

**Welcome to our final newsletter of 2008.** It contains a few brief news items and a reminder about next week's xmas social. Thank you all for your support and interest throughout 2008. From all at SCR we wish you a happy Christmas and a fantastic 2009. We are all very excited about developments in the pipeline – and hope to have exciting news early in the New Year.

All the best, Rob

### **SCR Xmas Social (Monday 15th December, Sheffield)**

Meet in the Fat Cat, Alma street from 7.30pm for a drink and a chat. For the hungry: the website suggests that bar food is available until 8pm. It also advertises a Monday night curry (served from 8pm-10pm). [www.thefatcat.co.uk/86index.htm](http://www.thefatcat.co.uk/86index.htm) All welcome, the more the merrier.

### **Torrs Hydro New Mills AGM (November 29<sup>th</sup>, New Mills)**

SCR put in a good showing at the first Torrs Hydro AGM in November. It was interesting to hear how our friends on the other side of the Peak have been getting on. The screw is now fully operational and is generating electricity for the local Co-op's first fully green powered store. The meeting was well attended, with lively debate and questions keeping the directors on their toes. The success which has been achieved at New Mills is a beacon for others to follow. Their experiences also provide great learning for future SCR work. Certainly, the cost over run encountered in the development/construction phase is a sobering reminder that the viability of hydro schemes can be very marginal. We need to do our sums very carefully before embarking on our own scheme.

### **Progress on the business plan**

SCR's management group is making good progress in updating our business plan. This mostly consists of drawing together the mass of information and ideas we have created over the last year. Key work has included drafting business objectives, business strategy and completing a technical review. We also have a communications workshop planned for next Saturday. Our aim is to have a good draft by sometime in January. At this point we will be looking for a handful of 'critical friends' to help us by reviewing and commenting on the document. We are looking for a mix of skills from our reviewers from lay person through to those with relevant professional expertise. We will update on these plans and start asking for volunteers early in the New Year.

### **Fundraising**

We have submitted two applications to secure development funding for 2009/10. The first was a business case submitted to the Area Based Grant (ABG). The ABG is a large pot of money administered by Sheffield First, which is being 'realigned' to support delivery of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The second is a smaller but still significant bid for funding from the council's small grants fund. Both bids are aimed at strengthening SCR's organisation and supplementing our in-house capabilities with professional advice and assurance. There is no doubt that as we enter 2009 funding is going to become a much more pressing issue for SCR. At present fundraising is managed by various people on an ad-hoc basis. We are keen to recruit one or two volunteers, with an interest in concentrating on fundraising as their specialist area. Please do get in touch, if this might be of interest.

### **Newsletter to go bi-monthly**

This newsletter is the first to go out *via* our new e-list. Please do feedback on how the system is working, especially if you encounter any problems. For 2009 we propose to publish bi-monthly rather than monthly newsletters. Our New Year resolution is also to strengthen our website and increase use of the blog.