

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008, 7.30pm

The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

**Present:** 12

**Apologies:** 2

**Names in bold denote action needed by that person.**

## **1. FOE Marine Network talk – MARINET – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

- The talk was deemed to be very worthwhile but alarming from an ocean preservation point of view. 30% of UK waters should be left to regenerate, but there is less than 1% protected at present. Marinet is lobbying Parliament to put the 30% in place.
- It was agreed that Wycombe FOE will sign up to the Marinet network, which is free.

## **2. Biofuels talk – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 7.30pm – Deepak Rughani of Biofuel Watch**

- Access to Environment Centre from 7.00pm and will begin at 7.30pm
- Need a larger audience for this. Need to target groups who may have an interest.
- Expenses will be paid and speaker will be precise about content.
- A press release will be issued for BF~P.
- Title will be: 'Agrofuels – the Climate Endgame' and focuses on problems on a global scale eg, social injustice, but will also talk on UK perspective, and a positive note on algae. Content will agree with FOE biofuel policy. Will be 30 minutes of questions.
- Poster has been approved and has been put on the website.
- Posters will be put up. Letters to local members will be circulated.
- Will be publicised on National FOE, community pages.
- Publicity plan will be distributed to wfoe members.

## **3. Sharing Gardens.** (a new initiative by wfoe)

- Unused gardens could be used by others who would like more space.
- Those who lend space would be entitled to 50% of the produce.
- Would be a yearly 'contract' and no money would change hands.
- Totnes transition town has done this. Methods will be investigated.
- Seed swaps could be introduced (Brighton does this)
- Bulk buying and sharing of tools and equipment could be introduced.
- BFP has been contacted.
- It was thought that local interest could be sought and started, initial problems ironed out and then the idea could be spread, potentially.
- Advantages include promoting local produce, is a learning experience, preserving unusual varieties will maintain biodiversity which helps disease resistance, would make UK more self sufficient and resistant to global price rises.
- Possible negatives include possible shortage of land but Councils have to look into providing allotments if 6 or more people express interest. Currently there is up to a year's waiting list for allotments but people on waiting list could be contacted to inform them of this scheme. Concerns were expressed and discussed about safety for those offering gardens.

## **4. Films**

- Various environment films were discussed as possible items of interest at meetings.
- The first film will be shown at the August meeting.

## **5. Eden**

- Eden bags for life will be issued on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July.
- Wfoe to issue leaflets informing the public of the negative aspects of plastic bags.

## **6. Rye Management Plan**

- Final Management Plan has been published. Comments have been invited.

## **5. Finance**

- The group is in credit.

## **6. Website**

- Website has been updated.
- It was agreed to put on tip re: reducing speed on motorways to save fuel.
- BFP will be informed about this which will also advertise website.

## **7. Schools Energy Wastage.**

- Press release has been sent to BFP.

## **8. Conference – in September in Loughborough**

- The group would pay expenses to send a few interested members.

## **Any Other Business**

- The Resurgence Trust. This was brought to the group's attention.  
*"The Resurgence Trust takes its inspiration from two of the most profound philosophies of our time – E.F. Schumacher's 'Small is beautiful' and Mahatma Gandhi's 'Be the change you want to see in the world'. We believe that big change is possible through small, meaningful actions at a local level. It is only by changing our immediate environment that we can pave the way for change on a larger scale. In other words, we can make the world a better place, but it will only happen when large numbers of people join together and practice what they believe in".*

Check out the website. (<http://www.resurgence.org/trust/slow-sunday.html>).

- Guide to sustainable communities Act - how to make the Act work. See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/sustainablecommunitiesact>
- Pann Mill will be open 13<sup>th</sup> July 2008 11am-5pm.

## **9. Next meeting will be Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at 7.30pm** at the Environment Centre (first Wednesday of each month).