

**Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday 9th January 2013, 7.30pm

at The Environment Centre, Wye River Studios, 17 West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG

1. Who's here: 12

2. Apologies: 2

3. Tonight's facilitator - agreed

4. It's your meeting: Baregardens, speaker for a future meeting

5. The business bit:

1. Manchester's format is that every alternate meeting was a public/information meeting rather than a group business meeting, eg inviting a speaker. This potentially could be hosted in another, bigger room in the Environment Centre. A speaker on fracking would be a good idea for later in the year – a member will contact him to enquire further.

2. We have received acknowledgement that our annual National FOE group partnership agreement has been renewed.

3. In late December, FOE sent an email about restructuring. The co-ordinator will forward the email for information

6. What's on:

1. Film showing on 16th February, 7.30pm re Transition Towns at the Environment Centre.

2. Pro- wind turbine demonstration in Aylesbury which is going to planning next Thursday 17th Jan, 12 noon-1pm outside the Aylesbury Council Chamber. It is close to houses and has received opposition. Mid Beds FOE have organised a demonstration to counter opposition to it. The co-ordinator will circulate the email.

3. 18th January, 7.30pm at the Margaret Day Room, Henley, adjacent to the Town Hall. Subject: Thermal imaging of homes.

4. Marlow Country Fair (Sunday's Marlow Farmers Market) has ceased operating for the moment.

7. Green living:

1. A member has made up an instruction leaflet for a Bee Hotel. It will be put on the website. The leaflet could be distributed to the EC and the museum as well as other interested groups – eg rangers, scouts and guides. A member will ring round some of the groups. The co-ordinator will inform the EC.

2. The Ecotip for the website will be

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8. What we've been doing:

1. Bee Leaflet. 5 members will meet next week for the Bee Leaflet, but little progress since the last meeting. One member has created drawings.
2. Thermal Imaging. 2 members will pursue this. This would be another team to help out Transition Towns with this project. WDC use the camera during weekdays. Marlow TT also borrow it.

9. What's happening out there?

1. The fracking question was discussed on 'Question Time', but the economic side of things dominated the argument over than environmental concerns. There are many conflicting opinions but it is not sustainable and there are disadvantages. The risk to the water supply could be very long lasting. It is also unsightly. The Lancashire site has the go-ahead. Paul Mobbs would give a balanced view if we manage to engage him as a speaker.
2. Wycombe's new local plan – land use planning consultation is about to start. It is at the 'understanding the issues' stage, eg, what do we want the district to be like in 2031? It will set housing targets and has economic topics. There are not many environmental titles under discussion. Invitations for discussion titles should be submitted by 1st February. We should make sure that environmental concerns are considered, eg renewable energy, sustainability, biodiversity, protection and provision of green space, new housing having sustainability in mind etc. Search for 'New Local Plan' on WDC website and **all members** are strongly encouraged to make an individual comment please. The co-ordinator will distribute an email outlining the response from WFoE.

10. Campaign Ideas: No further updates since the last meeting.

1. Baregardens. A member gave a summary of the Baregardens campaign. There are only 2 gardeners now; some potential gardeners have now been allocated allotments. WDC does not have a specific allotment officer at present. Perhaps there is movement on the allotment waiting list. Flat dwellers could be targeted. A member suggested using Twitter to target a different section of the public. It has been difficult to progress – the member responsible for Baregardens will not pursue this energetically at present.
2. Tin use for Smart Phones are causing deforestation. The co-ordinator will re-circulate information.

11. Anything we've forgotten:

1. A member outlined the idea of monthly themed meetings in pubs (The Falcon, on 2nd Tuesday of the month). We have been invited to provide someone to start a discussion on a topic such as sustainability or growing your own food etc. The group needs people to inspire discussion. The co-ordinator will reply to the invitation and members are encouraged to consider getting involved. Please email if you are interested.
2. Energy photos – A member contacted the library re exhibition, which is being moved to a less prominent position. She will forward approximately 15 photos to her that have been provided by the co-ordinator.

12. Date of next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th February 2013.