Lichfield Green Conversations, Wednesday 29ᵗʰ November, Guildhall

Supported by Lichfield Re:Cycle and Lichfield City Council

Over 2.5 hours, 45 attendees from 25 groups and organisations took part in 4 facilitated conversations, based around communication, training, an overview of the Green Network, and a mapping exercise. The key points are summarised in this report, along with links to existing resources and organisations which were either highlighted by attendees, or are in response to some of the comments made in the conversations.

Communication

The Green Network can help by:

- Promoting the work of existing organisations, events, resources and information from a central location
- Utilise different communication methods for inclusivity– online, printed, face to face, social media
- Take advantage of existing publications, council newsletters, parish newsletters

Green Network overview

The Green Network could:

- Organise networking events (mix of daytime, evening, weekday, weekend to reach different audiences)
    - Face to face for networking, online for training and wider reach. Share key points of meetings
- Create working groups to share best practise, share outcomes of groups
- Collect data and evidence be able to add to district wide reports, eg # of items saved from landfill, # of trees planted, #of ha managed for wildlife.
- Bid for funding for training for groups
- Share advice and resources, and help to find sources of expertise
- Share information about other initiatives across Staffordshire – eg Climate Commission, Sustainability Board, county council work, sben.

Training/skills

The Green Network could:

- Provide a variety of workshops/training – eg how to target younger people, funding advice, community energy, green policy, renewable energy, nature based solutions
- Support resource and skill sharing between community groups

Existing resources:

During the discussions, it was clear that some information and resources were being asked for which are already in existence, such as advice and support for funding and recruiting volunteers, directories of community groups, and resources on sustainability. It is important that the Green Network does not duplicate information, or try to reinvent the wheel, so existing resources which address some of the comments are listed here.

- Staffordshire County Council Climate Action Fund - https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Climate-change/Climate-Action-Fund.aspx
- Midlands Net Zero Hub – https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/
- Ministry of Eco Education - https://www.ministryofeco.org/
- Lichfield Live
- Darwin Advertiser
- SOUP events – example Derbyshire SOUP - https://soup.socialfuse.org.uk/
- Staffordshire Connects - https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/home.page
- Support Staffordshire Directory (for VCSE members) - https://supportstaffordshire.org.uk/community/
- Events calendar - https://supportstaffordshire.org.uk/training-events-for-organisations/
- University placements – Keele University / Staffordshire University
- Match graduates with organisations – Change Agents UK
- Volunteer brokerage – Support Staffordshire, SCVYS, Staffordshire Connects, VAST
- Lichfield District Council Climate Change resources - https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/climatechange
- Facebook groups – Waste Savvy Staffordshire/Make Staffordshire Sustainable

Organisations represented at the event (listed in alphabetical order):

- Big Red Bike Lichfield https://www.thebigredbike.co.uk/
- Brereton Millions https://www.breretonmillion.co.uk/
- Burton Conservation Volunteers https://bcvburton.wordpress.com/
- Climate Matters Staffordshire https://www.climatemattersstaffordshire.co.uk/
- Darwin Walk Lichfield https://thedarwinwalktrust.org/
- Dovehouse Community Garden https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/environment/biodiversity/pebble-fund/dovehouse-fields-community-gardens
- Forest Harvest https://forestharvest.co.uk/
- Forest of Mercia https://www.forestofmercia.com/
- Grace Cares CIC https://grace-cares.com/
- Groundwork West Midlands https://www.groundwork.org.uk/westmidlands/
- Heartwood in National Forest https://www.heartwoodhof.org.uk/

- Keele University (student placements) - https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/studentplacements/
- Lichfield and District Soroptimists https://sigbi.org/lichfield/
- Lichfield and Hatherton Canal Trust https://www.lhcrt.org.uk/news/news_latest.html
- Lichfield City Council https://www.lichfield.gov.uk/Climate_Change__and__Biodiversity_45875.aspx
- Lichfield City Station http://www.transitionlichfield.org.uk/friends-of-lichfield-city-station.html
- Lichfield District Council https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/recycling-bins-waste/climate-change-resources
- Lichfield Fairtrade http://fairtradelichfield.org.uk/
- Lichfield Litter Legends https://www.facebook.com/groups/574025143505764/
- Lichfield Methodist Church https://www.tamworthandlichfieldmethodist.org.uk/lichfield-methodist-church
- Lichfield Re:Cycle https://lichfieldrecycle.org.uk/
- Lichfield Repair Café http://www.transitionlichfield.org.uk/repair-cafe.html
- Lichfield Waterworks Trust https://lichfieldwaterworkstrust.co.uk/
- Lichfield Wildlife Group http://www.transitionlichfield.org.uk/lichfield-wildlife-group.html
- Men in Sheds https://menssheds.org.uk/
- Muddy Boots https://www.broadwaysocent.org/muddy-boots/
- One Lichfield https://www.onelichfield.org/
- Pipe Green Trust https://www.pipegreentrust.org/
- Places of Welcome https://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk/
- Rethink food
- Roots Larder https://rootslarder.com/
- SBEN - https://sben.co.uk/
- SCVYS - https://staffscvys.org.uk/
- Spark Burntwood Spark Burntwood
- Stafford Matters http://sustainabilitymatters.org.uk/SM/index.htm
- Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Climate Commission - https://staffordshireclimate.com/
- Staffordshire Community Energy - https://staffscommunityenergy.org.uk/
- Staffordshire Community Foundation https://staffordshire.foundation/
- Staffordshire County Council https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Climate-change/Climate-change.aspx
- Staffordshire Sustainability Board - https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Climate-change/Staffordshire-Sustainability-Board.aspx
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust - https://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/
- Support Staffordshire https://supportstaffordshire.org.uk/
- Sustainability in Colwich and the Haywoods https://sinch.earth/
- Tranquillity https://etranquility.co.uk/
- Transition Lichfield http://www.transitionlichfield.org.uk/
- U3A Lichfield https://u3asites.org.uk/lichfield/welcome
- VAST - https://vast.org.uk/
- Walled Garden at Elford https://www.elfordhallgarden.org/

- Whittington and Fisherwick Environment Group http://www.wfeg.org.uk/
- Whittington Parish Council https://whittingtonandfisherwick.org.uk/parish-council/
- Woodhouse Farm and Garden https://www.woodhousefarmandgardencic.org.uk/

Appendix - Other notes from discussions

Communication

- Promote bids/grants/funding
- Promote work of groups
- Directory of groups with contacts
- Promote events by different groups
- Use social media – Facebook/Whatsapp
- Staffordshire wide website
- Printed media to not exclude people
- GN to promote/advertise relevant training (free) courses
- Share info to and from Staffordshire Sustainability Board
- Email newsletter
- Word of mouth
- Targeting schools
- Notices in cafes
- Signage
- Information boards
- Space for comments and community forum online
- Good quality content and photography
- Fear of being online for some people

Green Network Overview

- Skills audit across network
- Annual report
- Help to recruit volunteers
- Building trustful relationships
- Link in with local networks of similar groups
- GN to bid for funding for training for groups and other incentives
- Help to find official sources of expertise
- Support for facilitating events
- Promote to a wider network and make clear requirements
- Pooling of resources/database
- Share Advice (for work parties, eg stream clearance, biodiversity info)
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Training/Skills

- How to target younger people
- Grants – how to access what I need

- Policy workshops – what is regulatory? Scopes 1,2,3
- Carbon accounting
- Nature based solutions
- Workshop training (facilitating)
- Communication/partnering with other VCSE groups
- Green advice clinics with experts
- Community Energy Schemes for parish councils
- Food and agriculture
- Sustainability crisis, heating schemes, solar/retrofit and ground source heat pumps (how to use), recycling, transport, EVs
- Information on solar – installation, funding
- Energy advice
- Updates of policy which affects env/climate (regionally and nationally)