

# The Sustainable Community Strategy, DEF & the Partnership

An update  
October 2010

# Update on DEF objectives

- Following the last meeting I requested feedback from members of DEF on the draft objectives
- The main aims have been agreed by the Steering group
- They have been sent to Nicky Flynn as final:
  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 harmful substances
  5. Increase public engagement and awareness

# What next?

- Work is continuing on the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy, although a number of external influence have required the publication date to be pushed back to June 2011.
- It is not clear yet what the new Sustainable Community Strategy will look like and how much information it will contain, but it will remain the strategic document that drives work within the Borough.
- The next task is to look at the secondary objectives and develop actions to deliver them. The actions need to be realistic and achievable and owned by someone.
- Work to develop these will take place over the next few months.

# Highlighting Achievements

- Once we have developed our action plan, the Dacorum Partnership would like DEF to pick a few of the actions that we will report progress on. These could be actions that DEF considers a priority.
- For example, if we decided one of our actions was to promote the Herts Essex Energy Partnership, we could measure the success by the number of successful applications.
- Another example; if we decided we wanted to increase the number of wildlife sites under positive conservation management, we could measure the number of sites.

# Highlighting Achievements

- Once we have decided on the few actions we would like to measure/report, the Support Officer will be required to report this to the Partnership on a regular basis.
- If we then fall behind our targets, we will have the opportunity to flag this up so that possible solutions can be explored.

# Membership Questionnaire

- I received 18 responses – thank you!
- The majority of respondents stated that they were involved in DEF to find out what environmental work was going on in the area. The second reason was to share information.
- The time/capacity available to be involved with DEF was limited.
- There were a number of suggested improvements that we will look into over the next few months to see which are practical given the issue of limited capacity/resources.

# Membership Newsletter



NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2010

Please find below information provided by organisations linked to Dacorum Environmental Forum. If you would like information from your organisation to be included on next season's newsletter, please contact Lizzy Staincliffe on 01442 228739 or [lizzy.staincliffe@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:lizzy.staincliffe@dacorum.gov.uk)

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CONSULTATION ON CORE STRATEGY OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Council will be formally consulting on its Draft Core Strategy from 3<sup>rd</sup> November until 15<sup>th</sup> December. The Core Strategy is the central planning document for the Borough. Its purpose is to anticipate and manage change in Dacorum over the next 20 years. It needs to balance the need for new development, investment and infrastructure against the need to maintain the environmental assets and unique character of the Borough. To access the consultation when it opens, visit <http://consult.dacorum.gov.uk/portal>

### IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA'S ANCIENT WOODLAND

Ancient woodlands over 2 ha in size are recorded in Ancient Woodland Inventories, compiled in the 1980s and 1990s by the Nature Conservancy Council. These are now administered by Natural England. In well wooded areas such as the Chilterns, which are under considerable development pressures, small woodlands are a central part of the fabric of the countryside and make a significant contribution to the overall woodland reserve. Their omission from the current inventory undermines their protection through the planning process. Dacorum Borough Council is supporting a project being led by Natural England and the Chilterns Conservation Board to revise and update the original Ancient Woodlands Inventory and include woodlands of less than 2ha for the first time. If anyone is aware of any woodlands within Dacorum that we should specifically ask to be assessed as part of this study, please contact [laura.wood@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:laura.wood@dacorum.gov.uk). Surveys will be carried out during 2011, with the final study due to be finalised early in 2012.

## GROUNDWORK HERTS

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- Information sharing is key
- DEF Newsletter produced once a quarter
- Organisations submit news and information two weeks in advance of full forum meetings. Information could include:
  - Successful projects
  - Upcoming events & meetings
  - Consultations
  - Requests for help/ volunteers
- Newsletter will go out with agenda and will be sent to other Forums.

# Passport to GO!

- A project working with the Community Involvement & Dacorum Learning Partnership
- The aim of the project is to provide individual, responsive and tailored support for the most disadvantaged people in our community and enable them to move forward.
- Groundwork will be regenerating an allotment site in Hemel Hempstead with the help of volunteers and other local groups; aiming to provide Dacorum residents with much needed allotment space and provide a small training area to allow people to come together to learn how to grow food.

# Partnership News

- PRG Project - Cultural Olympiad – Jun 2011- Dec 2012 – events programme
- PRG Project - Hemel 24/7 – April 2011
- Dacorum Horizons has moved
- Budget
- [www.dacorumpartnershipnews.org.uk](http://www.dacorumpartnershipnews.org.uk)