

An Attractive Place

Working to protect and improve our environment

Our Vision: Protect and improve the environment

Our environment is one of our greatest assets. We live in an attractive area where there is space to relax and enjoy leisure activities. We also have many wonderful landscapes that are rich in wildlife. It's vital that we look after our environment – which is essential for our quality of life and also to support healthy businesses and thriving tourism industry. The BLSP's Environment Sub-Group is leading this challenge.

Our Goals:

- u Promote transport alternatives to the car
- u Protect, conserve and expand areas for local wildlife
- u Reduce, recycle and re-use waste
- u Reduce energy and water use and decrease pollution
- u Improve access for everyone to wildlife-rich open space near to where they live
- u Promote the importance of the environment to everyone's lives

Our Progress: Key Achievements 2003/2004

Environment Fair

As part of Manton Community Gala 2004, the Environment Sub-Group held their first event. The aim of the environment Fair was to raise local awareness of the Sub-group and its objectives, and to increase people's individual knowledge regarding their local environment.

Many local partners were involved in the event including the following stalls:

- u BLSP/ Community Strategy
- u Bassetlaw District Council – Environmental Development (Recycling)
- u Bassetlaw District Council – Dog Warden
- u Nottinghamshire County Council – Environment PR
- u Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council
- u Manton GAP (Green Areas and Parks)
- u Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust – Education
- u Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust – Conservation Demonstrations
- u Sherwood Forest Community Rangers
- u Sherwood Forest Country Park and Visitor Centre
- u Sherwood Forest Initiative
- u Soroptimists International of the Dukeries
- u Derbyshire & North Nottinghamshire Energy Partnership

The event was sponsored by:

- u Nottinghamshire County Council,
- u Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership,
- u B&Q, and
- u Wilkinsons.





Through the sponsorship received from B&Q and Wilkinsons, a variety of plants and garden equipment were donated to the Grand Prize Draw. Prizes included planters, a large variety of bedding plants, peat-free compost, garden tools, and hanging baskets with liners and wall brackets.

For more information contact Jo Lindley on 01909 533189.

Idle Valley Wide Area Project (WAP)

The Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits area is a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering 316 ha. The SSSI is of enormous significance for over-wintering and breeding wildfowl and occupies a key location in the Idle Valley, which has long been degraded by intensive agriculture, flood defence works, mineral extraction and drainage schemes.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) are currently working through the detailed negotiations with Tarmac, the current owners of the site, regarding the acquisition process. Funding has been obtained from English Nature's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund to fund a project officer and project management time. The next steps will be to secure substantial funding for the capital purchase and capital improvements required on the site, which will over time, deliver the social regeneration aspirations of the project. Funds for the project will form a complex jigsaw, and are in the early stages of being sought from HLF, INTERREGG Strategic Rivers Corridors, and a request to the Alliance SSP is likely to be developed in the future.

At the same time the NWT will be looking for sources of funding to develop business plans for the micro businesses, which will arise as a result of the site, and seek to develop the economic regeneration which is key to the long term success of the project. NWT will be looking to discuss this with the Economic Development Departments of both Bassetlaw District and Nottinghamshire County Councils.

North Nottinghamshire College (NNC) currently run a range of rural skills training courses, but due to the varied and extensive nature of this curriculum, without ownership/lease of a farm or large land area, activities are currently spread throughout the District in different locations based on a range of sub-contracts. This leads to a somewhat complicated programme that the college is keen to rectify.

NNC has a strong commitment to the 'rurality' of Nottinghamshire and are actively pursuing strategies to enhance their role as a leader in rural education and also to increase their presence in the eastern half of the District. They have a long-time interest in a permanent rural learning base that could be developed as a centre of excellence. Courses they offer and hope to offer include subjects such as equine studies, small animal care, amenity horticulture, rural conservation, rural economy, sustainable energy etc. They also hope to broaden the range of classes available for students with learning disabilities or special needs. NNC are currently looking to obtain outline planning permission for the learning centre and visitor centre close to Retford. Currently they have asked architects to submit outline proposals. Ecological surveys of the site have already been carried out, and funds for the learning facility are being sought.



NWT and NNC would like to thank the BLSP Board for the continued support they have shown to the project to date and for the support we are certain will be required into the future of this exciting project.

For more information contact Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on 0115 9243175.

Bassetlaw Share a Ride

GIVE SOMEONE A LIFT AND CUT DOWN ON COSTS – SHARING IS CHEAPER AND GREENER.

People in North Nottinghamshire are enjoying cheaper, greener journeys thanks to a car-share initiative managed through Retford Action Centre.

Bassetlaw Share A Ride has attracted over 200 people to car-sharing since its launch in July 2002, with over 1000 routes available for car share. The car-share idea arose from meetings between Employment Service in Retford, Nottinghamshire County Council and Retford Action Centre. Employment Services recognised that transport was a major obstacle to getting people into employment in the Bassetlaw area. This was chiefly due to people either living in rural areas where busses did not start early enough - or buses not being convenient to workplaces.

To this end, it was agreed that instead of providing more buses, an innovative car-share scheme could help local people instead. As Keith Burlington, *Share a Ride Project Officer*, explains 'We are confident that if those already employed in the area could be persuaded to offer lifts to others, this could help new employees access training and employment more easily.'

Funding from The Countryside Agency was matched by the Local Area Forum to fund the pilot project. Meanwhile, Nottinghamshire County Council provided funding for road signs promoting the project and other publicity. The Nottinghamshire Community Foundation are currently funding the project.



As Keith continues 'The project has gone from strength to strength with a new website providing a online registration system which as proved popular with local commuters.'

Bassetlaw Share a Ride is a free service open to those people either living or working in the Bassetlaw Area, and includes non-car owners. **To take advantage of this economic and convenient initiative contact Keith Burlington at the Retford Action Centre on 01777-709650, via sharearide@retfordactioncentre.org.uk or register online at www.retfordactioncentre.org.uk**

Sandy Lane Forum

The Sandy Lane Forum is a group of organizations and local residents. The forum seeks to improve the provision and co-ordination of information, activities, services and facilities for the Sandy Lane area. The Forum has been working since 2003. The first meeting was held because it was felt that the area had missed out on major funding and regeneration initiatives.

The following local agencies are involved:

- | | |
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| <u>u</u> A1 Housing | <u>u</u> Nottinghamshire County Council |
| <u>u</u> BCVS | <u>u</u> Nottinghamshire Police |
| <u>u</u> Bassetlaw District Council | <u>u</u> Poplars Church |
| <u>u</u> Connexions | <u>u</u> Redlands School |
| <u>u</u> Crown Place Sheltered Scheme | <u>u</u> Residents |
| <u>u</u> Neighbourhood Watch | <u>u</u> St. Johns Church |
| <u>u</u> North Nottinghamshire College | <u>u</u> Specific local community and
voluntary groups including Worksop
Ramblers Association, Youth Groups |

One of the main activities of the Forum to date has been the commissioning of TANC Consultants to undertake a Mapping Exercise to assess service provision in and available to the area. A full report is available which highlights where services are in relation to the area and what they actually provide. The Forum was awarded £6,000 by Nottinghamshire Community foundation for consultation within the Sandy lane area. The Forum have enlisted the help of Shirley Macredie, a consultant, to assist them with the process so that the members involved can identify local needs and aspirations. From this the Forum hope to develop an Action Plan for the area.

For more information on this scheme contact Michael Newstead, Director BCVS on 01909 476118 ext. 22

For more information contact:

Jo Lindley on 01909 533189, or email: joanne.lindley@bassetlaw.gov.uk

Key Targets

The table below outlines the nine key targets agreed by the Sub-Group, as outlined in the Community Strategy Summary, that will be used to measure outcomes of the projects supported by the group. Achievement across all the indicators will involve partnership working, and will indicate the added value of the work of the BLSP. These are monitored closely throughout the year and reported on annually.

Our long term goal... to ensure there is at least one hectare of local nature reserve per 1000 population by 2005 and increase this availability each year

BLSP Indicator	Definition	Method of Measurement	2003/2004 Performance
ENV 1	To ensure there is at least one hectare of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population by 2005 and increase this availability each year	(1) English Nature database	(1) 0.46hectares per 1000 population ²¹
ENV 2	Run local campaigns annually to promote alternatives to the car and to raise awareness of the local environment	NRCC (1) Village Connections (2) Alliance Community Transport (3) Wheels to Work	Publicity and Promotion targets vary from project to project depending on a number of criteria – see references for a full explanation. ²²
ENV 3	Hold an additional 12 Farmers Markets every year	(1) Objective for Economic Development & Tourism Service, BDC Baseline (2002/2003) (a) Retford = 12 (b) Worksop = 0	(1a) Retford = 12 (1b) Worksop = 0
ENV 4	Restore and enhance Sherwood Forest habitats in Bassetlaw by 2007	Sherwood Forest Trust – Manton Pit Wood (1) Heathland (2) Acid Grassland (3) Wetland (4) Wet Woodland – Alder, Willow (5) Other woodland – maintenance and creation (6) Hedgerows – maintenance and creation	(1) and (2) 4ha created/improved (3) Not recorded (4) Not recorded (5) 3ha established Mixed Woodland management 2ha established Oak Woodland management (6) Not recorded
ENV 5	Develop a major site for nature conservation, tourism, leisure and rural regeneration by 2006	(1) NWT Idle Valley WAP (a) Preliminary reports/investigations (b) Acquisition of site	(1a) Complete (1b) Underway, to be completed

BLSIP Indicator	Definition	Method of Measurement	2003/2004 Performance
ENV 6	Create 45 hectares of new woodland by 2005	Forestry Commission monitoring of Woodland Grants Scheme (WGS) within District Baseline (2002/2003) 3 schemes claiming via WGS, totalling 3.47ha of new woodland	8 schemes claiming via WGS totalling 14.61ha of new woodland
ENV 7	Recycle 21% of household waste by 2005/2006 ²³	(1) BV82a, collated by Bassetlaw District Council Baseline (2002/2003) = 6.96%	14.44%
ENV 8	Work with farmers to increase the number of farms that are being managed in an environmentally friendly way, through agri-environment schemes	(1) Rural Delivery Service – RDS (part of DEFRA) monitoring of Countryside Stewardship Schemes (CSS) agreements within District ²⁴ Baseline (2002/2003) = 8 CSS Agreements (2) FWAG monitoring of CSS within District Baseline (2002/2003) = FWAG CSS agreements are included within the RDS figures above.	(1) 10 CSS Agreements (2) FWAG CSS agreements are included within the RDS figures above. Key achievements through CSS agreements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treswell Wood – buffered and enhanced on 2 sides through a 2003/2004 agreement • River Ryton, Blyth – approx. 10km buffered and protected through agreements spanning 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.
ENV 9	Make 20% improvements in household energy efficiency by 2010 and a further 20% by 2020	(1) Measured via the HECA targets ²⁵ Baseline (2002/2003) = 1.46%	(1) 1.74%

Environment Action Plan – Our Performance

The charts below indicate how the Environment Sub-Group is performing against the 'Actions' within their Action Plan. The key for the charts is as follows:



Red (R) = Not progressing to timetable



Amber (A) = Some work underway but underlying issues e.g. slippage on timetable, or funding concerns

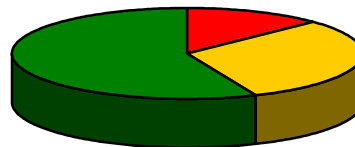


Green (G) = Work underway to timetable

This 'traffic light' system was piloted by the Health Sub-Group in October 2003 and January 2004. This was then rolled out to all the Sub-Groups for April 2004, and included in the Interim Report May 2004.

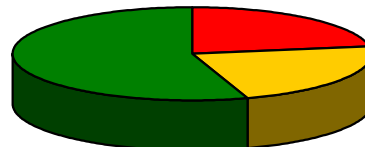
April 2004

R = 5 (12.8%)
A = 12 (30.8%)
G = 22 (56.4%)



July 2004

R = 9 (22.50%)
A = 9 (22.50%)
G = 22 (55.00%)



October 2004

R = 10 (25.00%)
A = 8 (20.00%)
G = 22 (55.00%)

