



pick me up

a tonic for the ills of the time

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF PICK-ME-UP NEWSLETTER ISSUE 42

Summertime is now well and truly upon us. With children off school it is a time for family holidays, taking some time off work and allowing ourselves a well deserved breather. Why not consider taking a 'staycation', a good holiday locally, allowing yourself to check out those attractions and events close to home that you may never have considered in the past? You will definitely avoid all the stressful airport rush, security queues, long waits and journey, while saving you money; supporting our local economy and cutting down on carbon emissions. We are experiencing some good sunny spells and hopefully these would last long enough for us to enjoy what our local areas have to offer. **For details on local attractions and activities visit: www.visitsthelens.com**

Renewable Heat Incentive calculator

The Mersey Forest has launched a free online calculator to help businesses and consumers explore the financial and carbon benefits of switching to a biomass boiler to take advantage of the government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). It does not cover everything users need to know to make an investment decision. Users need to seek expert advice before undertaking a specific project. **You can access the free tool at www.merseyforest.org.uk/rhicalculator**

The Council Core strategy

The Council's Core Strategy, which sets out the key policies to determine planning applications, was submitted to the Government in June for Examination. The Core Strategy covers areas such as the amount of housing and employment land to be provided, the design standards buildings should meet and the protection and enhancement of open space. The Inspector examining the plan has called an exploratory meeting to investigate the effectiveness of the strategy with particular regard to the deliverability of employment land. Following this meeting the Inspector will provide a timetable for progressing towards Examination, which is expected to be later in 2011.

Also, a series of new Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) has been produced by the Council to guide its decisions on future development in the borough:

- **Biodiversity SPD** - guidance on the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity (wildlife and natural habitats) in new development;
- **Householder Development SPD** - advice and guidance on house extension design;
- **New Residential Development SPD** - design guidance on new housing developments, including avoiding excessive development on gardens, encouraging better conversions, reducing environmental impact, coping with climate change, reducing flooding risk, better design of open spaces, car and cycle parking standards and access standards;
- **Hot Food Takeaways SPD** - advice on where they should be located and operated;
- **St. Helens List of Locally Important Buildings SPD** identifies buildings of special local architectural and historical interest, encourages their preservation and provides guidance on alterations; and
- **King Street Design Brief SPD** encourages coordinated regeneration of this key area of the Town Centre

For further information on the Core Strategy or SPDs visit our web site <http://ldf.sthelens.gov.uk>.

Please vote for our young eco warriors

A project led by eco friendly pupils from 12 St. Helens schools has been entered for the annual Procter and Gamble Future Friendly awards. Regional winners receive £1,000 while the national award is £10,000. The children have produced a Climate Change Action Plan aiming at tackling climate change and making a real difference. If they win, the money will be a great addition to deliver more actions in their action plan.

The pupils need your vote to win so please log on to <http://www.futurefriendly.co.uk/vote.aspx?id=1520> and register your vote now. For more project details and its success so far visit www.planetsthelens.net



Photo: Children involved with the project

DECC gives money off green heaters

Householders across the country could get up to **£1,250** of government funding to help towards the cost of installing renewable heating systems such as biomass boilers, air and ground source heat pumps and solar thermal panels.

The scheme is open to householders in England, Scotland and Wales. Open from 1st August 2011 and operating on a first come first served basis, but in any case will close on 31st March 2012. The Premium Payment scheme will be run by the Energy Saving Trust with an information line and website to provide people with more information.

Householders can call **0800 512 012** or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/RHPP

Capers Event

Residents of St Helens were treated to a fabulous day of fun and sun on Saturday 18th June in Haresfinch Park. Canine Capers is an annual event, which moves throughout the borough. The Dogs Trust, RSPCA, Police dog Handlers, PDSA and many dog-related charities support the event. The aim of the event is to promote responsible dog ownership.

Free Poop-Scoop bags were available at the event. These are always available at local Libraries. 112 free microchips were implanted in dogs to help reunite them with their owners should they go missing. Identification on a dog is a legal requirement and you could be fined for not having it. Windlegrey Kennels supplied free nail clipping for dogs. A short dog training exercise was delivered by 'It's a Dogs Life' Training School. The H+M Dog Display Team kept the crowds thrilled with their antics and stalls around the arena had information on everything needed for responsible dog ownership.



For Dog Warden Services call **01744 676338**

22nd September is 'In Town Without My Car Day'. Support car free day. Instead of driving, why not walk, cycle or use public transport?

Do you still support Fairtrade?

That's the question from The Cooperative Community Members Group (TCCMG).

The group is working in partnership with the Coop & the Council ensuring better prices, decent working conditions and local sustainability for farmers and producers in developing countries

You can always help tackle poverty and empower producers in developing countries by simply choosing products with the Fairtrade Label when shopping or even when grabbing a cup of coffee at your local café. Please let us know of any local shops, cafes, pubs, restaurants etc that sell or use Fairtrade products. Email details to: fairtrade@sthelens.gov.uk

MEETING

TCCMG is organizing a meeting to discuss different environmental projects ideas brought forward by the group members. For more details and if you wish to attend contact: TCCMG Secretary, Paul Winstanley: Email: Paul.winstanley@blueyonder.co.uk Mobile 07712 784025