

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 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: 6      Apologies: 4

### 2. The business bit

- As a result of the Pann Mill stall, two people have requested being kept in contact with WFOE events so this has raised the idea of having a review of the contacts list for such purposes and refining the discussion ring/minutes distribution contacts. We could make a note of those signing bee leaflets and contact them by email when we have events etc.
- The distribution of leaflets was discussed, ie ways to encourage people to take leaflets, pros and cons of leafleting, places to distribute leaflets. Many places are reluctant to take leaflets at all due to the high number of requests from organisations. Perhaps a reliable core could be targeted to reduce the possibility of leaflets being wasted, eg at the Environment Centre, Library and Museum which have a dedicated spot for leaflets.
- Finance. The Treasurer reported that the account is in credit. 7 members have paid for 2013-14.

### 5. What's on

- Wycombe Harvest is on 8<sup>th</sup> September, in the High Street, 11am-5pm - local food stalls from a 30 mile radius. There is an opportunity for WFOE to share a portion of the WI Food stall, incorporating recycling/compost ideas. Deadline for applying for a stall is end of August.
- Pann Mill Open Day – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September, – 3 members volunteered to cover an hour.
- WI Great Food Debate, Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Sept, 7pm – a panel discussion about food at Bucks New Uni.

### 6. Green living

The Ecotip for August will be:

*School Summer Holidays are here so why not take your children out on a local bee walk – download our bee leaflet which includes child friendly craft activities, jokes, information about our bees and where to find local bee walks.*

### 7. What we've been doing

#### Bee Leaflet

- A member reported that approximately 750 bee leaflets have now been distributed to various places around High Wycombe and listed those places.
- A member will investigate the possibility of screening 'More than Honey' film available from 21 October on DVD/bluray. Possible screen showing in November or next Spring?

#### Open Spaces

- Some areas that have been mentioned to Red Kite for the purpose of being left un-mown have now, disappointingly, been cut. Therefore, stronger input from WFOE would be of benefit, despite a positive relationship.
- Two members are considering attending the Red Kite garden club for tenants on 10<sup>th</sup> September to promote wild areas being left/planted to aid bees and biodiversity.
- A member reported that an area off Bassetsbury Lane has been left un-mown and wild flowers are now coming up. It was thought this was in Wycombe District Council control and a positive move.
- A Marlow group, with Marlow Council, has planted wild flowers round a recreation ground edge.
- Seed mixes need to be investigated, ie annual/perennial wild flowers.

#### Questions at the Wycombe District Council Meeting

- A member asked, by email, why WDC take a long time to secure new tenants for vacant allotments and there has since been some communication about this. It has been ascertained that there is currently a waiting list of 8 for the Desborough Castle allotments but due to WDC cutbacks the department is probably overstretched.

- A member asked at the Council meeting, about waste, ie why the percentage of waste recycled has gone down in response to the economic downturn. A written reply is awaited but verbally it was stated that there will be a new waste contract with a 60% target by 2018, of recycled, re-used and composted material. There are various road shows where we could seek clarification on certain aspects eg. Why shredded paper cannot be used, or newspaper to wrap food waste, and where are the various items being taken?

## 8. Campaign ideas

### Ideas for Future Meetings

- The co-ordinator has been trying to contact relevant people about a speaker from New Economics Foundation.
- We could contact Paul Mobbs again as his interests were expanding and we could organise a talk/film involving Paul talking about a slightly different subject from previously.
- We decided against showing a film in September (time is too short now). There is an opportunity to have a public film ('Do the Math'?) and an internal film on bees ('More than Honey') in October at the earliest.
- A member suggested that we could shorten meetings by emailing reports on certain topics before meetings and then just inviting comments or questions on that topic.

### Future campaign ideas

The following ideas were discussed:

- Targeting companies who keep lights on during the night eg Cressex (a possibility).
- Bottled water (it was thought that it would be difficult to make this local and get a result)
- Working with WDC about their new household waste contract (ie inform and encourage the public, and support the Council. Perhaps we could emphasise the point to the public that landfill is limited and becoming an increasing problem to encourage reducing, reusing, recycling, as it was thought that the WDC information leaflet didn't make this point).
- Keeping environmental information up to date for organisations like WDC (there is a need for this but would involve regular and frequent vigilance).
- A member's idea of a local energy saving/eco leaflet (Perhaps this could incorporate information about further ways to reduce energy, recycle, reuse etc locally. If it also served to support the Council in their waste targets and they might distribute it with their literature which would solve distribution problems).

The co-ordinator summarised the discussion by indicating that the above (with the exception of bottled water, which was discounted as a campaign on this occasion) could be broadly divided into 2 areas:

1. Saving energy.
2. Linking in with the WDC new waste contract.

**Members** to use the email discussion ring to respond to, and discuss, these ideas, so that a decision can be made at the September meeting.

## 9. Anything we've forgotten

No!

**10. Next meeting** will be **on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013** at 7.30pm at The Environment Centre, Wye River Studios, 17, West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG