

# 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

DACORUM ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

def

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

DACORUM ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

def