

CIEH Derbyshire Branch – Secretary's Report 2008

This report is a summary of the key activities undertaken by the Branch Committee in 2008.

1. Branch Strategy

Objective	Achievement
1. Annual report	Here it is!
2. Plan and execute at least one low cost training event for EHPs	This did not take place this year due to the James Button subscription/training package.
3. Plan and execute at least three James Button training courses	Two courses have taken place, a third is due in Jan/Feb (the subscription runs from April 2008 to March 2009): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June – Regulatory Enforcement for LA Officers – 35 delegates. • October – Nuisance and Noise – 20 delegates. Good feedback received from both courses.
4. Continue support of Members at County Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All CIEH regional websites have recently been updated. Info is sent to website co-ordinator for display on the website (although there are still sometimes problems/delays getting information uploaded). Please note the new address – www.cieh.org/eastmidlands • E-mail addresses for 80% of members - info is sent out to individual members by e-mail. Branch meetings/training courses also advertised in EHN & on the East Midlands website. • In September I wrote to all members that we don't have an e-mail address for. E-mail addresses were requested so membership list can be updated & regular info be sent to those members missing out on the info that is currently sent by e-mail. Christmas card and AGM invite & letter also sent to those members, and retired members. • I have represented the Branch at the majority of Regional Management Board meetings.
5. Help full or part time students to maximise training opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No requests for financial assistance received this year. • Committee continue to support the Student Group, although meetings have been less regular this year. We hope to elect a Student Rep this year who we anticipate will assist in co-ordinating more regular meetings. • Most Derbyshire LAs continue to offer student placements. In April I attended the 'Resourcing for the future in Environmental Health' seminar. Following the event I e-mailed all Derbyshire CEHO's to ask that they try to ensure that student placements are offered/continued. The Committee also offered support in facilitating joint placements. • ELP Workshop held at Blaby DC in October.
6. Encourage Chartered Status applications and help maintain CPD hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APD workshop held at Blaby DC in October. • One hour free CPD offered at Branch meeting. 10 hours CPD offered through James Button courses. • 2.5 hours free CPD offered through CIEH Roadshow.
7. Ensure all members are consulted on the review of the Business Plan and encourage feedback	The Business Plan has been circulated via Branch Reps and e-mail. Feedback from Branch members was requested but only one comment was received – if you do have any comments/feedback please do let me know!
8. Encourage lapsed members to rejoin the CIEH	Document relating to rejoining was circulated. Reps made LA lapsed members aware of the reduced requirements to rejoin. No details about non-LA lapsed members have been made available so unable to pass on the information to any independent lapsed members.

2. Regional Feedback

The Regional Interim Management Board (IMB) formally became the Regional Management Board at the beginning of the year. I have continued to attend the meetings on behalf of the Branch. Last year the Regions bid for £20,000 from HQ was accepted. This was in the main to pay for a 'Business Support Officer' for the Region, however after a slow resolution in what the post should entail, it was advertised but unfortunately there has been no interest in the post. The Region is now looking to recruit a professional support officer with a role to support Branches, Region and Heads of Service Groups to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Region are met. If you are interested in the post please let me know.

The Region hosted two events in 2008 - the CIEH Roadshow and the 'Resourcing for the future in Environmental Health' seminar. I attended both events and found them both interesting. Two items featured on both agendas - the new core curriculum which continues to raise debate amongst members, and the lack of student placements which sadly still appear to be on the decline and the cause of many students not finishing the degree. It was disappointing to see a lack of members at the Roadshow, and the Regional AGM.

Steve Bidwell, John Freear and Andy Statham continue to drive things forward on behalf of the Region. John Freear (also Chairman of CIEH Council this year) has been working closely with Local Government East Midlands. The Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection course at Nottingham Trent University is now in its second successful year. Work is now focusing on the '5 pack +1' training programme which will allow LA's and independent EHPs to access six courses per year at a very reasonable price. I will forward further information once this is finalised.

The Region continues its international links with Uganda. John Opio Nelson, a Principal Public Health Inspector arrived in September, then spent three months in the Region. I was pleased to host him for a few days, John also spent some time with one of our retired members (Barrie Sheard), who also arranged for John to attend the National Pest Tech Conference. On a personal note, I visited Uganda for three weeks in June on the annual study tour arranged by Daventry and District Friends of Iganga. It was a mix of work (providing safe water sources, painting the local hospital and a new clinic) and 'play' (visiting an orphanage, a Blind Centre, and local villages, an international football match and a visit to the Murchison Falls National Park). This was a wonderful experience which I would recommend to all. It was brilliant to see how Water for Kids spend the donations they receive, and I would like to again thank those who gave a donation. If anyone is interesting is going to Uganda or joining the International Special Interest Group, please let me know.

The Regional Conference continues to be a very successful and popular event. We also now have a Derbyshire member on the Conference Management Team. The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Annual Quiz took place in November – Derbyshire Dales won bringing the trophy back to Derbyshire.

5. Committee

The Branch Committee have continued to meet regularly throughout 2008. The meetings have generally focused on meeting the aims of the Branch Business Plan and Branch Strategy. Following agreement at last years AGM to reduce the number of Branch Meetings, and instead provide more focused training courses, 2008 saw a more business-like plan and provision of training. The Branch signed up to the James Button subscription service. Two courses have taken place with a third to follow. Whilst both courses were filled and good feedback received, the amount of courses offered is quite limited and they also worked out to be more expensive than we had anticipated. We also had to reply on some places being filled by non-Derbyshire members, as there wasn't enough interest from Derbyshire members alone. For these reasons, teamed with the '5+1 pack' training to be offered by the Region, the Committee recommend that we do not renew the subscription. We have a couple of training courses for 2009 in the pipelines, but if you have any specific courses or ideas, we always welcome your input.

We had also planned to offer the traditional 'Eddie Staley' low cost training day but commitment to the James Button subscription along with the lack of Committee Reps (we are now down to five regular Reps out of nine authorities) led to the decision not to offer this in 2008. We therefore did not meet our aim of providing 15 hours CPD at low/no cost which is disappointing but also has to be balanced with the amount of interest from members. We held one Branch meeting in July, coupled with a presentation on 'Allergens labelling and Management' – only 14 members attended.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee members for their continued support, and again I would ask all members to support the work of the Branch and let us know how we can help you. Wishing you a Happy New Year on behalf of the Branch Committee,

Lisa Forshaw, Honorary Branch Secretary, 6 January 2009