

Minutes of PACT Steering Group Meeting held on 21.2.12 at Applegarth, Nicholson Lane, Penrith.

Present: Peter Clarke; Geoff Rockliffe-King; John Bodger; Peter Ward; Peter Dicken; Chris Cant; Nigel Jenkins; Maureen Ward.

Apologies: Christine Sutherland; Richard Wood.

PW summarised the discussions of the last two meetings - Dawn Hurton attended the first meeting of the year and out of this we agreed to look at doing something similar to the Story Giants in 2013. Dawn offered to help with this. At the last meeting we agreed to work more in partnerships and accept that projects will not always be badged under PACT. Where we are keen to develop and pursue ideas we recognise that resources are limited and membership/participation needs to be increased. None of us totally happy with where we are, and feel we have not cracked how we deliver more.

PW announced that there would be a litter pick on 31st March to tidy up the town before Easter. He reported that the response from the Council to his request that they engage with public and press about litter and support community efforts, produced a protest that in fact the town had an exceedingly good score for the cleanliness of its streets!! PW said he was following this up and had arranged a meeting with Gordon Nicholson about various issues. PD suggested tying this in with the fly tipping problem - take photos of the town when we've cleaned it up, and if the Council close recycling centres we can look back at these and compare with next year. It may be worth getting on film.

#### FOOD GROUP

Possible seed swap for this year using Five Cafe or Freegle arrangement.

Possible field trip to Todmorden later in the year. JB offered to drive minibus. PD reported that Nick Jones was going to follow this up with someone he knows from Todmorden.

Sharing surpluses.

Possible food event/festival - perhaps asking Ivan Day again, and a larger venue such as the North Lakes Hotel. Could tie in with Council's idea for food fest and be the "flagship" event.

The Feb meeting of the food group meeting turned into a bring and share party at Applegarth.

CC reported that he does the IT for WOOF and they have asked if Penrith would be a suitable place for them to hold their AGM. There would be 30-40 people and they would need a meeting room and accommodation for 2 days. Food Group could pick this up and investigate the possibilities. Both Centre Parcs and Newton Rigg were suggested as possible venues.

#### WASTE AND RESOURCES

This group has currently nothing to report. NJ mentioned seeing an orchestra in which all the instruments were made out of scrap, and he suggested that there might be some interesting way of turning the litter we collect into something else - someone like Christian Barnes could imagine how to do this. GR-K suggested that we should use the PACT banner when we are out collecting rubbish - particularly in prominent places like the A66. NJ reminded us of the use of social media such as twitter to bring people together for things like litter picking. CC said there would be a meeting regarding the potential Kirkby Stephen project on 15th March.

## FILM COMPETITION

NJ reported that this is on hold until the autumn as he has other commitments at the moment.

## GREENING OF PENRITH

PW reported that the Council were thinking of bidding for the Mary Portas Town Regeneration grant.

Permission has been given to continue with the next phase of the greening project, and PW is working with St Andrew's church, Rotary and Devonshire Arcade to revitalise St Andrew's Square.

## ENERGY GROUP

PC said that the Energy Descent Action Plan that the group are working on is focused on domestic energy, looking at how to get people thinking about their consumption. However it is important to target the Council and get them to think about making energy efficiency (beyond the mere meeting of building regs requirements) a planning requirement - certainly for affordable housing. It should be possible to engage in joint projects with CAfS. PW suggested drafting something up to put to the council and JB agreed to review this before submitting it to the council.

PW reported that he and PC had a meeting about an energy supply company with Robin Hooper (CE of EDC) who was enthusiastic about the idea. OVO have replied positively to PW's enquiry about partnership for this venture and have invited PACT to submit a business plan for their consideration. PW will progress this over the next couple of months.

There was also discussion about getting together with other groups and it was agreed that we should make contact with other transition groups - perhaps invite other groups to our meetings. CC asked if we could use CAfS e mail list if we have a high profile PACT event. It was suggested that we get back to having discussion topics at every other SG meeting and try to engage the next generation.

PW agreed to produce an embryo plan for the next year for others to expand on.

The meeting closed at 9.15

The next meeting will be on Wed 7th March at Applegarth at 7pm