

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 2nd October 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: 13

Apologies: 1

### 2. Tonight's facilitator

### 3. It's your meeting – see below.

### 4. The business bit

- Finance - we are in funds
- Leaflet distribution - A distribution list was distributed which was updated by those present.

### 5. What's On

Thursday 3rd October: SAVE Aylesbury Environment, 6.30 p.m. David Liddington expected to attend

Monday 14th October 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.: Hands-On Workshop to Reduce Energy Consumption in Your Community at The Hub, High Wycombe. Find out more about Thermal Imaging, Energy Reduction Toolkit etc.

Saturday 19th October: FoE Fracking Day of Action

Saturday 19th October: 10.30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sowing for the Future at Waltham Place, White Waltham. Join in sowing spelt by hand, followed by organic lunch. £5 entry.

Tuesday 22nd October, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.: Economics of Happiness Film at Environment Centre

Tuesday 29th October, 6.30 p.m. Drill Baby Drill film at Aylesbury Quaker Meeting House

### 6. Green Living

Ecotip of the month will be "Grab a screwdriver and fix your broken gadget" Visit <http://www.ifixit.com> for assistance. Make sure gadgets are unplugged though! This links with the Make it Better Campaign.

### 7. What we've been doing / 8. What's happening out there / 9. Campaign ideas

(grouped under one heading for this month and dealt with by subject)

#### Bees and Green Spaces:

• 2 members reported on Red Kite's Gardening Club meeting, which is for tenants and leaseholders. It gives an opportunity to communicate with Red Kite operators. The Gayhurst Road site which has been earmarked for sowing with flowers is still planned to go ahead. The contact seems to be in favour of less radical cutting and would be a good intermediary, especially as he is familiar with all the sites. Some other sites were mentioned as possible areas for allowing to grow naturally. However they are bound by existing contracts.

We have new bee petition cards for signing and we are encouraged to do some activities in October and November, e.g. Bee teas, show the film "More Than Honey" as the government's research, which will form the background for their National Pollinator Strategy, is currently in progress. A member is taking steps to obtain a copy of the film for public viewing. We discussed the possibility of showing the film in November. Special meeting will be required to organise. Perhaps we should involve the WI as they have also been campaigning for bees. Invite MP?

• We agreed to hold a stall at the Economics of Happiness showing on 22nd October, as it will be an opportunity to get cards signed. A member to organise.

• Bassetsbury Allotments are now closed. The contamination with cadmium is too severe. A member raised the question as to whether we want to have some input on how it is used in future

as it could be turned into a flower meadow. A member will contact Wycombe Wildlife Group to see if they want to take up the issue. Or maybe it could come under the wing of the Revive the Wye project.

- WDC Recycling Directory webpage. We have not yet checked this over. Still to be done as they are open to recommendations if we feel it can be improved or needs amending.
- Reuse Forum: a bit too soon to give an update on this.
- Make it Better Campaign - FoE attempt to influence European legislation. It is now mandatory for big companies to do non-financial reporting, i.e. social and environmental performance. FoE thinks it should be made tighter. They want to target 6 MEPs, one of them, Sharon Bowles, is in our area. Groups are asked to arrange meeting or write letter. The co-ordinator will circulate links. Sharon has responded positively to petitions in the past.

### **Energy Use**

- 19th October Fracking Day of Action. We are asked to hold a stall with postcards which are aimed at the leader of the County Council to make area fracking free. FoE is not in favour of fracking. Instead they want a mix of renewables and energy efficiency. It was generally felt that a local action day by Wycombe members would bring little result in view of the fact that our immediate area is not affected. Four of those present expressed interest in helping out in another area, either Thame & Chinnor or Aylesbury. The co-ordinator to contact Aylesbury to find out if action is planned. Alternatively we could do a photo only. Solutions to fracking could be explored at next meeting.
- Award for best and worst energy wasters. We still need a slogan/acronym. Can anyone come up with ideas? Further discussion postponed to next meeting. A member gave a helpful example which she had come across whereby it had been noted that a council building (albeit a small one) was being heated 7 days a week and only used for 1. A polite letter to them had the desired effect of reducing the heating.
- Great Food Debate: Well-attended and generally considered to be a good debate. The evening began with an interesting presentation by Charles Ainger on environmental aspect of food production and was followed by a lively question and answer session. The presentation should be available for viewing if required.
- Wycombe Sound Community radio station presenters are considering environmentally themed programmes. Perhaps something for us to take part in?

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

A nuclear power specialist, has agreed to give a talk on nuclear power with a discussion to follow.

**11. Next meeting** will be **on Wednesday 6th November 2013** at 7.30pm at The Environment Centre, Wye River Studios, 17, West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG