

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 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: 12

Apologies: 3

### 2. Tonight's facilitator is Mike Chadwick,

### 3. It's your meeting – see below.

### 4. The business bit

- Finance – the account is in credit
- Leaflet distribution - Ivan left a distribution list. A member will be asked to email the e-version of the distribution list for members to check and update if necessary.
- Communication with Members - now via yahoo discussion group. Members to note.
- Compilation of wider contact list for events – a copy of contact details of those who have visited our stalls was passed to the relevant person.

### 5. What's on

- Wycombe Harvest Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September - WFOE in conjunction with the WI as part of their Love Food, Hate Waste campaign. Arrangements for setting up and manning the stall were discussed and a rota set up.
- Pann Mill on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. It was decided that we would run a WFOE stall with Ivan's composting input (and Rosemary, master composter). A rota was set up.
- Great Food Debate - 25<sup>th</sup> September at Bucks New Uni, 7-10pm, run by WI. Question and answer session. Celia will sell tickets at Wycombe Harvest.
- Freegle get-together, 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept, pm at WEC – A member will be asked if we could set up a WFOE stall with the usual leaflets etc, largely unmanned, at this event.
- 'Economics of Happiness film at WEC, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 7pm – it was decided that the possibility of a WFOE stall at this event will be discussed at our October meeting.

### 6. Green living

The Ecotip for September will be (to the effect of):

In line with WDC new waste contract, try hard for the good of all of us and to reduce landfill, to separate and recycle as much as you can. Note that shredded paper not now taken by the Council can be put in your own compost. Be sure your batteries don't go into the bin. Supermarkets in High Wycombe, High Heavens Recycling Centre will take your old, unwanted batteries (valuable metals can be extracted). Also, Tetrapacks can now be recycled.

### 7. What we've been doing

- We have been invited to attend the Gardening Club meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. A member will confirm date. The co-ordinator will inform David Mullins that two people from WFOE will attend Gardening club and stay on to discuss progress on the Gayhurst Rd. site and other general policies. We would like to know whether they ever took a tour of their sites to assess from a biodiversity point of view and whether there are other sites where we might have an influence. Two members will attend.
- Letter in Bucks Free Press re London Road land (between there and Pinions). There is a dispute about who is responsible for it so it has been left unmown. There has been a letter in the BFP complaining about this. A member will look in more detail at the letter with a view to answering it possibly.

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

Wapseys trip - a report from two members who attended.

- Birds of prey are used to keep seagulls and other birds away. Seagulls spread debris indiscriminately by picking it up, thinking it is food and dropping it further afield when they realise it is not. The site organisers catch any gas given off from the landfill to generate energy which at present goes into the Grid. This site will be filled by the end of 2016, but it takes another year before work on it is finished and the site capped. The land will need to be monitored for another 60-70 years before it can be used other than for grazing or shrub/tree planting. Chiltern District Council sends lorries of waste there. This site is for landfill only. Sorting of materials for recycling has been done elsewhere by the relevant councils. The pit is thoroughly lined to a very high specification, before filling. They often use London clay amongst other materials, to stop the leaching of chemicals underground. When the site is full it is capped with a special dense liner to prevent leakage. The Site Manager said that the amount of rubbish coming for

landfill has been considerably reduced since the introduction of Landfill tax. The road sweeping accumulations are stored separately for re-use, or possibly so that certain metals can be extracted in the future.

- Wycombe District Council new waste collection contract. The contract was discussed, eg is taking the paper and card to Wales the best option environmentally (possibly). It was decided that we need more facts in order to have a view about dealing with any outstanding misgivings and that the website should be viewed in order to ascertain whether we can help with updating the Recycling Directory webpage.

## 9. Campaign ideas

- Responding to Steve Baker's fracking response - the co-ordinator read out Steve Baker's letter about fracking and members present considered a possible response to some of his points – summarised: The regulatory system that he says is adequate may not be applicable to fracking. As a cheap and reliable source of energy, it will also produce a cheap and reliable source of CO2! Although carried out in USA, the USA is not so densely populated as the UK. USA rock is good for fracking, some of the UK rock may not be. Some companies are more cautious of investing at present due to risks from compensation etc if pollution occurs. Fracking diverts attention from concentrating on climate change, reducing energy usage and research into renewables etc. Will tax incentives be available for companies with tax havens, leaving UK tax-paying citizens to subsidise fracking? Perhaps there should be a letter to BFP to inform readers that this is the view of the High Wycombe MP. We could hold a debate about fracking and invite Simon Baker to attend. What provision and assurances will be given should a company fail? We could:
  1. Have a dialogue with Steve Baker himself.
  2. There is room for letters over a long period to get into the public domain, via BFP. A member will send Steve Baker a letter about provision and assurances. Members are encouraged to write to the BFP to get communication started.
  3. Fracking Day of Action -19<sup>th</sup> October. the co-ordinator will sign up for this to find out more information. We could link up with Thame and Chinnor FOE possibly.
- Paul Mobbs is doing a tour. the co-ordinator will contact Chinnor and Thame FOE to enquire if they have heard Paul Mobbs talk.
- Possible campaign surrounding the highlighting of blatant wastages of energy, based on the premise that no source of energy is unproblematic. For instance, lights during the night at Cressex and Eden waste their own money and make it more problematic for general public by using energy unnecessarily. An award system or a dis-award system for companies in High Wycombe who are wasteful of energy, was discussed. Can members please think of a catchy acronym for such an award?
- Offer of talk on nuclear power – a Quaker link who believes that nuclear is an appropriate energy source now. Perhaps he could attend a meeting and speak for perhaps ½ - ¾ of an hour for information for the group. A member will invite him.
- Film: 'More Than Honey', intended for public showing. A member will investigate the possibility of showing this.
- Pizza night - possibly December meeting as a social instead of business.

## 9. Anything we've forgotten

- A member will be asked if he has any more bee stuff from FOE or ask him to look out for it.
- Consultation on monitoring air pollution. This seems to be a choice between no monitoring or part monitoring instead of doing something about it.

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