



## Diary of recent/future events

25th November: Ashton Hayes project was presented to Riverside Community in Sterling, Scotland. This was their Going Carbon Neutral: Launch Event - an initiative facilitated by Stirling Methodist Church in association with Stirling Council and the Community Carbon Reduction Programme. 10am - 4pm, Council Chamber, Viewforth, Stirling. [Click here for press release](#)

25th November, Chester Climate Change Awareness Raising Event with CRed. We collaborated with a number of agencies to stage an awareness raising event on Climate Change to take place probably in the Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street.

30th November: Tree Planting at Ashton Hayes Primary School. Organised by Tracey Todhunter and coverage in the Chester Chronicle.

6th December: Ashton Hayes attends the Sustainable Cheshire Forum, Chester Town Hall 0900-1200.

7th December: Ashton Hayes Participated in recording of BBC Radio 4 programme on Climate Change at the Royal Society of Arts, The Strand, London. 6-9pm.

9th December: First carbon clinic at the Ash-Worth Timebank Coffee morning on Saturday morning.

13th December: Ashton Hayes to present to the Earby Parish Council Going Carbon Neutral Project, Lancashire. 7.30pm.

December: Golden Lion has first energy Audit. EA Technology installs power monitor. Around 20 low energy light bulbs installed in the pub.

Project obtains £700 sponsorship for Ashton Hayes football team's new strip bearing the Going Carbon Neutral Logo

Christmas 2006: Margaret Garman has instigated a Carbon Neutral Christmas tree outside the pub (donated by Okell's nursery). Instead of sending lots of Christmas cards around the village, people can put a 'family bauble' on the tree to wish everyone a happy Christmas. There will be a small charity donation for doing this. And we plan to measure how much energy Christmas tree lights use.

2007 Events

25<sup>th</sup> January 2007: GOING CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT ANNIVERSARY. We plan to invite people to the Primary School again to find out what has happened in the past 12 months and come to the world premier of our new film. Maybe in conjunction with the Parish Plan team.

14<sup>th</sup> April: Going Carbon Neutral Grass Roots conference in Chester followed by party for delegates in the WI Hall, Ashton Hayes. Sponsored by the pub and other local firms.

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## **Record of team meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

A community project in which we want to take low/no-cost actions that save money while cutting emissions of greenhouse gases.  
Our ambition is to be England's 1st carbon neutral village

### **The BIG rules/statements**

- **Our project is owned by Ashton Hayes Parish Council which is a charity and can receive funds**
- **Our aims are two-fold**
  - **To help Ashton Hayes become carbon neutral**
  - **To share our experiences and inspire others**
- **We see this as a journey towards carbon neutrality and do not know when we will get there**
- **It is a non-political 'grass roots' project**
- **We are a non-confrontational group**
- **We recognise human activity is contributing to major climate change but we do not apportion blame or point the finger at anyone**
- **We welcome everyone to join in and support our aims**

- **We do not focus on the threats of climate change, more on the benefits of taking action**

### **Some key FACTS about the Going Carbon Neutral project**

- **The project started at the official launch on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at the Primary School. 400 attended, 75% of Ashton Hayes adults.**
- **The Parish Council has set up a 'Going Carbon Neutral' bank account which is used to manage our funding**
- **We have never drawn on Parish Council precept funds, and do not intend to do so in future.**
- **Local sponsors donated £3500 to help with the launch and village signs. (All donations to be made to 'Ashton Hayes Parish Council'.)**
- **Cheshire Community Council purchased our Sony Laptop for us (£1000)**
- **In summer 2006 DEFRA awarded us a £26,500 grant to cover two years of the project. This is to be used ONLY for communicating to others about our project**
- **Our logo (courtesy Steve Holland) should be used on all documents together with the DEFRA "Tomorrow's climate, today's challenge" logo.**
- **We are making a video about the project, part funded by DEFRA.**
- **We are hosting a national 'grass roots' carbon neutral conference at the University of Chester on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2007. (This is a condition of the DEFRA grant). This will be followed by a party for delegates in Ashton.**
- **Many Ashton Hayes organisations are supporting us. The Golden Lion, the football team, St John the Evangelist Church, WI and Scouts, cubs, guides and brownies.**
- **The Primary School has been a catalyst for the project and continues to inspire the children and residents. We see the school involvement as critical to our success.**
- **Many other communities are following our lead and using our logo as they strive for carbon neutrality (see map)**
- **We have planted around 12,000 trees to act as a carbon sink but we need to clarify the impact of these.**
- **The project is being mentioned as an 'exemplar' of community action in the forthcoming 'Climate Change Bill'**
- **The University of Chester is supporting the project in terms of staff and student time and last week awarded Roy Alexander £10,000 for a Knowledge Transfer project to develop tools to enhance grass roots carbon reduction initiatives based upon our work in the village**

## A word about sponsors

**We have been fortunate in attracting increasing numbers of business sponsors for the project. We feel that our project can only be successful if the community, business and Government bodies work together.**

**Some of our sponsors have provided financial support, some in kind and some are giving both. Here is a quick overview.**

### Institutional supporters

The Parish Council has provided ongoing support and is helping us to manage and audit the project finances. Andrea Thwaite, the Clerk, has put substantial extra time into supporting the project.

Ashton Hayes Primary School has provided its facilities throughout the project, since the launch on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The children and teachers have also contributed many hours of support.

The University of Chester is providing students for the annual carbon footprint survey and a considerable amount of staff time. It is also administering the CRed programme for Chester.

The Carbon Reduction team (CRed) at the University of East Anglia has provided technical support since the launch and ongoing project publicity.

Energy Projects Plus (Formerly Energy Saving Trust) has supported us since the launch by carrying out house surveys and also providing technical advice to the school and community.

Chester City Council (In particular Chester In Partnership – Andrea Mageean) has given considerable backing throughout the project.

Cheshire County Council (John Pearson) has been a driving force, helping the school obtain planning permission for a wind turbine and solar panel.

DEFRA has given us a large grant and our own web blog on its website to promote our actions. Garry updates this ([http://www.climatechallenge.gov.uk/whats\\_being\\_done/projects/ashtonhayes/default.aspx](http://www.climatechallenge.gov.uk/whats_being_done/projects/ashtonhayes/default.aspx))

Cheshire Community Council has donated £1000 towards our project computer.

Drs Rowland, Taylor and Gleek have allowed us to use the Ashton Hayes surgery as the base for the student survey team.

The WI supported the launch and are continuing to support the aims of the project.

The Ash-worth Time Bank is supporting the project through website publicity and through members who are hand delivering messages throughout the community on a regular basis.

Sylvia Milne runs the Ashton Hayes village website and was the first to provide web-based publicity to the project after its inception in November 2005.

Ged Edwards of Cheshire Furniture Forum helps people to recycle their furniture and is also helping village businesses to examine how they can reduce their carbon footprint.

Cheshire Landscape Trust and Dr Jacqui Malpas have carried out a landscape character assessment of the Parish.

Ashton Hayes Football team is also to promote the project by having the logo on its football strip

The Brownies have carried out tree measurements and scouts are investigating the electrical load of household appliances. Mr Searle of Ashton Hayes estate has made a cash donation to support the brownies.

### **Business sponsors**

RSK ENSR donated money for the January launch and is providing £10,000 funding towards the Chester CRed project. It is also providing GIS mapping services and allowing some of its staff time to support the project.

tes contributed money to the launch and finances ongoing events. It is also providing printing and design services, staff time and financing 75% of the video production costs.

M&M Communications provided financial support for the launch and ongoing press and media support. It is also providing an exhibition stand loan and erection service. It is also giving talks to other communities about our project.

Shell Global Solutions and Shell Stanlow financed the production of the village road signs and contributed towards launch costs.

Jane Kinsley, Manchester-based freelance journalist, has provided writing and PR support on a regular basis since the project launch.

Solartwin of Chester is donating £100 towards a renewables fund for the village for every solar thermal panel it installs. It is also sponsoring the 2007 conference.

Legat Owen donated money towards the launch and continues to donate trees to our carbon sink programme.

GTF of Epsom donated money towards the launch. (A tes client)

EA Technology is providing technical expertise to help examine renewable energy options for the village and is donating its carbon offset fund towards village projects.

LoveLula.com is providing organisational support for the project and helping to manage the 2007 conference, with Tracey Todhunter.

Eurotree services is giving technical advice and helping the school investigate the possible use of a wood-chip boiler instead of its oil-fired system.

Andy Foster Architects will be working with University of Liverpool students to examine the design of public buildings to demonstrate what can be done to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Golden Lion is supporting the project and offering to act as a location for events and parties and provide project notice boards in both bars.

Okells nurseries have provided support and trees for our carbon sink project.

We should also recognise the support being given to us by Dee 106.3 Radio, The Cheshire Chronicle and Trinity Newspaper Group.

### **What we need to do tonight**

- **Set up the teams who will help the village take further steps towards carbon neutrality**
- **Decide on the key actions and responsibilities for the next 6 months**
- **Agree a team structure and way of working**

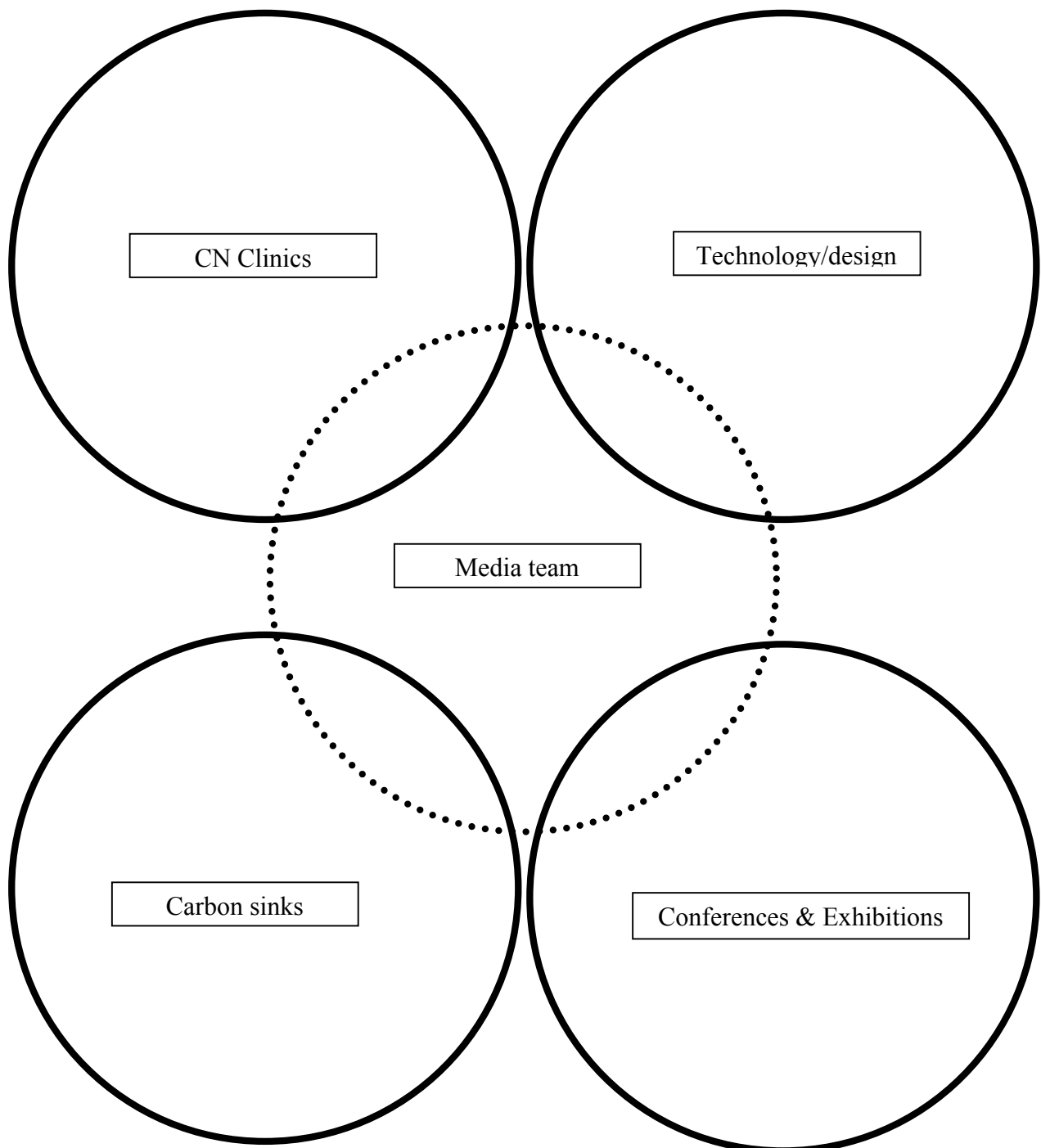
### **Ideas for teams and projects**

- a) **Carbon Neutral Clinics to help residents take the next step**
  - **E.g. Help people change to green energy suppliers**
  - **Support and encourage residents to take energy saving measures and help them implement them**
  - **Help to improve our recycling**
- b) **Technology/design team to**
  - **Examine renewable energy devices**
  - **Investigate feasibility of alternatives such as microgrids**
  - **Look at building design issues and educate others**
  - **Help businesses reduce emissions**
- c) **Carbon sinks team who will**
  - **Determine the carbon sinks we have in Ashton Hayes**
    - **Landscape and biomass**
    - **Trees**
  - **Develop a carbon offsetting scheme (based on mobiles?)**
  - **Compute the value of 'donated' sinks**
- d) **Conference management and exhibitions team**
  - **To coordinate the 2007 conference and party**
  - **To manage the exhibition displays**

- To publicise other major events (e.g. public meetings and video launch)

**d) Media team**

- To support the above teams and publicise their work
- To help with presentations and talks around the UK
- To write and develop articles and press releases for national newspapers and magazines
- To represent the project on TV and radio



## TEAM WORKING CONCEPT

Press coverage also reinforces the belief that Ashton Hayes residents can make a difference through their individual actions. It is important that we keep information about our project in the media so other communities are inspired. All teams should have independence but we would like them to keep the media team informed.

## WHICH TEAM(S) WOULD SUIT YOU BEST + OTHER SUGGESTIONS

### Record of attendees at the team meeting Going carbon neutral team meeting

9<sup>th</sup> November, 8pm  
Lane End Farm  
Kelsall Road  
Ashton Hayes CH3 8BH  
01829 752714

Draft list of participants (Confirmed)

#### **Garry Charnock**

*Project Coordinator and Parish Councillor. ([charnock@t-e-s.co.uk](mailto:charnock@t-e-s.co.uk))*

#### **Anne Charnock**

*Project press and media support and help with art projects linked to the environment. ([annecharnock@annecharnock.com](mailto:annecharnock@annecharnock.com))*

#### **Roy Alexander**

*Project technical director. Responsible for baseline and follow-up footprint surveys, sink survey and data analysis; also University liaison. ([r.alexander@chester.ac.uk](mailto:r.alexander@chester.ac.uk))*

#### **Alison Ambrose**

*Project recycling support to date and looking to help more. ([ambroses@hotmail.com](mailto:ambroses@hotmail.com))*

#### **Ged Edwards**

*Head of Cheshire Furniture recycling and working on his MSc Thesis by studying the carbon footprint of Ashton Hayes businesses. ([ged.edwards@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ged.edwards@blueyonder.co.uk))*

#### **Rob Ford**

*Head of the Primary School and committed project supporter. Helped to get the project off the ground, ongoing support with facilities and awareness and installing a wind turbine and solar thermal panel as demonstration units on the school. ([head@ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk))*



**Andrew Forgrave**

*Journalist for Trinity Newspapers who lives in Ashton Hayes and has given his support since the launch. ([andrewforgrave@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewforgrave@hotmail.com))*

**Andy Foster**

*Young architectural practice in Chester. Recent work in Ashton and area. Input could include design, 3d, presentation and experience of green issues relating to buildings.. ([mail@andyfosterarchitects.com](mailto:mail@andyfosterarchitects.com))*

**Mary Gillie**

*Engineering Consultant at EA Technology (based at Capenhurst), wish to help Ashton Hayes use small-scale renewable generation and other technology to reduce carbon emission hopefully via a microgrid. ([Mary.Gillie@eatechnology.com](mailto:Mary.Gillie@eatechnology.com))*

**Ken Hartley**

*Parish Council representative for the project and long-term Ashton Hayes resident. (email to come)*

**Steve Holland (Video)**

*Creative genius who designed our logo and made our first video. Now working on a blockbuster for a January launch. ([Holland@t-e-s.co.uk](mailto:Holland@t-e-s.co.uk))*

**Rosie Humphreys**

*Keen supporter of preserving our planet for the younger generation. Solar panel installed and still looking for new ways to save resources. ([rosiedave2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosiedave2002@yahoo.co.uk))*

**Jane Kinsley**

*Public relations and marketing consultant. Responsible for writing and selling in press releases about the Going Carbon Neutral project to the media. ([janekinsley@hotmail.com](mailto:janekinsley@hotmail.com))*

**Claire Lewis**

*Owner of LoveLula.com, an online organic beauty retailer based in the village. Co-ordinating the 2007 Going Carbon Neutral conference with Tracey Todhunter. ([claire@lovelula.com](mailto:claire@lovelula.com))*

**Jacqui Malpas**

*Helped with the landscape character assessment and played a supportive role since the launch. Lived in Ashton Hayes for over 20 years and is a qualified geologist. ([jmalpas@geodiversity.co.uk](mailto:jmalpas@geodiversity.co.uk))*

**Lynn May**

*M&M have provided financial support and put a great deal of time into project activities and support. They also provide exhibition display panels when required. ([lynn@hsepr.co.uk](mailto:lynn@hsepr.co.uk))*

**Richard May**

*M&M have provided financial support and put a great deal of time into project activities and support. Richard now presents our project to other communities and both give communications advice to the project and introduced client Earthborne Paints (Who have offered to paint the Parish Rooms with non-VOC paint, for free) ([richard@hsepr.co.uk](mailto:richard@hsepr.co.uk))*

**Nik Roberts**

*Active member for the community with wife Roz. ([nrti@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nrti@hotmail.co.uk))*

**Alan Ryder**

*Has sponsored the project, via his environmental consultancy firm RSK ENSR, since the launch. The company is also sponsoring the CRed programme in Chester. ([aryder@rskensr.com](mailto:aryder@rskensr.com))*

**Sheila Ryder**

*Sheila is a keen environmentalist and is keen to support the project with tree planting and other activities. (email to come)*

**Tracey Todhunter**

*Conference Administrator for Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral Conference. ([traceyt@fireflyuk.net](mailto:traceyt@fireflyuk.net))*

**Simon Walton**

*Owner of Eurotree services with wife Tommi. They have both been keen project supporters since the start and recently hosted a village arts festival event (linked to the GCNeutral project) at their farm in Manley. Building an eco-home at present and helping investigate the use of wood-chip fuelled boilers using wood from Delamere Forest. ([simon.walton@eurotreeservice.co.uk](mailto:simon.walton@eurotreeservice.co.uk))*

New members since meeting

Margaret Garman

Ash-Worth Time Bank

Adam Wisz (Student support)

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