



CREATING A CLEANER AND HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

ACTION PLAN 2008-2011

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INTRODUCTION

In January 2008 the Dacorum Partnership published its Sustainable Community Strategy, *Towards 2021*. This document sets out Dacorum Partnership's long-term ambitions for our community. It describes a place and character for Dacorum for 2021. Through consultation with our communities, the Dacorum Partnership identified ten 'quality of life' ambitions. These all contribute to the environmental, social and economic well-being of Dacorum.

Dacorum Environmental Forum have taken the lead for the environmental theme 'Creating a Cleaner and Healthier Environment'. This document outlines how we intend to work towards achieving our ambition over the next three years, from 2008-2011.

THE HISTORY OF DACORUM ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Dacorum Environmental Forum (DEF) was formed in November 1993 as part of Dacorum Borough Council's response to Agenda 21, an international programme agreement for sustainable usage and development of the earth's resources.

DEF held its first Meeting on 25th November 1993 when more than 50 people representing over 30 different bodies attended. The vision behind the formation of DEF was that it would be a free-ranging and lively body of people working together to stimulate action through the involvement of the whole Dacorum community. The make-up of the membership comprised individuals, environmental groups, schools, businesses, the various local Councils and both statutory and non-statutory organisations. The reports and recommendations from these groups, together with the outcomes of the debates and discussions within the Forum helped greatly to inform the contents of the Dacorum Local Agenda 21 strategy for the Borough. Since then, DEF has continued to monitor the progress of the Agenda and to contribute to additions and amendments to and development of the strategy. Much of the thrust of the Local Agenda 21 has now been incorporated into the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Over the years DEF has been responsible for the promotion of a number of important environmental initiatives, for example, the Biodiversity Action Plan, and has worked with the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre, the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Groundwork Trust, Countryside Management Service, Box Moor Trust etc.

CREATING A CLEANER AND HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

To fulfil our ambition we aim to resolve local environmental issues and enhance the natural beauty and built environment of Dacorum. We intend to do this through encouraging individuals and organisations to work together locally to improve the environment and reduce global impacts.

TO DELIVER THIS AIM WE WILL:

- Increase environmental awareness
- Reduce energy and water consumption
- Encourage sustainable travel
- Reduce waste volumes and levels of litter
- Maintain and improve biodiversity
- Encourage the use of local resources

OUR OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

1. Developing education programmes that encourage personal responsibility and value for surroundings
2. Co-ordinating work to support disadvantaged residents to benefit from improvements to sustainability
3. Adopting sustainable energy approaches to all new buildings and encouraging sustainable construction practices
4. Improving energy efficiency in all buildings
5. Encouraging water conservation practices
6. Maintain and seek to improve public transport
7. Encourage more people to walk and cycle
8. Encouraging the 'three Rs' – reduce, reuse, recycle
9. Encouraging businesses to use less packaging and adopt more sustainable waste management
10. Clamping down on littering and fly-tipping and removing dumped waste quickly
11. Protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and making them resilient to change
12. Providing information and promoting initiatives to encourage people to choose sustainable produce and products
13. Raising awareness of practices which have the potential to damage the environment

The following action plan sets out the activities we will undertake to ensure that the above numbered objectives are met.

ACTION PLAN

INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS				
ACTIVITY	BY WHOM	BY WHEN	OBJECTIVES MET	
A	Support quarterly meetings of an environmental youth forum, the " Dacorum Green Team "	DBC, DEF, BMT	Ongoing from September 2008	1, 5, 7, 8,12,13
B	Run an annual Environmental Youth Conference	DBC, BMT	Annually, next one June 2009	1, 5, 7, 8,12, 13
C	Organise a sustainability awareness week " Tomorrow's World, Today's Challenge "	DBC, DP, DGBC, Rotary, Transition Towns,	January 2009	1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9,12, 13
D	Establish a register of hazardous substances present or being transported in the area and identify potential risks to health property and the environment.	DEF Hemel Hempstead FOE, Hemel Hempstead GM Action Group	January 2010 and ongoing	13
E	DEF to facilitate dissemination of information about GMO's through DEF Members and meetings and promote a GM-free Dacorum	DEF Hemel Hempstead FOE Hemel Hempstead GM Action Group	ongoing	11,12,13
F	Develop a local food initiative around allotments, gardens, and unused land.	DEF , DBC Groundwork Transition Towns	September 2009	8,12
G	Promotion and support of Farmers Markets	TEF, DEF	ongoing	12
H	Promotion and support of local environmental events e.g. Tring's Own Apple Fayre	TEF, DEF, BMT, Transition Towns, DP	ongoing	12
I	Organise a Dacorum Day – celebrating our local environment	DP, DEF	2010	1, 13
J	Signpost reliable information on the Reducing, Re-using and Recycling via DEF website	DEF, DBC, HCC, EA	September 2010	8, 9, 10, 13

REDUCING ENERGY AND WATER CONSUMPTION

ACTIVITY		BY WHOM	BY WHEN	OBJECTIVES MET
A	Establish a DP sponsored partnership to co-ordinate work so that disadvantaged residents can benefit from improvements to sustainability	PCT, CVS, DBC, HCC, Utilities, Housing Associations	End 2009	2
B	Retrofit a house with energy saving measures to use for demonstration	Housing Forum, DEF	End 2010	3
C	DEF to invite BRE to a meeting	DEF	End 2009	3,4
D	Encourage all partners to demonstrate their commitment to improving energy efficiency in their buildings.	DP, DEF	End 2010	4
E	Promotion of water saving and harvesting via DEF WG website	DEF WG	ongoing	5, 11
F	Publish information to show the potential alternatives to traditional irrigation methods on farms, market gardens, sports pitches and ornamental gardens and encourage more innovative methods	DEF, DEF WG	End 2010	5, 13

ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

ACTION		BY WHOM	BY WHEN	OBJECTIVES MET
A	Adoption and start implementation of Cycling Strategy	DBC, DEF, Sustrans	Mar 2009	7
B	Investigate potential for adoption of travel smart scheme in Dacorum	Action Group to be formed	Action group to be formed September 2009	7
C	Produce Maylands regeneration transport plan	DBC, DP	TBC	6,7
D	DP to promote Liftshare website scheme	DP	Roll out from pilots 2010?	12

ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

ACTION		BY WHOM	BY WHEN	OBJECTIVES MET
E	Investigate co-ordination of Bus and Train services	DEF Action Group to be formed	Action group to be formed September 2009	6
F	Good and Safe Walking and Cycling Routes – linked to above	DEF Action Group to be formed	Action group to be formed September 2009	6

REDUCE WASTE VOLUMES AND LEVELS OF LITTER

ACTION		BY WHOM	BY WHEN	OBJECTIVES MET
A	Encourage and promote take up of School recycling initiative	Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, DEF	ongoing	1, 8, 12
B	Development of next stage of DEF Packaging campaign	DEF	March 2009	9,12
C	Produce a directory of special materials recycling via DEF website	DEF / DBC / HCC	March 2010	8,10, 13
D	Encourage and increase number of Litter wardens / recycling collectors	DEF / DBC	September 2010	1, 8, 10
E	Operation Safe and Clean initiative	DBC and Community Safety Partnership	ongoing	10
F	Encourage waste reduction at source, e.g. by promoting “return to Sender” labels for Junk Mail, and electronic rather than paper communication.	DEF	March 2009	1, 8, 10, 13

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY

ACTION		BY WHOM	BY WHEN	OBJECTIVES MET
A	Complete Parish Pond Survey and draw up timetable to implement practical actions	CMS, BMT, CCB	August 2009	11
B	Review / Revise / Refresh Dacorum's Biodiversity Action Plan	Action Group to be formed through DEF	October 2009	11

ENCOURAGE THE USE OF LOCAL RESOURCES

ACTION		BY WHOM	BY WHEN	OBJECTIVES MET
A	Promote initiatives such as Freecycle LETS via DEF website	DEF	September 2010	2,8,12
B	Investigate feasibility of Wood fuel initiative	BMT, DP, Woodfuel East	End 2010	3,12
C	Support proposals for Maylands Energy Centre	DP	TBC	3,12
D	Raise awareness of food miles, exotic products, GM via DEF website	DEF	September 2010	12,13
E	Support and Encourage Local Transition Town Initiatives	DEF	ongoing	1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12,

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

BMT	Box Moor Trust
CCB	Chiltern Conservation Board
CMS	Countryside Management Service
DBC	Dacorum Borough Council
DEF	Dacorum Environmental Forum
DEF WG	Dacorum Environmental Forum Water Group
DGBC	Dacorum Green Business Club
DP	Dacorum Partnership
FOE	Friends of the Earth
GM	Genetic Modification (Action Group)
HCC	Herts County Council
TEF	Tring Environmental Forum

The Dacorum Partnership Board endorsed the Action Plan on 10th December 2008 and Dacorum Environmental Forum agreed the Final Version at the Full Forum Meeting on 15th January 2009.