

Proposed New Format for the Steering Group in relation to the Dacorum Partnership

The purpose of the Dacorum Partnership is to encourage organisations and individuals living and working in Dacorum to work together to make Dacorum a better place to live work and visit. To try to do this, the organisations involved within the Dacorum Partnership worked to develop the Sustainable Community Strategy 'Towards 2021', which was published in January 2008.

As a group of environmental experts, Dacorum Environmental Forum (DEF) took on the role as the lead for the environmental theme of this strategy, helping to write the environmental objectives of the strategy.

Whilst other forums have been set up with the purpose of delivering a theme within the Partnership, DEF pre-dates the Partnership. By becoming part of the Dacorum Partnership and ensuring that the environment is represented fully within the Partnership there has been an increased requirement of time, resource and administration. This resource has to this point been taken on by the Steering Group.

Although there have been attempts to get more people in the Forum involved with the work of the Partnership, support has not been forthcoming and the Dacorum Partnership Development Officer has therefore suggested that a revised structure may help with the delivery of the requirements for the Partnership. This was presented at the last meeting.

The restructure that was suggested was to strengthen the Steering Group's responsibility for delivering the requirements of the Dacorum Partnership, reporting back to the full Forum for information only. To allow for this two alternatives are put forward for consideration:

1. To invite members of the full Forum to attend the Steering Group meetings if they felt they had anything to contribute.
2. To have a separate Strategy Group within the Steering Group again with an invite to all interested Forum Members.

The Dacorum Partnership is intending to refresh the Sustainable Community Strategy by January 2011. The reason for this is to ensure objectives in the strategy are still relevant, to provide the opportunity to add anything that was missed and to take on board any new considerations that might affect Dacorum's wellbeing, for example the recession.

Over the next few months DEF will be asked to review the objectives within the strategy and the actions they have undertaken since it was published, with the view to updating them to look ahead for the next three years, A conference will be held in June at which all forum's objectives will be reviewed.

To ensure that the work for the Dacorum Partnership is delivered effectively, three motions are therefore put forward for the consideration of the Forum:

1. To remain as we are with the Full Forum leading the Partnership's workload
2. To pass all work regarding the Dacorum Partnership to the Extended Steering Group.
3. To set up a Dacorum Partnership Strategy Group within the Forum or Steering Group

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