

**Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Action Group for Greening Colden Common  
held at The Dog and Crook on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 8.p.m.**

<b>Present:</b>	Rob Veck	(RV)
	Mike Chater	(MC)
	Peter Rockhill	(PR)
	Stella Saunders	(SS)
	Richard Saunders	(RS)
	Mark Rowe	(MR)
	Sue Drawbridge	(SD)
	Emily Seller	(ES)
	Gavin Kirkpatrick	(GK)
	Sue Kirkpatrick	(SK)

**Action**

**Welcome and Introductions**

RV welcomed all to the meeting and said there were several interested villagers not present who had given him their names at the Phase 1 Results Meeting. RV agreed to circulate the contact list to all. **RV**

Everyone introduced themselves with a brief resume of their background, their particular 'green' interests and aspirations for the future of the Greening of Colden Common.

RV received agreement from the group that his proposed format for this and future meetings be implemented, i.e. the main meeting would not exceed one hour and there would be a concluding half hour slot for invited key speakers to attend to raise the group's awareness of key issues. MC and RV suggested Robert Hutchinson from WINACC, climate experts, low carbon champions, peak oil speaker and sought further suggestions from the group. ES agreed to pursue her contact for local waste management. MC invited all to suggest further speakers. **ES**  
**All**

**Roles**

All agreed that those not present would hopefully get involved with the larger roles, e.g. communications and marketing.

**Treasurer**

PR agreed to be Treasurer and suggested an online bank account. He agreed to investigate Alliance and Leicester. **PR**

**Fundraising**

RV has put funding links on the website and RS and RV agreed to investigate these further **RS/RV**

**Secretary**

SK agreed to do this role. **SK**

## **Communications**

It was agreed this should be a shared role – ES, MR, GK, SS  
(Post Meeting: Caroline Chater has also agreed to help).

**ES/MR/GK/  
SS**

## **Marketing**

Another shared role. Some discussion here – marketing overlaps with communications. It was highlighted that the difference between the two is that the end point for marketing is to “capture leads” and “Call to Action”. For the Green Card campaign, this was to

- Encourage households to make savings
- Recruit people into “Friends of the Campaign” and the Action Group.

So whilst communications is about getting the message out, Marketing goes that one step further. For the time being, the communications “mini team” agreed to cover marketing.

## **Chairman / Co Facilitator**

All agreed they would like RV to be chairman with MC as Co-Facilitator.

**RV/MC**

RV drew attention to the Action Pack previously circulated on email which outlines the focus of the group. The first strand of the campaign is the 'Awareness Generation' to encourage people to join the campaign with possibly another 'Green Card' call to action later in the year, implementing 'quick wins' which would encourage and further interest.

Phase 1 results: reduction of 80 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> with 185 houses displaying the 'Green Card' which represented 10% of the population of Colden Common. This had been an encouraging result and RV and MC emphasised the careful way the future campaign should be sensitively handled to appeal in various ways – money saving, moral issues and also appeal to the traditionalists but never to be dictatorial. MC briefly outlined the detrimental effect the East Meon group had experienced following their successful Phase I campaign and it was essential to stress a community approach towards a positive future.

RV summarised the 3 projects which had been agreed at the recent 'Next Step' meeting:

### **1. Local Food**

RV felt that food was the no. 1 priority for the group.

Landshare, plant swaps, Farmers' markets, local food supply had been previously suggested as aids to self-sufficiency. MC confirmed he is liaising with the Colden Common Gardening Club to share and work together on common interests.

**MC**

The allotment subgroup were attempting to address the waiting list of 25 people and talks had begun with a local farmer willing to share some of his land on a temporary basis. Some wasteland near the Community Centre was also being investigated as an additional source of usable land once it had been extensively cleared up. The school also has begun work on their own allotment. GK asked whether any land could be bought for permanent use if funding could be sought. All agreed with PR and RV that perhaps we ought to start getting the message out first and then drive the awareness forward and move on to bigger schemes, e.g. land purchasing.

**RV**

### **2. Building Community Resilience**

As outlined in the Action Pack, the group felt there was a need to commence building an infrastructure and presence in the community, perhaps by sharing implements such as wheelbarrows, garden tools and books which would build connections between community members and build up trust.

There was group enthusiasm for hosting our own local freecycle which, if successful would be a brilliant 'quick win'. MC agreed to contact Dave Gibbons (from Winchester Freecycle) and MR and RS would help with setting up.

**MC/MR/  
RS**

A future audit of thrown away equipment from local businesses and creating a network for re-use elsewhere could also be successful.

### 3. Lowering Community Centre & Colden Common School Carbon Footprint

RV has been informed by Maureen Rees, Community Centre Manager that there is a plan to build an extra building next to the Community Centre to house a coffee shop amongst other things. This would be built to a high standard and could be incorporated into a combined heat and power project with the school and maybe even the Coop Shop.

Discussion occurred on the 3 projects.

MR expressed his concern that there were no evident money saving projects with which to hook in 'Joe Public' and GK thought we should influence people who are really struggling in the recession. RV emphasised there should be short and long term objectives and projects.

MC said that peak oil which is predicted for 2015 will have a major effect on food production and we need to look down the line and build the resilience in and be a strong community by that time. All the little positive ways will all add up to saving money and some of those could be fun and raise interest in all the issues.

RV outlined some urgent short term actions as follows:

#### Village Newsletter and Press Release

MC said he has almost completed the article for the Village Newsletter and will submit shortly. He will also complete the Phase 1 results press release.

#### Radio Solent

MC has been asked to go to Radio Solent to do an interview on 'The Good Life' slot on 24<sup>th</sup> May. He asked for nominations for an additional person to accompany him who has made changes to their lives or been affected by green issues following the Phase 1 Green Card promotion. MR suggested bringing along his daughters and RS was happy to record an interview on the solar panels recently fitted at his house). MC will coordinate.

**MC**

RS agreed to contact Jo Palmer, Radio Solent reporter who lives in Colden Common and SD will find out the name of the South Today contact who lives locally.

**RS  
SD**

#### Village Fete 20<sup>th</sup> June

SK agreed to book a stand via Deb Tyler (02380 693989).

**SK**

Discussion occurred on what to do at the Fete which has a medieval theme. It was agreed that a separate meeting take place to discuss the fete on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. (see venue at end).

It was agreed to keep the stall simple and light hearted. Ideas discussed were selling elderflower cordial (forage is fun!), a sheep show, cheaply made food with accompanying medieval recipe books, etc. Free lightbulbs and advice from energy

**All**

companies and/or leaflets were other suggestions. RV asked all to consider these and any other ideas before next week. RV will investigate the public liability insurance aspects of some of these suggestions.

**RV**

### **School Fete 3<sup>rd</sup> July (evening event)**

It was agreed that if the Village Fete stall was a success the same stall could be used for the School Fete.

### **Any Other Business**

ES volunteered to create a Facebook entry for the group.

**ES**

ES informed the group about a website Ecomotion.co.uk which is a collection of hubs about the environment. RV agreed to do a hub.

**RV**

### **Next Meeting(s)**

Tues, 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. at Croft Cottage, 2 Lower Moors Road, Colden Common (Kirkpatrick's house) to discuss the fete.

**All**

2<sup>nd</sup> June at 8 p.m. at The Dog and Crook. The group will aim to meet regularly on the first Tuesday of the month.

**All**