

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 1st July 2015, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 10

Apologies: 2

2. Finance

- No significant change. Membership fees are due. Several members paid their £10 membership at the meeting.
- The treasurer read out a letter from a member expressing support and paying membership. The letter was well received and appreciated.

3. Report back from Basecamp in Derbyshire by a member. Main points:

- About 450-500 attendees.
- Site was a Youth Hostel and marquee. Accommodation was in the Youth Hostel or on the campsite or local B&Bs. Meetings and workshops were in yurts.
- There were meetings such as fracking and open cast coal mining; plans to extend such mining has local opposition and is destructive environmentally. The government is in favour of shale gas. Campaigns against such things are often active and successful recently.
- There were two good sessions on campaign tactics, ie need to appeal to larger audience than only environmentalists and need to be realistic and make sure public don't dismiss the message because of the size of the problem. We will not win the case if people are disempowered and feel it's all gloom and doom. Also the argument has to appeal to economics.
- Oxfam doughnut (a global model of sustainability) featured.

This is a representation of a sustainable and fair economy developed by Kate Raworth. It shows the need to create a dynamic economy that

1. respects environmental limits, many of which, like carbon emissions and biodiversity loss, we are already outstripping, and
2. is focused on the key elements that a healthy, thriving and more fair economy should judge success by: health, food, energy, and also greater social equity and gender equality.

More information on the doughnut at

www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/economics-resources-48274.pdf

4. Local campaigning on climate change

Members discussed ways to approach campaigning: Main points:

- focus on a particular aspect that people can do for themselves – eg vegetarianism/meat-free days, recycling local food.
- ask public what their passion is, eg snowboarding, grandchildren, and then put a climate change angle on it to emphasise importance.
 - encourage lower carbon consumption, eg love food, hate waste.
- focus on local issues, eg expansion of Heathrow. How do we solve it – government or people's behaviour?
- have something to draw people in – eg vouchers, handouts, food etc.
- promote the positives – healthier lifestyles, cheaper.
- refer to websites – climate coalition, FOE
- **Members** agreed to think of positive aspects to attract people to a climate change discussion and enquire from environmental organisations about ways to campaign on climate change.

Two members attended the mass lobby of parliament on climate change and reported their experience for the website. Main points:

- None of the Wycombe lobbyists were from FoE but they were hopeful that they had persuaded Steve Baker to meet them. They were in touch with him on twitter.
- The two members were the sole representatives for the Beaconsfield constituency and Dominic Grieve was happy to meet them (inside Parliament -not outside), but at an earlier time than that planned by the Mass Lobby - so they have arranged to meet up with him in his 'Friday Surgery' in Beaconsfield.
- The whole day was brilliantly planned and managed. It maintained a very happy atmosphere and was well attended (10,000 was the number given) Most importantly over 300 MPs were lobbied!

Pann Mill

- A member reported that we did not get a stall at the next Pann Mill open day on 12th July but we can attend a stall at the September 13th Pann Mill Open Day.
- There may be possibilities at Wycombe Carnival on 25th July.
- The treasurer reported that Marlow Transition Towns have a monthly market where we could possibly hire a table.

5. Fundraising - as we are [potentially] running a deficit

- The treasurer will report on the financial gap needed to be filled but currently, by June 2016, our outgoings (for the meeting house etc.) will outstrip our income (from membership).
- We can use stalls at Pann Mill etc. to fund raise.
- Members to think of ways to raise funds.

6. Speakers for future meetings

- A member will email the person who has already indicated that he will speak on permaculture, possibly in October.
- Perhaps have August meeting in a pub as attendance is likely to be low due to holidays.
- A new member is prepared to give an informal talk on 'what type of workplaces environments do we want in the future.'
- A member will research population facts re climate change with a view to presenting information about it.
- A co-ordinator will look up the name of a speaker heard at Jordans a few years ago who spoke on the science of climate change. She was very good.
- A member will research Heathrow expansion/action group.

7. Ecotip for July/August will be:

Fish and chips tonight? Consider which fish, if any, to eat. To help you choose from fish which come from sustainable sources, try the Fish finder or Fish to eat guides.

8. AOB, including Morrison's response to stream clean-up.

- Well done to a member for progress so far on approaching Morrison's for a clean-up of the stream on their site. Once permission has been confirmed, a working party will be arranged.
- Bare gardens – a member hasn't heard further about this from WEC. A co-ordinator met someone from WEC who would be willing to take it on. A meeting is to be arranged.

9. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th August 2015 but may well be at a pub due to likely low attendance due to holidays. **Watch for more information** on the wfoe discussion ring: wfoe@yahogroups.com.