Coventry University Enterprises
- Joe McNamara (JMc) – Jaguar Land Rover (Chair)
- Laura Orton (LO) – Royal Haskoning DHV
- Rachel Smith (RS) – Royal Haskoning DHV
- Laura Watson (LW) – Hardyman Group

#### Apologies

- Dave Biss (DB) – SMBC Sustainable Development
- Catherine Brown (CB) – Arup
- Jonathan Bryan (JB) – Aero Engine Control
- John Cave (JC) – EH Smith
- Mark Clemson (MC) – New World Solar
- Lynda Guest (LG) – Environment Agency
- Nick Hewett (NW) – RWE npower
- Philip Johnson (PJo) – NISP
- Kirstin Kane (KK) – Birmingham Airport
- Lee Stevenson (LS) – InnerWorkings
- Yuksel Tyler (YT) – Flakt Woods
- Trish Willets (TW) – BB Boutique

#### 1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The Group wished LO well and thanked her for the support over the years. JMC welcomed Rachel Smith as representative from Royal Haskoning.

Minutes of the Sustainability Visioning Group meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were agreed.

#### ACTIONS

- None

## **2. Progress Updates**

### **Dorridge Park Environmental Volunteering Event – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

AH reported over 25 volunteers from Draintech Services, EH Smith, Hardyman, Jaguar Land Rover, NEC Group and Solihull Council came together to carry out environmental improvements at Dorridge Park on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The works were aimed at both enhancing the environment and improving access and amenity for park visitors. Activity included footpath improvement works, vegetation clearance and painting of a footbridge. Volunteers from NEC Group and Hardyman kindly brought along strimmers and a wacker plate to help with the works.

AH reported that the improvements had been very well received and thanked the Group for their support. The afternoon of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October had been provisionally booked with the Environmental Champions Team for our next Community Environmental Volunteering event.

### **Solihull Go Green Fair – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013**

Solihull Go Green Fair - a one stop shop' for everything green! was held on Saturday 22nd June 2013 at Mell Square, Solihull Town Centre. The Fair is a community based event organised by local environmental groups. Attractions included:

- GreenApe Smoothie Bike – pedal away and make your own healthy smoothie!
- Sol Cinema – the world's smallest solar powered cinema
- Around 35 stalls covering everything green – from recycling, renewable energy and cycling to Fairtrade, wildlife gardening and greening your business.

The event was made possible by the generous support of Sustainability Visioning Group members. Volunteers from Sustainability Visioning Group manned a stand to showcase what Solihull's green businesses are doing, raise the profile of the Sustainability Visioning Group and its activities and engage residents with the business sustainability agenda.

JMc reported that the inclement weather and positioning of our stand had limited the level of business engagement on the day. PJ noted the NEC had made several good contacts including Langley School who they were helping with scrap timber for their project.

Despite the weather, the Fair on the whole had been a great success and was generally reported as the best to date – see attached note.

### **'Sustainable Building Futures' Breakfast Visit – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

AH report that a breakfast visit had been arranged to Coventry University's Sustainable Building Futures Programme on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013 - providing sustainable construction technology development, knowledge transfer and advice and support for business - [www.coventry.ac.uk/sbf](http://www.coventry.ac.uk/sbf). Delegates will be able to find out more about the programme and have a guided tour of the Faculty of Engineering & Computing's new £53m state of the art BREEAM excellent building – a live demonstrator for sustainable construction. To date 14 delegates had registered, JMc confirmed a number of delegates from JLR would be in attendance.

## **NEC Sustainability Breakfast Visit – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

PJ was pleased to invite Solihull businesses to join Solihull Sustainability Group for an exclusive behind the scenes breakfast visit to the NEC on Wednesday 7th August 2013.

Delegates will be able to find out how the NEC are embracing sustainable business practices and have a guided tour of the NEC's Award Winning Waste Pre-Treatment Centre. Topics covered will include: Achieving 'Zero Waste to Landfill', Environmental Responsibility's, Woodland Management and Low Carbon CHP.

AH working with PJ on the detailed arrangements for the event which will be marketed via a specific Sustainability E-bulletin and the LinkedIn network.

## **LinkedIn Network**

[Solihull Sustainability Visioning Network](#) on LinkedIn now has 82 members.

The Group can help support further development of the Network by -

- Invite colleagues / connections to join the Network (Share Group function)
- Posting relevant articles / provide feedback comments / 'Liking' relevant articles

## **ACTIONS**

- AH / PJ – to make detailed arrangements for the NEC Sustainability Breakfast Visit

## **3. Smarter Working West Midlands & ecobusiness**

Henry Jerwood and Clare Ireland from Coventry University Enterprises (CUE) presented an overview of the opportunities associated with their 'Smarter Working West Midlands' and 'Eco Business' business support programmes – see attached.

**Smarter Working West Midlands** aims to raise the productivity of organisations whilst reducing carbon emissions, through a collection of measures and initiatives that change the way companies operate, including a free buildings survey and report to identify ways of saving energy and cost, with recommendations for action - [www.smarterworkingwm.co.uk](http://www.smarterworkingwm.co.uk)

**Eco Business** offers grant support of upto £2400 to help regional SME's to cut costs, reduce waste and find new opportunities for growth. It can help those looking for initial compliance with environmental issues through to increasing the competitive advantage of a your business. Part funding towards consultancy work is also provided - [www.ecobusinesswm.co.uk](http://www.ecobusinesswm.co.uk)

It was agreed the Group would work with CUE to promote the support available to local businesses through our communication networks.

JMc highlighted the opportunity for larger businesses to promote the programmes to their supply chain.

HJ offered to partner with the Group to deliver an energy / resource efficiency event.

## **ACTIONS**

- AH / HJ – to liaise on marketing and potential event

#### **4. Action Planning / Forward Programme**

The Group reviewed and updated the SSVG Action Plan for 2013/14 – see attached.

The Group reviewed the 'Events Calendar' highlighting forthcoming events supported by the Group – see attached.

PJ circulated 'Zero Waste to Landfill for NEC Birmingham Waste Pre-Treatment Centre' Case Study - to be used in promotion of the NEC Sustainability Breakfast Visit.

AH passed on an update from NH - npower have recently introduced a car share scheme into their Princes Way offices (save fuel & CO2) whereby shared cars get priority parking. They are carrying out an employee survey to see they can promote further car sharing or cycling to the office. AH noted this could be a potential good practice case study.

#### **ACTIONS**

- AH – to update and circulate the Action Plan
- AH – 'Events Calendar' to be updated and circulated for each meeting

#### **5. West Midlands Green Business Clubs Network**

AH reported that Sustainability West Midlands are coordinating a 'West Midlands Green Business Club Network' to support the development local environmental business clubs in order to increase their impact in their LEP area and their ability to collectively lever in and share resources . Aims of the network -

1. Identify joint opportunities for funding and growing local Green Business Clubs
2. Increase the impact of existing funded business support programmes using Green Business Clubs and networks
3. Identify priorities for supporting Green Business Clubs

[www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/projects/?/Crosssector:GreenBusinessClubsNetwork/2912](http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/projects/?/Crosssector:GreenBusinessClubsNetwork/2912)

AH attended the first meeting in June - good representation from across the region (BEST/SBEN etc) useful for collaboration and coordination from an operational perspective - looking at holding meetings quarterly.

JMc noted the need to ensure we avoid duplication in relation to initiatives with MEBC.

#### **ACTIONS**

- AH – to liaise with Richard Baines at MEBC around opportunities for collaboration

#### **6. Any Other Business**

AH to arrange forward programme of meetings.

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

- 1.00pm on Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 – Church Hill Room 4, Solihull Council House
- 1.00pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013 – venue tbc
- 1.00pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – venue tbc
- 1.00pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – venue tbc
- 1.00pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – venue tbc
- 1.00pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – venue tbc