

Warwickshire **Climate Change Partnership**

31 July 2009

Submission Form for Case Studies

Community groups & schools

Please Insert:

Name of Group/School: Wolvey Environmental Enhancement Working Party

Name of Project: Setting up a community group

Category:

Choose category from one of the following themes:

1. Energy
2. Transport
3. Resource Efficiency
4. Adaptation
5. Communications and Education

(If you are unsure which category to choose, please leave blank)

Date

Please return to: Dr. Jacky Lawrence, Strategic Energy Manager, Environmental Management, E&E, WCC, PO Box 43, Warwick CV34 4SX.

Email : climatechange@warwickshire.gov.uk, Web : www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechange



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Please use as much space in the boxes as you need

1 Our Vision Statement/Roles and Responsibilities

This sets out our policy on climate change and the environment. (If you do not have one, please leave blank.)

Aim: To develop and sustain the environment of Wolvey Parish by planning and delivering work that raises the awareness of and brings benefits to the local community.

Role: To report at least quarterly to the parish council and submit recommendations for:

- Managing the natural and designed environment of the parish
- Sustaining and developing biodiversity
- Informing and explaining strategies to residents

Activity areas:

Enhance the appearance of the Wetland Reserve by managing its natural environment

Encourage the increased use of public footpaths and bridleways within the parish

Promote the creation and protection of diverse habitats for wildlife

Improve designed and cultivated areas to enhance visual aspects of the parish

Develop a programme for replacing and enhancing street furniture and signage to improve the visual appearance of the parish.

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2 Project Concept - what we did.

Below is listed the name of and a description of our project. Why we did it - What the aims and objectives were. How it was expected to work; what had to be done to make the project succeed and what the expected benefits of the scheme were.

The old cricket field nature reserve is a rush pasture habitat with plants such as purple moor grass and rushes among these and wide range of

plants can be supported attracting a diverse insect fauna. Birds include Barn Owls, snipe, reed bunting and woodpeckers. Foxes also regularly visit the area.

The Wolvey Environmental Working Group was formed from the responses given by the community to the Wolvey Plan Questionnaire. The groups first activity was to use the questionnaire to put together a list of actions for the group to work towards, one of which was the installation of a boardwalk on the wetland area. The board walk it would hope would encourage people to use the wetland area.

In Summer 2008 The Parish Council was awarded a grant of £10,000 from BBC Breathing Places, to build a boardwalk on the wetland reserve. A further £10,000 grant was provided by Rugby Borough Council Rural Development Fund. An additional £5000 was provided by Wolvey Parish Council.

Once funding had been sought and approved the group thought about suppliers seeking quotes and the various material which could be used on the boardwalk, maintenance of the walk also needed to be considered

The groups next contacted the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers who they hoped would advise and help co-ordinate the project using volunteer labour however latter found they between the all the volunteers within the working group they would be able to do this themselves

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Between October and November 2008 the working group started on the installation of the wetland reserve boardwalk. The group of volunteers Worked together lifting, drilling and installing posts. The boardwalk was completed on Sunday November the 23rd and is now accessible to all to enjoy.

Additional work to complete the project has involved the installation of new gates, repair of fencing, reinstalling benches and new signage to inform and educate visitors.

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3 Project Partners – who was involved.

Project partners required for the Wetland Reserve Boardwalk project

Rugby Borough Council Rural Development Fund provided £10,000 in funding for the Wetland Reserve boardwalk

BBC Breathing Places provided £10,000 in funding for the wetland boardwalk

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust provided assistance and knowledge in the wetland boardwalk project

Warwickshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan & partners provided advice and information

Warwickshire Principal Ecologist David Lowe provides support and advice

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4 What we learned from the project

A description of what we learned in carrying out this project can be seen below, i.e. what the easy successes were, the overall outcome and any problems we had.

What worked?

Whilst completing the boardwalk project the working group developed a number of skills such as effective communication, completing an application form for funding, chairing and holding meetings, coordination skills for a group of volunteers, hands on experience on building a boardwalk.

What didn't work?

The working group had to overcome scepticism from some members of the community as well as some difficulties in getting people to work effectively together.

How this project generated enthusiasm, won hearts and minds and made a difference

The boardwalk project has generated much enthusiasm in the local community with more people using the wetland reserve, increasing the interest and understanding in this unique area. Enthusiasm in the working group itself has increased with the group growing in size. The group has organised displays at local events to inform the local community and an open day at the village Summer Festival to encourage more people to visit and enjoy the site

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5 Communications

A list of communication channels used to promote the groups activities

- Communication within the group takes place at monthly meetings
- Communication to the community takes place in the form of articles in the Wolvey Parish Council Newsletter and notices on the village noticeboard
- Environment Group displays at village events eg Produce Show, Annual Parish meeting, Christmas lights switch-on, etc
- Promotion of the groups activities have also appeared of Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership website, Warwickshire Rural Council Newsletter and press releases in local newspapers and local radio
- Use of Parish web site

6 Continuous Improvement

Below is a description of what we intend to do next in tackling climate change within our group/community.

The group hopes to extend the boardwalk to improve access to a small woodland walk.
The group hopes to organise a spring festival in the following few months and increase the links between the working group, the school and the local army barracks

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7 Contact Details – where to go for further information on the above project

Below is a list of sources of information and relevant contact details for this project.

For more information on the groups activities please call Ruth Buswell on 01455 221324 or log onto the Wolvey web site www.wolvey.org

8 Any other useful information?

Sources of other useful information and links are given below.

