

HIYE (Health in Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum) brings together voluntary organisations involved in health, social and economic regeneration and environmental issues in Greater Nottingham. It aims to increase integration of policies and practices across these issues to improve the health and environment of local people. To this end it responds to proposals and initiatives; sends representatives to decision-making bodies; holds events to develop thinking on the issues; and facilitates the exchange of information and good practice.

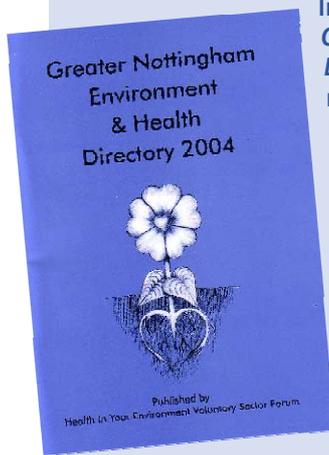
Once again the main features of the year were topic workshops and liaison with various strategic bodies. The latter might not be very glamorous, but it does enable a two-way flow between our agenda and the processes shaping the future of the area.

In the first part of the year we were able to secure assistance with administration and coordination from Groundwork Greater Nottingham - thanks to all there for their valuable help. At the moment we have a short-term arrangement with Change Works to provide this support. Having dedicated person-time really helps to achieve things, and we are looking at possibilities and funding for longer-term provision.

The bulk of funding has come from the Health Initiatives Budget, which distributes money from Primary Care Trusts through Nottingham Health Action Team. Other contributions have come from Nottingham Green Partnership and Nottinghamshire Community Foundation. Many thanks to all of them.

We have just revised our constitution to give a clearer picture of our aims and how we operate, which will stand us in good stead. Early in 2005 we will run an event on climate change, following up the county conference in October. Other new work will build on ideas from November's AGM.

New directory



In September 2004 HIYE published the *Greater Nottingham Environment & Health Directory*. This is the outcome of a project researching local organisations active on health and environment issues. The aim is to provide information and contacts, and to facilitate networking between organisations with similar interests.

The directory lists 26 organisations and projects, from the Alcohol Advisory Service to Women's Environmental Network, giving contact details and a summary of their work. You can use the contact details below to request a copy.

Nottingham Health Action Team

One of HIYE's original objectives was to provide a broad-based voluntary sector feed-in to Nottingham Health Action Group, a partnership of the health sector, local councils and voluntary organisations. In late 2003 it altered its name and remit to take on the role of Health Strategic Action Team for the Greater Nottingham Partnership. Over the years NHAT has supported many initiatives linking health and environment. We continue to play a valued role.



Making the Connections speakers, left to right: Jonathon Porritt, Forum for the Future and Sustainable Development Commission; Jonathan Harris, East Midlands Public Health Team; John Taylor, Chair of NHAT.

NHAT provides grants to projects through the **Health Initiatives Budget**, funded by local Primary Care Trusts. From 1996 to 2004 it supported 119 initiatives to a total of £412,000. HIYE worked with NHAT to organise an event celebrating all this activity, and our website now has a searchable database of projects.

We helped to set up **Making the Connections**, a conference in March 2004 developing strategies to deliver the new NHAT's objectives. It was organised by Forum for the Future as part of an evolving national workstream on health and sustainable development.

Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum

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Is Waste Healthy?

In December 2003 we held a workshop that looked at different methods of waste disposal and their potential impact on health. There were two speakers: Dr Richard Slack from the Health Protection Agency and Dilwyn Evans from Groundwork. A lively debate ensued, with the following key recommendations:

- Everyone needs to be involved in recycling;
- The best way to reduce the health impact of waste is to reduce the waste;
- Change the way people view waste - see it as a commercial opportunity, not just something for throwing away;
- For recycling to work there needs to be a viable option for waste disposal including a method of collection and reprocessing and a market.

Broxtowe Partnership

Our representative has been involved in the Environment Sector of the Broxtowe Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough of Broxtowe), which brings together a wide range of organisations to develop strategies and initiatives. This year has seen a concentration on the development of the visitor centre at Attenborough, which is being built on sustainable principles. There has been an emphasis on local organisations implementing travel plans, and a Broxtowe Transport sub-group has been set up.

Environment Strategy Action Team

Our representatives are involved in this sub-group of the Greater Nottingham Partnership, which is the Sub-regional Strategic Partnership for Greater Nottingham. The aim of the SSP is to deliver the East Midlands' Regional Economic Strategy in Greater Nottingham through partnership working, taking into account environmental and social agendas to ensure sustainability.

The ESAT has commissioned work to raise awareness of, and implement, environmental management systems among businesses and public organisations. The aim is that businesses begin to look at their waste management systems and how they use energy, water and other resources. The end result is a win-win situation, where the environment benefits and businesses save money. Another project commissioned was to look at the supply chain of the Queen's Medical Centre. The Health Service has a huge procurement budget, and this can be used to influence suppliers to become more environmentally aware.

The ESAT has also worked hard to ensure that issues around the environment and sustainable development underpin the work of all the Strategy Action Teams.

Nottingham Community Network

We are represented on this group of voluntary sector umbrella organisations that feeds in to One City Partnership Nottingham, the Local Strategic Partnership for the city. OCPN's agenda is dominated by targets associated with Neighbourhood Renewal Funding. These cover education, crime, housing, employment and health - which are vital and pressing issues, but unfortunately make it very hard to discuss other topics like the environment. We have been able to feed in information about sustainability activities that connect with these agendas.

The Network has put in a lot of effort to get the voluntary sector recognised as an equal partner in terms of existing activity with disadvantaged people, voice in consultations and potential for delivering services. This is helping OCPN to make the best use of local resources.

The process of creating a revised Community Strategy for the city is getting underway, and there will be consultations over the next few months. HIYE will help to encourage participation, with the aim of making it a broad-ranging document that takes due account of sustainable development principles.

The Future of Energy

This workshop in April 2004 looked at the forecasts for energy supplies and the actions which will be necessary to ensure energy is available in the future. The speakers were Gill Tidey, Chief Executive of Nottingham Energy Partnership, and Matthew Thomas, Renewables and Social Action Manager for Npower. The key recommendations were:

- Individuals should consider switching to an electricity supply from renewable energy sources.
- New buildings should have energy efficiency as a key design consideration. Photovoltaic systems and other alternative energy supply should be considered.