

Updating the Sustainable Community Strategy

Dacorum Environmental Forum's Role

July 2010



Background

- In January 2008, the Dacorum Partnership, of which DEF are the environmental theme lead, published the Sustainable Community Strategy 'Towards 2021'.
- This 3 year strategy aimed for organisations across Dacorum to work together to make Dacorum a more sustainable place to live and work.
- Following the publication of the Strategy, DEF developed an action plan, stating how organisations linked to DEF would work to deliver the objectives
- In March 2010, DEF's steering group reviewed the action plan. Out of the 33 actions listed, only 8 had not been progressed at all.

Why is it all being updated?

- A number of objectives and actions that the Dacorum Partnership agreed to undertake have been achieved.
- Circumstances may have changed since it was published leading to changes to priorities e.g. the recession, change in Government, natural environmental indicators etc.
- In January 2011, the strategy will be updated with objectives and actions for the next 3 years

What does this have to do with DEF?

- As the leading group on the environmental theme, DEF has been asked to update its page with priorities that we as environmental experts believe are important to developing Dacorum into a sustainable Borough.
- A meeting was held in May when interested members of DEF fed in their ideas. Lizzy & Emma collated these ideas into a page which was taken to the Dacorum Partnership conference in June.
- The Partnership is trying to encourage greater cross-forum working so DEF's draft page was shown to all the other Forum's to see if they could make any links with us to share resource and improve outcomes.

DEF's updated objectives

1. Increase local food security and independence
2. Maintain and improve biodiversity
3. Manage and live within our natural resources:
 - energy
 - water
 - waste
 - transport
4. Minimise pollution and toxicity
5. Increase public engagement and awareness

1. Increase local food security and independence

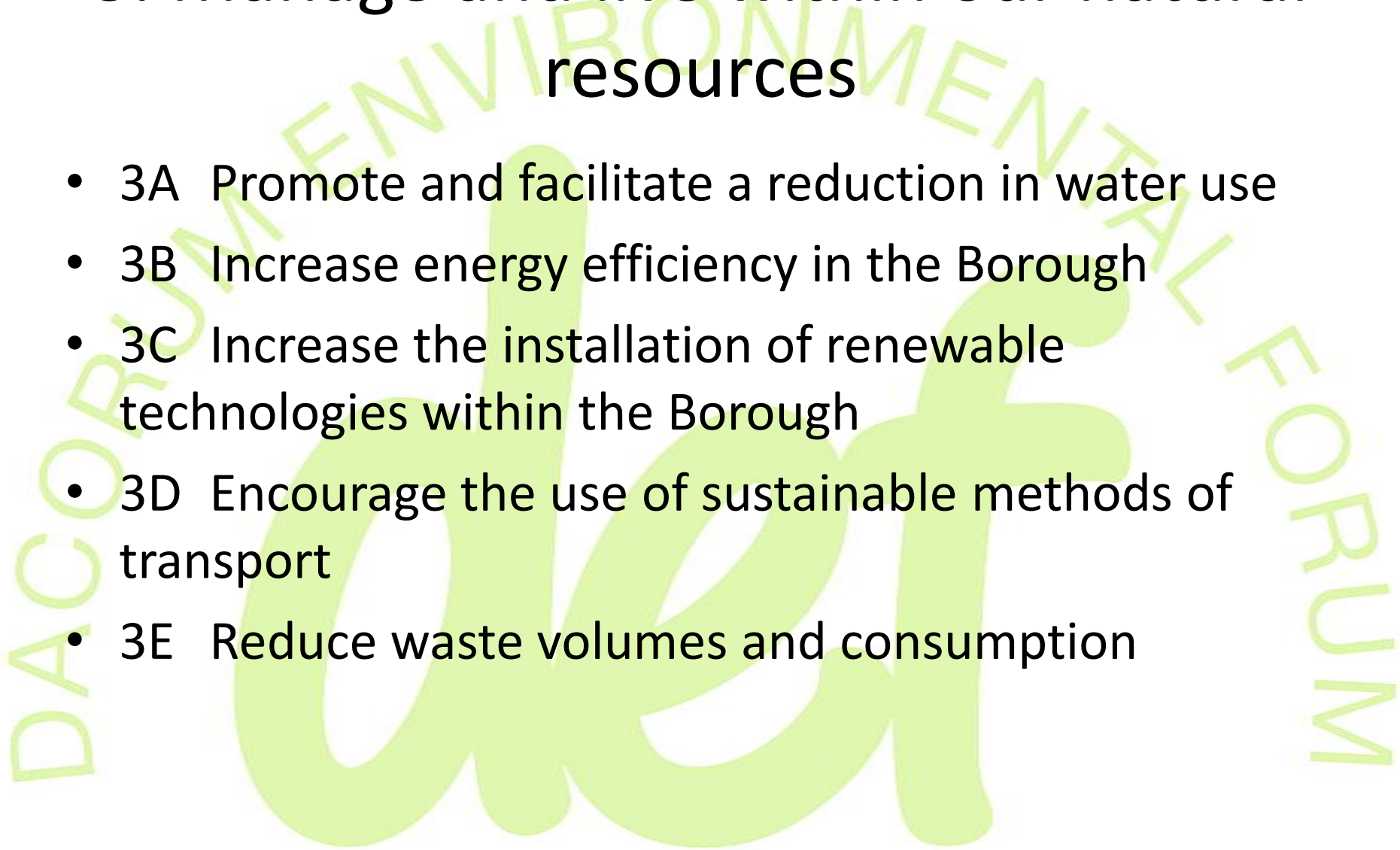
- 1A Increase production of locally grown food
- 1B Increase the number of outlets selling/using locally grown food
- 1C Promote the benefits of local food
- 1D Retain productive farmland
- 1E Encourage community food growing

2. Maintain and improve biodiversity

- 2A Continue river restoration and riparian resource
- 2B Complete the DEF biodiversity website to inform and collate current position
- 2C Increase the number of wildlife sites in Dacorum within positive conservation management

3. Manage and live within our natural resources

- 3A Promote and facilitate a reduction in water use
- 3B Increase energy efficiency in the Borough
- 3C Increase the installation of renewable technologies within the Borough
- 3D Encourage the use of sustainable methods of transport
- 3E Reduce waste volumes and consumption



4. Minimise pollution and toxicity

- 4A Protect air, water and soil quality
- 4B Discourage activities that have a negative impact on the environment

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5. Increase public engagement and awareness

- 5A Develop public awareness campaigns
- 5B Encourage involvement and interest in the local environment



Potential projects/links with other Forums

- At the conference a number of organisations linked to other forums expressed an interest in working with DEF to meet some of our objectives, for example:
 - Children's Trust Partnership – growing food at children's centres
 - Community Involvement Forum – promoting Eco Teams encouraging community champions
 - Safety Partnership – setting up a community café selling local food
 - Business Partnership – promoting green business practices

What happens next?

- Feedback and comments from DEF members on draft page
 - Are the objectives right?
 - Are they backed up with evidence?
 - Is there someone in DEF that can take ownership?
 - What resources are required for the actions/do we have access to them?
- Feedback to Lizzy by 31st August 2010

What happens next?

- Lizzy will be meeting with Nicky to work out the best way for DEF to make the suggested links with other Forums.
- Once the page is finalised we will start to review and update DEF's action plan.
- Actions that have not been undertaken and are still achievable will be kept in the updated plan.

Any questions?

- Lizzy, Emma, Phil and Nicky will try to answer any questions you have.

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