

## Wycombe Friends of the Earth, Agenda

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 at 7.30pm

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

**1. Who's here:** 10                      Who's missing: 5

**2. Tonight's facilitator**

**3. It's your meeting!** Discussed !

**4. The business bit**

- A member brought our attention to "Basecamp," a new kind of FoE get-together on a national level, meeting in the Peak district on the weekend of 12 - 14<sup>th</sup> July. Weekend tickets start at £30 (camping) up to £105 for B & B. It is described as an event for grassroots campaigners and staff. See [www.foe.co.uk/basecamp](http://www.foe.co.uk/basecamp) for more information. At some point we will be asked for our input on motions to be discussed at the national meeting.

- National FoE has sent out information on safeguarding policies for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. There are several things to be aware of if this applies to any member in the course of their FoE work and we should familiarise ourselves with the guidelines if applicable to us.

- Note that the June meeting will be our AGM

**5. What's on**

- Fracking talk in May has been programmed in place of the monthly meeting. We will need volunteers for various duties. Any member wishing to attend must confirm NOW as spaces will be limited. Including the speaker, we already have a total of 11 confirmed attendees, so only 39 left for visitors.

A preparatory meeting had been held during the month and poster designed. We decided not to advertise too widely for the time being until we see how quickly bookings come in. The coordinator will circulate the poster by e-mail and e-mail all local members to stress that they must confirm soonest if they intend to come to this meeting. A member will take leaflets to WDC. On the night, a member will open up at 6.45 and some volunteers will be needed to help put out chairs etc. Doors are to open at 7.15 p.m., pre-booked attendees must be there by 7.35 p.m., or seat could be re-allocated. Paul Mobbs will be collected from station. 2 members will help direct people between car park and Environment Centre. 2 members will be available to greet visitors and book people in. Donation box required. We need someone to circulate to the library. It was decided that we need another preparatory meeting round about 18<sup>th</sup> April (date to be confirmed).

A table has been booked for the Pann Mill open day on weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> May. It is planned to sell cards and plants. Volunteers to man the stand will be required.

**6. Green living** \* Fairtrade Ecotip as per agenda adopted. "How about trying a new Fairtrade product. Support the products you love, and the farmers and workers in developing countries who produce them"

**7. What we've been doing** [to include Bees leaflet]

- Bees Leaflet – no-one here to update us !
- Clean British energy photo display– still waiting for answer from library.

- 4 teams entered the Environment Centre's eco competition last month. One entry was put forward to national level (but not one of ours)

## **8. What's happening out there**

BFP is changing style and price is going up.

Alex Collingwood is no longer Leader of Council. Councillor Scott has replaced him.

## **9. Campaign ideas**

Red Kite community newsletter presented. Very pro-gardening. Red Kite are now managing the green spaces for WDC, i.e. all areas which were previously council houses. 3 members met up with Dave Mullins from Red Kite who is responsible for the open spaces. Their new land management company is John O'Conner, a local contractor. Now is a good time to open them up to the ideas of leaving more space open for wild flowers etc. In response to our enquiry as to whether they had any space which we could possibly manage with the idea of increasing the wild flower content, it was suggested we have a look at the Ian Rennie Memorial field in Downley. 3 members visited the site which is a south facing chalk slope, currently mainly short grass although some is left to grow last year. It is a very large site, too large for us to manage alone and without knowing what the current natural seed bank is, it does not appear to be a candidate for seeding or planting this spring. Various suggestions were made to research:

- a) further contact with Red Kite to see how much influence we can have without actually taking over the work ourselves.
- b) Bbowt, who currently manage many natural chalkland sites could be asked for help/advice
- c) local county people may know its history, i.e. has it ever been cultivated (although a study of older maps doesn't show that it has).
- d) ideally a proportion of the site should be left to grow naturally, with no more than a cut in spring and autumn so that any existing seeds can emerge. Only then should any decisions on to future planting be made.

## **10. Anything we've forgotten**

- Question to council re allotments. A member to ask at WDC meeting why applicants are being turned away and yet there are unworked allotments, we believe.

- Several of us had attended the climate change talk organised by Low Carbon Jordans. We all felt that the speaker, a young graduate from Cambridge, had been extremely interesting, competent and knowledgeable. The conclusion was generally that there are so many variables that no-one can accurately predict climate changes in the future however the general trend is that the climate is warming up and that it is better to do something now than wait until it is too late. Perhaps the lady could speak for us at some point.

A member pointed out that Hedgehog Awareness Week is from 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May – perhaps the tip of the month for May could revolve around this.

**11. Date of next meeting** will be on Wednesday 1st May 2013 at The Environment Centre and will be the talk by Paul Mobbs on Fracking.