

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2010

Local Improvement Schemes

1. The end of September saw a influx of applications for next year's programme, which, I am pleased to report, has resulted in a diverse mix of projects from community groups and organisations across the county.
2. In the run up to Armistice Day I have carried out a number of local radio interviews talking about LIS projects and the work we have undertaken on war memorials. The October issue of *Nottinghamshire Today* also featured a three page article on the restoration of the county's war memorials. This is the first in a series of articles in this publication over the coming months which will focus on churches and graveyards, on working with local people effectively in Nottinghamshire and on the rise of allotments.

Project Updates

3. One of the key projects to have been completed this month is the Gedling Miners' Memorial Lamp which is dedicated to the memory of 128 miners who lost their lives working at Gedling Colliery from 1899 -1991. The £30,000 scheme was the brainchild of former miner Graham Tavner and the Gedling Village Preservation Society. I was honoured to be able to say a few words at the unveiling of the lamp and was encouraged to see that hundreds of local people came to the dedication service.

4. The Bishop of Sherwood Tony Porter attended the unveiling of an LIS project which sees 12 mosaics laid at St Mary's Church in Newstead. The mosaics, all designed by local residents, have been installed in a newly created community garden.
5. County Councillor June Stendall was instrumental in setting up a number of community tree planting days in Mansfield. This LIS project saw hundreds of trees planted across the town and residents were assisted by Mansfield District Council's Parks department. This is a good example of partnership and collaborative working.
6. Sandhills Lake near Worksop has seen improvements to the site in the form of a picnic area, more benches and an interpretation panel detailing the area's wildlife.
7. I was delighted to attend the opening of the sensory/healthy eating garden created by LIS in association with staff and parents at the Hucknall National Church of England primary school. This is now a very pleasant place for children to play and relax, and also to learn about growing their own produce.
8. Keyworth, Burton Joyce and Bulcote have all had interpretation and heritage boards installed during October. These boards give a useful and succinct history of the area, detailing key landmarks and buildings, and have become an attraction for locals and visitors alike.

Living for Tomorrow – Community Climate Action Conference

9. The Nottinghamshire Climate Change Partnership's Living for Tomorrow – Community Climate Action Conference in November was attended by 75 delegates. The conference was managed for the partnership by Nottinghamshire County Council and funded through the East Midlands Improvement & Efficiency Partnership. Delegates had the opportunity to find out about support available, including Feed-in-Tariffs, community owned wind power and establishing eco-teams.
10. Those attending were primarily from greening and sustainability groups across Nottinghamshire and others who are planning to start groups in their own communities. Along with key presentations, there were workshops for delegates to choose from, led by representatives of existing groups who described how they had tackled issues in their communities such as: going plastic bag free in Netherfield, running local produce markets in Collingham and Eco Homes open days in West Bridgford.

Reducing per capita CO2 emissions

11. The Nottinghamshire Climate Change Partnership project to reduce CO2 emissions which is funded by the East Midlands Improvement & Efficiency Partnership has seen a number of events focused on supporting public, private and voluntary sector organisations:

- The Green Business Fayres, which are being led by the Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce, began with the first event at the Clumber Park hotel. It attracted over 60 business representatives and the second event is fully booked.
- The latest business sector Carbon Club 'Dragon's Den' presentation was hosted by Games Workshop, who demonstrated their own commitment to sustainability in the workplace and in the community.
- Public and voluntary sector organisations have participated in workshops to help them measure and reduce carbon emissions (and costs), primarily through energy savings.

Living for Tomorrow magazine

12. Readers of the Living for Tomorrow magazine have returned feedback forms from the Autumn 2010 issue with details of how they have been inspired to take direct action by articles in the magazine. The positive actions and results showed:

- people borrowed energy monitors from a library
- a greenhouse was purchased to grow own produce, an allotment was signed for, vegetables were grown in large tubs
- PV panels were installed on a roof
- installation of solar panels and renewable energy was explored at a number of primary schools
- bees and chickens have been purchased
- trade waste has been recycled
- eco-friendly cleaning projects have been purchased
- greener driving techniques employed

Eco schools

13. Since the beginning of April a further 8 schools have registered for the international Eco Schools scheme, bringing the total of Nottinghamshire schools now participating to 229. To take part in the scheme schools have to cover environmental issues in a number of subjects, they have to be working on environmental projects, have little or no litter around the school and have good communications about environmental matters. The

schools environmental performance must be measured and the whole school must be encouraged to make changes.

14. To date this year, 5 schools have gained bronze awards, 4 silver awards and 3 green flags. We now have 29 schools that have achieved a green flag, with 12 of those being achieved in 2010, which demonstrates the enthusiasm and commitment of our schools in tackling environmental issues.

Newark Household Waste Recycling Centre

15. I am pleased to report that the new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) for Newark was officially opened by the Vice Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Keith Walker, on 15th November. The site is located on Brunel Drive in the industrial estate. The new HWRC replaces the previous facility on Hawton Lane at Cotham, which was approximately six miles outside of the town and has now closed. The new facility is a larger, split level site and provides an improved recycling service to local residents. Residents were already using the new facility whilst we were there, and commented that they were most impressed and that Newark had desperately wanted this for some considerable time.

European Week for Waste Reduction 20-28 November

16. To support the European Week for Waste Reduction in November, the Schools Waste Action Club (SWAC) offered schools a unique challenge to go paper free for a day. Three primary schools took up the challenge, Chetwynd Road in Toton, Peafield Lane in Mansfield Woodhouse and Redlands in Worksop and employed strategies such as using Hangman for spelling, dominoes for number work and using charts, rhymes and songs to help remember information.

RTPI/PIPA Politicians in Planning Conference

17. I attended the Royal Town Planning Institute Politicians in Planning Network conference held on 6th November at Sheffield. The main speaker was Bob Neill MP, Planning Minister, who spoke about the new levels of responsibility that councillors will hold once the new Decentralisation and Localism Bill comes into effect in 2011. Finer details have yet to appear but it is clear that local authorities will have more of a say and influence regarding key planning policies and decisions in the future.

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