

BRADWAY ACTION GROUP

Open Meeting Tuesday 5 July 2011 Bradway Primary School Hall

Attendance: 27 members and residents and Councillor Otten.

The Chairman introduced the Agenda for the evening. His report would be taken later as the main item on the Agenda was Energy Saving at Home: Saving Energy, Affordable Warmth and Renewable Energy. He then introduced Jenny Patient from the Sustainable Communities Unit, SY Energy Centre.

Jenny explained that the unit was attached to Healey city farm and that she wished to talk about what we could do to save energy which, with souring costs, is a benefit to every ones pockets as well as to the long term sustainability of the planet. A UK survey has shown that for home energy use 3% goes towards cooking, 13% on lighting and other appliances, 23% to heating water, and 61% for heating. A way of checking consumption is by the use of an energy monitor that can be borrowed on a three week loan from the local Library. All electrical appliances carry an efficiency rating of G to A and some are now A+ or even A++.

How can we cut costs? A number of solutions were discussed, with varying applications dependent upon the age of a property and how well it already meets sustainability requirements. With heating and hot water responsible for over 80% of energy use the boiler may be the best place to start. Modern boilers are much more efficient than those of 20 years ago and though replacement may be costly the pay back periods are reducing as energy costs increase. Combined systems may be considered as may the use of water heating Solar Panels. Solar and wind energy are costly but have the benefit of cutting energy bills and may produce a long term profit from the sale of excess generation to the national grid.

More modest gains can be achieved by fitting thermostatic radiator valves, the use of boiler controls so as to only heat a house when needed, and by ensuring that hot water tanks are well insulated. Unproductive heat loss is mainly through walls (35%) and the roof (25%), gaps between floor and ground (15%) and windows (10%). Loft insulation is a must, double glazing and cavity wall insulation are also cost effective and for properties without insulation there is a Council led scheme that will provide free insulation. It is even possible to fit a chimney balloon to unused fireplaces to stop the heat just going up the chimney.

The **South Yorkshire Energy Centre** is open 11am-3pm Weds to Sat every week, offering information and advice on all aspects of saving energy at home, and fun family activities in school holidays. A number of useful websites are www.chimney-balloon.co.uk; Boiler efficiency database – www.sedbuk.com; www.sust-it.com an independent website, since 2007 compares running costs of over 7,000 products; www.mygreenlighting.co.uk; www.greenbuildingforum.co.uk; www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk (Golcar near Huddersfield), ecological building products – windows, doors, insulation, watersaving devices and toilets

Chairman's Report

Lorries. It has been suggested that following the introduction of the lorry ban on Bocking Lane, more lorries may now be using Prospect Road and possibly Twentywell Lane. BAG would like to know if anyone thinks there is a problem so that we may raise it with the Council.

Picnic Bench. Regrettably he had to report that the picnic bench on the Old School field has sadly burned to the ground after a prank went wrong. The perpetrators owned up, even calling the fire brigade, and came to help with the litter pick last Saturday. We're looking into the possibility of constructing a new one, and they've offered to help with that too, so some good may come out of it after all.

Events: Last Saturday's litter pick was the fourth regular one this year, in addition to the general one we held in March. Walking the bounds with Tony Smith, on 5th June attracted almost 20 people, in response to better advertising of the event, and Tony was particularly good form!

Annexe Garden: Following

Fun Day: The Chairman was delighted to report that despite the Council having less funding available this year, the South West Community Assembly has agreed a grant of £500 towards our Fun Day expenses. This means we can once again book one of the main attractions, the climbing wall. Fun Day will be held on Friday 19th August and any donations of cakes, and books, or raffle prizes will be most welcome!

Planning – An objection has been submitted to a retrospective planning application amending the access arrangements for the two new houses on Prospect Road (25 & 25A) on the grounds that this would increase rainwater runoff. The original approval was a close run thing and was approved in the light of assurances about garden space. Had the proposed arrangement been part of the original application it might well have been refused. No further news has been received over the future of The Bradway.

Bradway Bugle. John Baker has indicated that he is willing to continue to carry out the editorial role for the Bradway Bugle so long as he gets support from BAG. We are exploring how best to carry forward the technical side of production and are still seeking people who might be interested in becoming involved. The technical side might be of interest to a student with relevant IT skills and for whom such community involvement would be a positive on their CV. Now that the link with other local publications has been broken the Editor needs more Bradway specific input so we need news of anything that is happening be it for clubs, pubs or general news. We aren't seeking full blown articles but the information that can point the Editor in the direction of possible stories. Please send any information to, and Stephen George is the contact point for anyone who might like to get involved with the Bradway Bugle. (Tel 2364564; email: s.a.george@sheffield.ac.uk).

Village Greens: The SCC Legal department is currently processing a number of Village Green applications and expects some progress on the application in respect of the Old School Field within the next couple of months, there having been some delays following the recent change of administration. We will shortly be making an application for Village Green status for the Rec so as to preserve it as public open space for the future.

Poynton Villas: So far we have not received any response from Mr Setchfield to the proposal for a management agreement for Poynton Woods to include the area covered by Poynton Villas.

Community Assembly / Ward Forum – A meeting of the Ward Forum took place on Wednesday 8th June under the chairmanship of Kathryn Higgins, the new Chair of the Totley Residents' Association. The Secretary attended in the Chairman's absence and reported that the meeting provided a basis for taking the Forum in a more strategic direction. We have yet to see the minutes. A meeting to set up Focus Groups is planned for Thursday 7 July, 7.30pm at the Cross Scythes PH. The SW Community

Assembly met on 23rd June, though due to diary commitments BAG was not represented on this occasion.

Nat West Bank. Nat West has announced their intention to close the Bradway sub Branch from 13 July. Two meetings including BAG representation, local councillors and customers have been held with Bank representatives to express the community's concerns over this closure which is one of three affecting Sheffield. At a meeting this afternoon the new Regional Director confirmed that, whilst she had reviewed the decision since taking up office on 23 July, the closure would continue as planned. The Bank acknowledged that this would cause problems for some customers and would be making available one to one clinics for customers who may need assistance in accessing on line or telephone services. Councillor Otten set out the local concerns and explained that the issue was to be raised with the full Council on 6 July. Nat West has agreed with Post office Counters an arrangement by which customers will be able to draw cash and check balances in the Post Office though this facility would not be available until September at the earliest and would not agree to our request that they postpone the closure until the new arrangements were in place. One lesson that the Bank has to learn is that the whole issue was badly handled with poor communication and a lack of proper consultation before the commercial decision was taken.

Any Other Business:

Don't forget to renew membership!

Apology to metal thieves!