



Welcome to this month's e-bulletin!

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General News -

SNAG Annual Survey – You will by now have received the SNAG Annual Survey into your in-boxes. It really is important that you take 10 mins to complete this simple questionnaire. Only by you completing it will I know what you think is important. The results of the survey can be used also as evidence in our favour should we need to prove the strength of concern on certain topics. It can also allow me to stop activities which you don't benefit from and free up time to focus on other issues.

The survey can be responded to until 30th November so if you can't fill it out straight away you have 8 weeks to do so.

A similar survey will be released each year to evaluate the SNAG service. **Completion of the survey will count as renewal of your membership which is of course free.**

Should you not have received the survey via e-mail or if you're reading this but aren't currently a member you can find the survey on-line at our website www.snag.org.uk

Sara Todd (previously Head of Regeneration has been appointed Assistant Chief Executive – Neighbourhoods Strategy and Delivery. Julie Connor, formerly lead of the North Regeneration Team has stepped into Sara's shoes, and is thus also the Convenor of the SNP.

Remember, if you or someone you know would like to add information to this bulletin, just let me know using the details provided at the end :)



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Report of the Month -

Review of Public Service Regulators - This is the fourth thematic review by the Sustainable Development Commission, this time with the focus on public service regulators; and more specifically on the three main regulators of local government, education and health in England – the Audit Commission, Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) and the Healthcare Commission/Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The review explores ways of regulating effectively for sustainable development in the wider public sector. I will have a briefing paper out next week. If you can't wait till then the full report is now available on the SNAG web-site: <http://www.snag.org.uk/documents>

Sustainable News -

The impact of a global temperature rise of 4°C (7 °F) – The impacts of climate change will be widespread across the globe. In order to understand more about what the human impact of high-end climate change might be, and therefore what would happen if a successful agreement can not be reached at Copenhagen, the UK's Met Office Hadley Centre has produced a map outlining some of the impacts that may occur if the global average temperature rises by 4 °C (7 °F) above the pre-industrial climate average. The map represents the latest peer-reviewed science on the impacts. There is an interactive version online which allows you to select which impacts you want to see, zoom on specific geographies and access more information about the science behind the map. There is also an accompanying brochure issued by the Met Office “Warming. Climate change – the facts” which relays info about the changes the UK have experience so far at what is likely to happen to us under varying degrees of warming.

Please visit the below to see for your self:

<http://www.actoncopenhagen.decc.gov.uk/en/ambition/evidence/>

Rethinking our Approach to Waste – October 29th saw the launch of a new campaign encouraging us all to rethink our approach to waste.



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Can we reduce the amount we use in the first place? Can we reuse what we have already and finally, can it be recycled?

Part of the Government's 'Act On CO2' campaign, called 'Remember. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.', will be encouraging us to consider everything from food waste to furniture recycling. The website offers tips and advice on making better use of the things we all too often put straight in the bin or take to the dump.

Research published recently by Defra showed that an additional 500,000 tonnes of household waste could be saved from landfill by doing more to reuse it or find another home for it. And, if every household in the EU recycled one electrical or electronic item such as a mobile phone or iPod, then 73,000 tonnes of waste could be diverted from landfill – or over 65,000 tonnes of CO2. That's the same as 9,500 round-the-world flights!

For more information please see:
<http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home/campaigns/Waste-campaign.html>

Fruit and Vegetables Task Force – Environment Secretary Hilary Benn announced a new Task Force today which will help us to grow and eat more fruit and vegetables and improve the nation's health as a consequence.

Comprising growers, retailers, consumers and agricultural researchers, the Fruit and Vegetables Task Force will develop an action plan to increase the production and consumption of fruit and vegetables in this country.

In 2008, domestic production of fruit and vegetables was 37 per cent of demand. The UK produces 11 per cent of the fresh fruit we consume, which has increased in the last five years, and 58 per cent of fresh vegetables, down from 63 per cent five years ago.

Compared to five years ago, more of the apples we eat are grown in the UK, and nearly 13 per cent more strawberries eaten in Britain are grown here. However, the proportion of pears and plums consumed that were grown here have declined.

Current barriers to production include developing clear career paths to attract young people to the industry, the availability of



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seasonal workers, volatile energy costs and the effects of climate change including the availability and cost of water.

Taste of your Community Booklet – Food Futures and partners have been working on a local shopping guide to highlight some of Manchester's great places to buy fresh food. It is to become an annual publication that will develop and aims to recognise areas and shops that sell lovely food. The First Edition of the Taste of your Community Booklet is now available hot off the press. If you would like a copy, email a.falla@manchester.gov.uk

Events News – please see EN4M web-site for more events

Are Women the Answer to Poverty – As you may know by now Oxfam North West have started to offer free training nights once a month in Manchester on a wide variety of different topics. The session coming up on **November 4th 6.25pm til 8pm** is 'Are women the answer to poverty' and is being held in the Methodist Church, Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ

Oxfam's aim is to overcome poverty and suffering. Women make up the majority of people living in poverty; 70% of people that live on less than a dollar a day are women, women work two-thirds of the world's working hours yet only receive 10% of the world's income and own only 1% of the world's property. Women are also the most vulnerable to climate change because of their responsibilities within the household. For example In Kenya, fetching water for the family may use up to 85% of a woman's daily energy intake and can take up to eight hours a day in times of drought.

Come along to this session and find out why this is, how women around the world are working together to overcome poverty, and how you can help them.

To reserve your space visit:
<http://oxfamgendercampaignstraining.eventbrite.com>

Save Chorlton Meadows – Invites you to "picnic on the meadows!"

On Sunday 8th November 2009 at 2pm we invite EVERYONE to come along and use the meadows!



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Bring along your sarnies, flasks and anything else you'd like to. We plan to use the meadows for an hour to prove this "derelict land" IS USED! Please pass this on to as many people as possible. The more the merrier!

Regardless of the weather this is still going ahead so bring your brollies, woolies and wellies! Please bring yourselves, friends, families, dogs, kites, music, picnics... your presence to show how much the meadow is loved.

Community Food Hubs – The Food Supply and Distribution strand of the Making Local Food Work programme has been working with a number of hubs around the country exploring what works, what doesn't and what are the major issues facing communities trying to localise and take back control of their food. This conference will share experience from partner projects and explore what elements are critical to the development of a community based food hub, what the challenges are to making it socially, environmentally and economically sustainable and whether it act as a radical change in our relationship with food.

Monday 9th November, 10am to 4pm, Luther King House, Brighton Grove, Manchester M14 4JP. For more info or to book contact Clare Horrell on **020 7837 1228** or clare@sustainweb.org

MERCi Film, Food and Fun – We are pleased to invite you to the Film, Food and Fun event and MERCi AGM to be held at Bridge 5 Mill on the 25th November 2009, 6.00pm – 8.30pm.

We'll be showing Manchester's first screening of the amazing **Addicted to Plastic**, a look at the damage our over-reliance on all things plastic is causing and what we can do about it.

We'll have a truly scrumptious seasonal supper prepared by MERCi staff from seasonal vegetables from Herbie, our mobile greengrocer.

If any AGM is going to be fun it's ours!! MERCi AGM with raffle, quizzes and a sneak preview of our sustainable procurement directory.

MERCi needs more people who are committed to helping change the world to make it more sustainable – if you would like to join us in driving forward this agenda we are seeking new trustees.

We do hope that you are able to join us as it gives us the opportunity to say



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thank you for your support over the last year(s) and to let you know what our plans are for the future.

Please RSVP to corrinal@merci.org.uk or myself to reserve your place.

Consultation Opportunities -

Birley Fields Campus Proposal – The City Council has been working closely with Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) on the development of its plans to construct a new community campus on Birley Fields in Hulme.

MMU has produced a development framework for the campus that has been approved in principle by the Council's Executive.

The University plans to transform Birley Fields into a lively place of education, with a new public square and shared community facilities on "the most sustainable campus in the UK".

For more information about the proposals and details of how to provide feedback, please refer to MMU's website: <http://www.mmu.ac.uk/hulme>

Chorlton District Centre Plan – From September, we will be inviting local residents, traders and businesses to help shape the future of Chorlton district centre. This is your chance to have your say on the improvements that could be put forward to make positive changes to your area.

We will use your feedback to produce a Chorlton District Centre Plan that will further Manchester's aims of achieving full potential in education, employment and skills, creating popular neighbourhoods and strengthening communities.

The plan aims to build on Chorlton district centre's strengths and its potential to perform even better in the future. We can make the most of the centre's potential by developing a vision that will be shared by local residents, shoppers, businesses and public service providers. We can plan now for the future so that we are well placed to react as private and public funding becomes more available as the economy recovers from recession

This plan will help us and our partners meet these aims by making improvements to the area over the next ten years.



You can have your say in different ways

This consultation is being managed by Vision Twentyone on behalf of Manchester City Council. You can find out more information and have your say in a number of ways:

Log on to the website:

More information is available on a dedicated consultation website <http://www.talkchorlton.co.uk/> including copies of the exhibition boards and a booklet detailing the evidence behind the key principles.

There's also an online feedback form that you can complete in your own time, or you can download a pdf version and print it out.

Visit an exhibition:

The exhibitions are your chance to see the key principles and look at the evidence in more detail. You can also talk to us about any questions you might have. Log on to the website for more details

Call our hotline:

If you have any queries about the process, require information in another format (such as Braille, large print or in a different language), would like more information on the exhibitions or would like to provide your views by post, please call a member of the TALKChorlton consultation team on **0845 230 0139** (calls charged at local rate).

Core Strategy Proposed Options – OK we're almost there now. Welcome to the Proposed Options Stage the Core Strategy for Manchester. Consultation opens on Monday the 9th of November until 4th January 2009.

I can tell you that Option B was the most popular option following the refined options stage earlier this year (7% of us preferred B), which should please most of you no end.

As ever I'll be sending a briefing paper to SNAG members ASAP to give you the low down on how the Proposed Option is shaping up. Certainly none of the headline Spatial Policies have change, but I am yet to see if there is any devil in the detail; I should think not.

So what's in the option which will lead to the flourishing of Manchester into a green and pleasant, sustainable 21st century



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haven of well-being and knowledge based industrial excellence? I've only had a quick flick through so these are but my first impressions:

The usual slugs in the pottage include the preference of economic growth over economic development, airport growth (although there are mentions of high speed rail links) over greenbelt protection and a focus on development of the city centre as opposed to effectual sites for employment in the burbs.

I am picking up heightened levels of climate change related activity compared with the previous incarnation of this strategy but the dedicated climate change info measures just 1 small paragraph here and another one there on my climate change policyometer. The waste management enthusiasts amongst you may find this rather disappointing.

So what's coming up roses? If I take number of pages as a proxy to the level of good policy, housing and design are smelling the sweetest. Economic growth is of course the compost feeding everything in our great Mancunian City.

Members News -

Friends of Levenshulme – Pidgeon Pest/Red Tap Pest. We have been approached by the site manager of one the local parks in the area. She is highly concerned by the 'pigeon problem' under one of the bridges along the Fallowfield Loop. Apparently it is a serious public health hazard. The bridge in question is the railway bridge that runs between the Stockport Road and Errwood Road Bridges. The reason the 'pigeon problem' has not been tackled is due to red tape! For example, we called DEFRA who insisted that our 'local environmental health service' are responsible. The council refuse to intervene or log the query and suggested Network Rail. Network Rail again suggested the council log a service request with them.

If you would like a clean bike track you must all send an email to: emma.haskell@picasuk.com at the 'Pigeon Control Advisory service' possibly using the example below:

***"Dear Emma,
Re: Pigeon Pest under railway bridge, near Errwood road, Levenshulme, Network Rail Service Request: 2602614. I am concerned about the public health hazard posed by this pest. The bridge crosses Levenshulme's well used bike track.***



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Our local council have said that they are not interested.

Regards ..."

Oxfam North West – As the Copenhagen climate talks are fast approaching we want to do everything we can to promote the wave march in London/Glasgow on December 5th - where people will be showing with their feet how important Copenhagen is to achieving a fair global deal. We need to show people how important this march is and to get as many people as possible there on the day.

So we have launched a viral video competition. The rules are simple - make a video, upload it to you tube promote it to high heavens and send us the link. The deadline is 27th November when the winners will be decided based on who has had the most people view their film and winners will receive a funky new flip video camera to help their future film making. Brilliant! For more details go here :

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/applications/blogs/pressoffice/?p=7848>

or email/call me with any questions you might have! And here's one I made earlier, if I can do it anyone can!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hna5qXLmQfo>

Office Space Available in City Centre - in Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street in Manchester City Centre's Northern Quarter, in a building used by six other charities. 2,792 squ feet, flexible and attractive terms. For further details contact Jeremy on **07957 368 522**.

Contact Details:

Tim McMahan

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Pool

Bridge-5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats,Manchester. M4 7HR

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