

# Action for Affordable Warmth Partnership

Notes from meeting  
27<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Stroud District Council Offices

## Present:

Kaye Welfare	Severn Wye Energy Agency - Chair
Sarah Giff	Severn Wye Energy Agency - Facilitator
Anna Willett	Severn Wye Energy Agency - Facilitator
Maria Hickman	Stroud District Council
Debbie Hewitt	Stroud District Council
David Sutton	Gloucester City Council
Gary Packer	Cotswolds District Council
Lorraine Drew	Forest of Dean District Council
Nicky Jones	EAGA Warm Front
Martin Harris	Fosseway Housing Association
Calum Allan	South Gloucestershire Council
Mark Way	Two Rivers Housing
Kayla Needham	Pension Service
David Mytton	Cheltenham Care & Repair
Maggie Cornock	Stroud Care & Repair
Barbara Piranty	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Diana Billingham	Glos Healthy Living Partnership
Paul Simpson	Domestic and General Insulation Ltd
Cleo Wilson	Scottish Power
Andrew Ward	Scottish Power
Andrew Banfield	Cheltenham, Cirencester and Cotswold CAB
Margaret Nolder	Gloucestershire County Council
Julie Sherman	Cam Parish Council

**Apologies:** Heather Watts (Scottish Power), Marion Winship (Forest of Dean District Council), Gareth Whelpton (Millfold Insulation), Claire Grover (Scottish Power), Mick Churchward (GOPA), Martin Eibl (NEA), Emma Fray (Cheltenham Borough Homes), Mark Plumb (Mark Insulation),

## **1. Welcome from the Chair**

KW welcomed those attending and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to work through a review process of the Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Strategy. As work on the original strategy began in 2000 it is important that the Partnership looks again at the Action Plan to ensure that it continues to be adequately robust and focused to ensure that the aims of the strategy are met.

## **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes agreed as a good and true record of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2006. All of the actions from that meeting relate to current year Local Area Agreement activity.

## **3. Update on projects**

SG (SWEA) updated the group on the activity towards the Affordable Warmth/More Resilient Homes targets in the Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement. There are three targets relating to measures installed via the Warm and Well Scheme, number of people given energy efficiency advice and the number of vulnerable peoples homes made “Decent”.

MH (Fosseway Housing Association) told the group about a project that they had been working on with Mark Insulation which saw 100 lofts insulated. This was done as part of their programme of work towards “Decent Homes”. MH has also visited a ground sourced heat pump project (contact made through the SHARE Social Housing Forum) and Fosseway are now considering installing them in tenants homes.

MH (Stroud District Council) told the group that Sally Daley is likely to return to the authority and to this group by the end of 2007. SDC are committed to fund the development of a Carbon reduction programme over the next 3 years. This will initially be working with SWEA with a tender process to determine partners for the following two years. SDC are also applying for Beacon Status - Climate Change this month.

DB (Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust/Local Strategic Partnership) – Gloucestershire Community and Healthy Living Partnership is being developed to deliver many of the LAA targets and it is interested in exploring the links between this group and the existing Healthy Living Partnership

NJ (Eaga/Warm Front) introduced herself to the group as the new area representative for the Warm Front scheme.

GP (Cotswold District Council) explained that the majority of CDCs Affordable Warmth work is delivered through SWEA/Warm and Well. CDC is currently looking to reform it’s grants policy to increase the help for those unable to achieve Affordable Warmth at home. CDC is no longer funding electric heating systems because of the high running costs but they are considering the possibility of funding ground source heat pumps.

CW (Scottish Power) explained that she was attending the meeting in place of her colleague Claire Grover. She went on to explain that EEC (Energy Efficiency Commitment) that requires fuel suppliers to fund energy efficiency measures will soon be replaced by CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) which will increase the number of measures installed via fuel supplier schemes and make provision for the inclusion of some renewable energy technologies. CERT is still out for consultation and it is not yet clear what the implications will be for Gloucestershire.

AB (CAB) – told the group that he centres that he is responsible for are giving a get deal of debt advice and they do promote Warm and Well but that they would like to do more and would like to explore the opportunities for further joint working.

CA (South Gloucestershire Council) told the group that South Glos are working to develop their own LAA which will aim to work with Warm and Well in there area. They also have a project called “Sustainable Thornbury” which they would like to extend to Cadbury Heath. South Glos have also identified that there is an issue with Almshouses – for many schemes they fall between the definitions of “privately owned”, “privately rented” and “RSL”. They are also working with their local Pensioners Forum.

KN (Pension Service) – working to promote Warm and Well to clients in their homes. Also working on various Warm and Well promotions

BP (GRCC) was able to update the group on the In-Touch Project and Village Agents. Warm and Well have been involved in the “Get Cooking” sessions organised by In-Touch in the Forest of Dean. GRCC have produced a tool-kit of information available to Parish Councils and Village Halls in order that they can stage their own information events. Village Agents is a project funded by DWP (£1m) working in 141 rural communities across Gloucestershire (covered by 30 Agents). The Agents do not give advice but they can signpost to sources of help and information. GRCC/Calor

Village of the Year competition is currently underway. The winners of the 8 categories will be announced at the award ceremony on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Each winner will receive £500.

JS (Cam Parish Council) – the parish council is working with SWEA to send a HEC questionnaire to homes in the area and distribute low energy light bulbs.

MN (Glos County Council) shared with the group that she was anxious for the county council to encourage and enable people to take a greater personal responsibility with environmental issues and Affordable Warmth.

PS (Domestic & General Insulation Ltd.) reminded the group that they had worked on the Warm and Well scheme since 2001 and said that they were experiencing a great take up from householders at the moment. As well as standard measures D&G are now able to install external wall insulation (insulated render) and was extending the range of renewable energy technologies they can install. PS also spoken about some of the opportunities within the LAA and forth coming CERT programme.

DM (Cheltenham C&R) told the group that he understood that the Decent Homes budget in the CBC area has been doubled.

DS (GCC) spoke to the group about the range of grants offered by GCC. They have also been looking at the possibility of using funding to enforce the installation of energy efficiency measures in tenanted properties.

KW summed up by saying that the quality and depth of fuel poverty/Affordable Warmth work in the county has greatly improved in the last six years since the original strategy was produced. KW went onto give brief round-up of issues from outside of the county; in particular the launch of the Fuel Poverty Indicator which can be found at [www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk](http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk)

#### **4. Presentation – Affordable Warmth Issues, Setting the Scene – Kaye Welfare**

KW then gave a short presentation about Affordable Warmth issues.

#### **5. Workshops**

The meeting then broke into two groups to work through the contents of the original strategy to assess which elements need to be changed.

#### **6. Feedback from Workshops**

The meeting came back together to share the main findings from each group. Both had found that the original strategy was focused on the development of partnerships and relationships, as this had now been done the focus could rest on the delivery elements of the strategy – although because various groups and strategies in the county (e.g. Local Strategic Partnerships, Local Area Agreement) had been formed since 2001 it was important to maintain an awareness of the “bigger picture” and to build partnerships where necessary.

#### **7. Explanation of next steps**

The notes made by the workshop groups will be written up and made available on the SWEA website ([www.swea.co.uk](http://www.swea.co.uk)) for a consultation period over the summer. The final version of the strategy will be re-launched in autumn

**NEXT Meeting: To be arranged**

## Glossary

- AW – Affordable Warmth
- CERT – Carbon Emissions Reduction Target
- CFL – Compact Fluorescent Lamp (energy efficient light bulb)
- EEAC - Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
- EEC - Energy Efficiency Commitment
- GRCC - Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
- HEC - Home Energy Check
- HECA – Home Energy Conservation Act
- HIA – Home Improvement Agencies (Anchor, Care & Repair)
- LA – Local Authority
- LAA – Local Area Agreement
- LASP – Local Authority Support Programme
- LSP - Local Strategic Partnership
- PCT - Primary Care Trust
- RSL – Registered Social Landlord
- SWEA – Severn Wye Energy Agency