

Notes on next steps leading on from York University research findings 2013-2018 about Life in Derwenthorpe.

The following notes are prepared partly as a summary of discussion at a follow-up meeting on April 12, and as feedback to those contributing ideas and enthusiasm to the original meeting on April 3.

Present (on 12/04/19): Amanda, Deborah Q, Carey, Pat, Steve, Angela

Apologies: Joanne, Sheri, Sheelagh

Purpose of meeting: to consider responses/suggestions from April 3 meeting, already grouped by theme (see separate attachment), under the following headings:

1. Making the most of our homes
2. Developing an inclusive community
3. Reducing our carbon footprint

NB Acknowledgment was made of the considerable effort and progress already made in some of the areas mentioned, particularly thanks to work of members of the DRA Core Team and the Community Activities Network.

In each area priority was given to possible community initiatives rather than ideas for individual action.

There is, inevitably, some overlap between groups of ideas seen here under separate headings.

Limited consideration was made at this stage of possible sources of funding to support initiatives, where this may be appropriate.

1. Making the most of our homes

Key priority from discussions:

To set up a working group to produce household instructions and other guidelines, including “Frequently Asked Questions”, on how to make our homes work most effectively.

Initiatives to be followed up jointly with builders, (DWH), JRHT, DRA Core team and, where appropriate, residents with knowledge and expertise:

- Potential for installation of solar panels
- Water butts
- Charging points for cars (already on the DRA agenda)
- Arrangements for communal composting

- Improved and extended MVHR and MEV systems (already on DRA agenda)
- Keeping cupboard of wasted heat on Veolia's agenda
- Retrofit garden rooms to houses without them (?)

As effective means of communicating household instructions was seen as a priority, it is proposed to set up a working group to develop the following: instruction manuals, on-line information, U-tube, demonstrations, displays (during a coffee morning?), "buddies" scheme, DRA website (FAQs) and availability of where to get advice about best use of:

- Heating system/controls
- MVHR (Stephenson Quarter)
- MEV (other Quarters)
- Water softeners
- Windows (!)
- Other appliances

Those who have knowledge and skills in some/any of these areas and are prepared to help build up appropriate materials, please contact Amanda:

amandampotts58@gmail.com

2. Developing an inclusive community:

Key priorities from discussions:

- **To set up a working group (or groups) to extend and develop effective communications within the community.**
- **To focus attention on community activities that support families and young people.**
- **To create a working group to improve accessibility.**

An important focus for promoting community life was seen as effective communication through:

- Building on existing DRA website and newsletter
- An information forum (?)
- Availability of information about community provision in neighbouring areas
- Community currency for skills exchange

Initiatives to be followed up, together with JRHT, the Community Activities Network and residents with knowledge and understanding of issues affecting life in Derwenthorpe:

- A family focus to community activities
- A parents' group

- Activities for parents and toddlers
- Indoor and outdoor activities for all
- Young people's group
- Sports

Accessibility to provision for all by:

- Gaining an overall profile of needs within the community (via JRHT?).
- Improved access and resources available at the SSC (entry, kitchen, toilets, storage, space etc)
- Accessible parking at SSC and safe movement around the development (pavements!)

Anyone who can help in any of these areas or who has specific knowledge and skills to contribute, please contact Sheri:

sheri.kinbrum111@btinternet.com

3. Reducing our carbon footprint:

Key priority:

- **To focus attention and, where possible, develop further initiatives via the Action on Climate Change Group**

Initiatives to be followed up jointly with JRHT, DRA and Derwenthorpe Action against Climate Change Group.

- Connections to find (eg) car share for specific journeys
- Organise extended recycling provision (plastics, foil etc)
- Lobby the Council re improved recycling
- Improved use of sustainable home characteristics (see section 1)
- Promote car share/cycle share schemes
- Ensure close connections with Tang Hall Food Co-op
- Support tree-planting and other nature groups
- A gardening club?
- Lobby for extended bus services

Anyone who can help in any of these areas or who has specific knowledge and skills to contribute, please contact Carey:

careyenglish1@gmail.com

Further considerations:

The York University research group would like to keep in touch with developments at Derwenthorpe and could possibly provide

- A valuable independent overview of progress
- Possible write-up on specific projects
- Advice based on knowledge of other developments in York and nationally about what works in a community development context.

We are grateful for the university's continued interest as Derwenthorpe grows and develops.

Plans to review progress were left open for the time being.

AW 14/04/19