

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 3rd July 2013, 7.30pm at The Environment Centre,
Wye River Studios, 17 West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG

1. Who's here and who's missing

Present: 1

Apologies: 5

2. Tonight's facilitator

3. It's your meeting – see below.

4. The business bit

Leafletting/poster submission to HW locations

BareGardens, Population Matters, WFOE Welcome and other leaflets were distributed.

5. What's on

Population Matters film on 11th July 'Mother caring for 7 billion' at EC 7.30pm. WFOE will have a table to advertise group and campaigns, with fund raising items.

Wycombe Harvest is on 8th September — local food stalls.

6. Green living

The Ecotip for July will be:

July has arrived, a busy period for female hedgehogs as they bring the next generation into the world. This is an exciting month as it is the first time this year that you have a chance of encountering families embarking on their first foraging trips together outside of the nest. It's one of the true joys of summer. Remember to be careful and check for hedgehogs if you have any strimming planned - they often chose to just lie-up in long vegetation if the weather is hot. Better still, leave vegetation long as it is useful for other wildlife to inhabit. Try to leave a hedgehog sized gap in or under your hedge or fence so they can move around easily to find food, and leave log and leaf piles for them to make their homes. Also slug pellets can harm hedgehogs. More information can be found at: <http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk>

7. What we've been doing

Bee leaflet

- The bee leaflet has been printed and sent out electronically to 48 primary schools in High Wycombe and surrounding area. 4 schools have expressed interest and requested paper leaflets.
- One school requested a powerpoint presentation on the subject for the children. One has been made up and sent out to the 4 schools who have responded.
- Paper leaflets were available for members to take and distribute
- 3 members ran a stall at the Hamilton Fete, where eco living, bee leaflets and bee related information and games were promoted.

Red Kite's land management

- Positive contact has been established with Red Kite. Regarding some individual sites there is useful discussion although as a general principle there does not yet seem to be an understanding about leaving grassy margin areas to grow and seed. This understanding will be sought at future meetings.
- A member informed the group that there are areas in Cressex that have recently been mown but which previously were growing and developing wild flowers. He has taken before and after photos.
- There is an understanding that the Ian Rennie field in Downley is sympathetically managed for the benefit of wildlife and WFOE will monitor and encourage this further.
- We have a list of Red Kite holdings so potentially we could visit them to see if they are feasible to suggest a non-mowing policy.

Community conversations – Bucks CC new Local Plan.

2 members have attended a consultation on this.

8. What's happening out there

HS2

Lord Mandelson is now against HS2. More information at:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5be0c442-e31d-11e2-bd87-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2Y3truqKx>

If the link does not work properly, put HS2 into Google and it's the first news item.

Climate – a BBC news report stated that during the last 10 years there has been a slight rise in average temperatures but that extremes have been greater than previously. The report was reticent about whether this was due to man made factors but warming will follow CO2 production.

Compost and recycling rates went down in Bucks – and it was suggested that this was possibly due to the economic downturn. There was discussion on this point. This would have repercussions with an incinerator which requires a steady supply of waste. Also this might discourage Council from increasing their targets which are less than stunning anyway. The co-ordinator suggested we ask a question about this at Council, eg what are their new targets and how will recycling differ from at present? Questions have to be in by noon on the Friday before the meeting - next meeting is on 16th July at 6.30pm. 2 members will ask questions re above and re vacant allotments.

9. Campaign ideas

Possible speaker from New Economics Foundation

This organisation might provide speakers for one of our meetings. We must approach an individual team that deals with one of their six areas, which are:

1. Finance and business - reform
2. Great Transition – transform local economies
3. Natural economics – value on natural resources
4. Social equality
5. Valuing what matters
6. Wellbeing – creating alternative indices to GDP

Mythbusters is an online course by NEF to expose economic myths and encourage participants to 'spread the word'. 2 members will enquire about fees and expenses with a view to running this at the September meeting.

Pann Mill stall on 14th July – 4 members are willing to man the stall. A rota will be set up.

Pizza + film for a monthly meeting, perhaps for November or December.

2 members could supply pizzas or similar.

Possible film - 'Do the math...' a fast paced and inspiring film about the rising movement to solve the climate crisis.

10. Anything we've forgotten

Other possible campaigns for WFOE to begin, ideally, consistent with National FOE, have a local interest and be achievable. Possible candidates:

1. Fracking
2. Food – reduce consumption of meat, locally source food, food waste etc.
3. Waste
4. Energy
5. Packaging
6. Bottled water

All Members should think about the above (or other burning issues of their choice) before the next meeting so that a discussion and then a decision can be made. If you are not able to attend the next meeting, please email your opinions.

11. Next meeting will be **on Wednesday 7th August 2013** at 7.30pm at The Environment Centre, Wye River Studios, 17, West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG