

Environment Group
Meeting to be held on 13 September 2005
Commencing at 10.00am at the Assembly Offices, Melton Mowbray
AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Notes from the last meeting, matters arising and membership.*

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

3. Green Infrastructure Phase 1 Scoping study final report (presentation of the findings by the consultants)
4. Setting the Environment Challenge for the East Midlands update (John Bull/ David Slinger/ Matt Doran/ Alison Hepworth)*
5. World Environment Day (Environment Agency)*
6. AOB
7. Dates of next meetings:

**East Midlands Regional Assembly
Environment Group and Environment Advisory Group**

Meeting dates for 2005 – 2007

Environment Advisory Group	Environment Group	Policy Board	Planning Board
7 September 2005	13 September	29 September	22 September-
1 November	22 November	2 December	8 December
10 January 2006	31 January	2 February	16 February
6 April	27 April	4 May	18 May
6 July	27 July	1 September	7 September
2 November	23 November	8 December	22 January 2007
8 February	1 March	13 March	2 April
19 April	10 May	25 May	13 June

NB All Environment Group/ Environment Advisory Group meetings will take place at Melton commencing 1000 unless indicated otherwise. For Policy / Planning Board please refer to the emra website for details.

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Environment Group Meeting
14th June 2005
at the Regional Assembly Offices, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire

Summary of key points and actions arising

Attendees:

Members:

Cllr John Bull	(Chair)
Matt Doran	EMRA Member
Gwent Paylor	Business
Terry Millar	East Midlands Churches Forum
Richard Leafe	English Nature
Rick Keymer	East Midlands Biodiversity Forum
Graham Norbury	GOEM
Austin Brady	Forestry Commission
Nick King	Environment Agency (sub for Tony Dean)
Anthony Streeten	East Midlands Heritage Forum

Advisers:

David Slinger	Environment Advisory Group Chair
Alison Hepworth	EMRA Secretariat
Richard Woods	EMEO

Item 1: Apologies

Item 2: Notes from the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Item 3: EU Update

- 3.1 The role of the region in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy was discussed.
- East Midlands could use the EU SD strategy to translate into a coherent regional strategy.
 - Guideline consultation of SDS review completion July/November 2005 and Action Plan presented in November
 - Opportunity for the region to negotiate and impact on a regional level to ensure that the strategy reflects regional needs.
 - Legislation on the Urban Environment is emerging affecting cities and surrounding areas understanding their interconnection - cities or towns to form plans for air, the environment and pollution.
 - Forthcoming legislation on Batteries and Accumulators, as well as Revision to Groundwater Directive

- A Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Use of Pesticides is due out in September 2005, and one on soil in November 2005
- Questions from the group to be fed through to the Policy Group/Board.

Action:

- Richard Wood will feed this paper to the SD and Environment Group
- Revised SDS Strategy to this group and SD group for comment

Item 4: Regional Environmental Strategy Monitoring Review

4.1. The final document is due to be produced by September 2005 together with an Executive Summary.

Summary of discussion and conclusions:

- Group not keen on a detailed report
- To be every five years
- Selection of indicators (evidence) to replace the ones in the SDR and presented on the traffic light system to show how the region has been improved or not.
- AH – green (environment) index at a regional level acting as a signpost to where they need to look
- Need to be high profiled, more regularly, Need to be ahead of all other reports.
- Indicators to be discussed by the data group end of July for sub-groups to return any information.

Action:

Richard Leafe will send AH information and she will forward this to

- Jon Baker – Sections 2 and 4
- David Slinger/ Alasdair Brown – Section 3
- Janice Bradley– last section

Item 5: Priorities for the regional environment

5.1 Alison Hepworth provided a briefing note giving details of the meetings of the various time limited sub-groups formed to look at priority areas of work for the Assembly's Environment Group

- Nick King stated that climate change is being discussed on this Group, Climate Group, Climate Steering Group and the Energy and Environment Groups. The Climate Steering Group is taking the lead and producing an all round strategy.
- Rick Keymer to chair a sub-group on biodiversity and CC
- Data Group – uncontentious
- Driving Behavioural Change – more clarity needed – identifying what we are talking about. A lot of people are bringing Behavioural change into their group but now need to bring it all together (Behavioural Change Strategy) and see

what works and who is doing what. Internal Assembly meeting to be held to discuss.

- Nick King – Environment Day 2005 – ask everyone to sign a pledge and via the website. Suggested Pledge Day at GOEM.
- Terry Miller – Defra has shown interest in Behavioural Change
- AH – environment Infrastructure - need meeting of all the groups (include Planners) – presentation by Consultants for this

Action: What can the RA Group do to add value?

Item 6: Green Infrastructure Phase 1 – Scoping Study

AH presented a briefing note providing an update following the recent meeting of the steering group for the Green Infrastructure Scoping Study

Discussion:

- Who do we want this report to go to?
- Who do we want to influence and get talking.
- Engage on a national stage – ODPM, GO-EM etc.
- General Land Use Database – look at ODPM's database
- AB felt that a leaflet should be produced if the group feel it should be endorsed. Rationalise what work regionally is being done. Role for this group in feeding in nationally
- Part two of the study will be to pull together all strands around the region
- English Regions Network getting a group together and AH to be a member

Item 7: Regional Economic Strategy Review – agreeing the environment messages

A report was provided by Alison Hepworth and David Slinger outlining the opportunity presented, through the review of the Regional Economic strategy, to ensure that a coherent set of environmental messages are agreed and highlighted to emda.

Discussion:

- Emda asking for comments on their 20 questions
- Group wants on-going debate with emda – have a common agreement with IRS/Res
- JB recommended pressing the priorities of the IRS –
 - reduce inequalities in the region
 - Conserve and enhance the natural environment
 - Create sustainable and healthy communities throughout the region
 - Improve economic performance and competitiveness
 - Use natural resources more efficiently and reduce the impacts on climate change
- Emda is comfortable with waste and energy and they will take forward
- NK felt that the environment is integral to the region, economics etc. and not a separate issue

- AH to provide the answers to 20 questions on the environment by 24th June to feed into an overall Assembly response.
- Suggested to put the environment in economic context and a language that emda understands.
- GN – thought that emda’s Q3 tackled all of the environment but that what was needed was a powerful consortium of voices and this could be achieved by a joint response from a number of organisations that could be signed up.

Action:

- DS to draft answer for Q3 - involve other groups and get them to sign up to it
- AH to draft response to feed in to the Assmblly response

Item 8: Environment challenge update

- Setting the Environment Challenge for the East Midlands – the start of a process – first stage will be launched at the East Midlands Expo 2005 on 29 September at Pride Park Derby– JB asking people to put forward names of people/groups for the challenge – award to be given next year.
- John Bull/ Matt Doran/ David Slinger and Alison Hepworth to look at the suggestions for case studies and choose three or four to present to the workshop on 29 September.

Item 9: Any Other Business

Final report of the Green Infrastructure Scoping Study to be provided at the next meeting by the consultants. Chairs of Policy Board and Planning Board to be invited to attend.

Setting the Environment Challenge for the East Midlands

SYNOPSIS

This briefing note gives an update on the setting of the Environment Challenge for the region at the Assembly's "East Midlands Expo 2005" event on 29 September at Pride Park, Derby. Looking forward to the next stage of Environmental Infrastructure delivery for the region.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Background

The East Midlands Expo 2005, at Pride Park Stadium on the 29th September will include the SD Expo, the EiForum Showcase event and provide a venue for us to launch the results of the GI Scoping Study and set the Environment Challenge for the region in a workshop being organised as part of the day.

2 Setting the Environment Challenge for the East Midlands

2.1 This workshop will include a presentation by the consultants of the results of the Assembly's Environmental Infrastructure Phase 1 Scoping Study of Green Infrastructure in the East Midlands.

2.3 The conference will then present some key case studies from around the region where partners are delivering Environmental Infrastructure.

2.4 This will be followed by the setting of the Environment Challenge for the East Midlands Region by the event's guest speaker, Penny Poyser, presenter of BBC2's new programme "No waste like home". The challenge is to help deliver Environmental Infrastructure!

3 Case studies

3.1 The following case studies have been chosen as being representative, around the region, of delivery of new environmental infrastructure, which are sufficiently different from each other (and not already well publicised), and also as geographically split as possible, while still being innovative and cross cutting! We need to be giving inspiring messages to the region as we set them the challenge of showing what else is being done around the region next year as a response to the setting of the Environment Challenge.

3.2 The chosen case studies are:

- Frieston Shore
- Avenue Coking Works
- Greenwood Community Forest
- River Nene Regional Park
- The Sanctuary (Pride Park)

3.3 The last case study is to include an actual site visit, since it is on the pride Park site.

3.4 This is a very difficult choice to make and we need to make very clear in any introductory or round up speech that many candidates for the case studies had to be set aside on this occasion, but there is the opportunity for them to ensure they are included in future years by rising to the challenge.

3.5 Contact names are being collected for presenters and for the photoshoot opportunity with Penny (if different).

3.6 Final details of the programme are being drawn up and will be sent to delegates shortly. It is proposed that the event is chaired by John Bull. Lunch will be included.

4 Taking Environmental Infrastructure forward to the next stage in the region

4.1 Once the scoping study is finalised and launched, we need to be deciding how to take forward the concept and delivery of Environmental Infrastructure for the region as a whole. It is therefore proposed that a seminar is held, in October, including the wider audience from around the region and those busy delivering EI and decide how the region can add value to their work. The seminar to be hosted by the Assembly, to discuss with relevant partners how we go about this, making appropriate links to other ongoing work at the regional level, such as the RSS, MKSM, The River Nene Regional Park and Sustainable Design and Construction.

4 Recommendations

4.1 Environment Group members are asked to:

- Note the progress made on organising the content of the conference.
- Spread the word about the workshop to relevant people in their organisation
- Forward contact details of people who should be invited to the seminar on Environmental Infrastructure to Alison Hepworth or Bridget Redwood at EMRA.

Alison Hepworth
Environment Policy Adviser