

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In April 2004 we contacted you about Environmental issues.

One section was specifically about climate change and how we generate and use energy. Your results have provided the first clear picture of what local people are currently thinking.



### What you told us about climate change

- Countywide, 74% of you were concerned about the effects of climate change on your own lives.
- This rises to 91% of you being concerned about the effects on your children's lives.
- 45% of you felt you did not understand enough about climate change.
- The results demonstrate that awareness of climate change is a major issue.

**"91% are concerned about the effect of climate change on their children's lives"**

### What have we done with your feedback?

- Partly as a result of this new understanding the County Council's Cabinet has agreed to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate, through which it acknowledges 'climate change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change within our community this century'.
- We have made a number of commitments to improve our own performance, to involve the community and to draw up a plan as to how we will begin to adapt.
- You can learn more about climate change and the Nottingham Declaration on the WCC website, [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/environment](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/environment)

### What you told us about energy usage

- 90% of you thought the development of renewable energy sources should be actively encouraged in the region.
- 34% of you would support building new nuclear stations (ranging from 22% in North Warwickshire to 37% in Rugby). Just 16% would support new coal or gas stations.

### What have we done with your feedback?

The County Council is in the early stages of discussing with District Council colleagues and other partners, the development of a Sustainable Energy Strategy for Warwickshire following on from the launch of a West Midlands Energy Strategy at the end of 2004. Results from these discussions will be used as part of the initial briefing for partner organisations.

### What you thought of the Council's role in developing environmental policies

- 62% thought it should take a 'lead role and demonstrate by example'.
- 69% that it should take 'an active involvement in setting policy and starting initiatives', and
- 70% of you wanted to be 'kept informed' on such policies.
- Only 10% thought that the Council should have a 'passive involvement' 'commenting on policy and initiatives'.

**"The County Council should take a lead role and demonstrate by example in setting policy and starting initiatives on Environmental Issues"**



## CONSERVATION

### What is biodiversity conservation?

Maintaining and enhancing the overall variety, quality and distribution of natural habitats, plants and animals.

When we asked you about conservation, 89% of you told us you thought WCC should place high importance on biodiversity/ nature conservation. 63% of you placed very high/quite high importance on WCC promoting action and awareness on biodiversity. For more information about our Local Biodiversity Action Plan, visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity).

Warwickshire Museum publishes a regular RINGS newsletter (Research, Recording and Recreation in Nature Groups), which includes a diary of local events, and contact details of local groups and experts, which can be found at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rings](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rings).

### Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

At the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, over 150 countries pledged to conserve their dwindling biodiversity. Britain has already published a UK Biodiversity Action Plan. It is now encouraging local people and local organisations to form partnerships that can produce and deliver Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs).

88% of you also thought that WCC should place high importance on conservation of the historic environment. Web-based information on the historic environment can be obtained at: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/timetrail](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/timetrail)

47% of you placed very high/quite high importance on WCC providing reports and publications both traditional and web-based about the conservation of the natural and historic environment, so please take a look on [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/museum](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/museum)