

Wycombe Friends of the Earth – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 7th January 2009, 7.30pm

The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

Present: 10

1. Finance

No change since last meeting.

2. Ecotip of the Month

This will be to encourage people to recycle Christmas cards and re-using wrapping paper.

3. Review

a. Purpose of Wycombe FOE

Wycombe FOE is in line with National FOE suggestions for local groups' model constitution. Other groups researched have four main aims and objectives:

1. raise awareness and promote sustainable living practices at a local level
2. campaign within the law to achieve the aims as set above
3. contribute to consultations affecting the area by communicating with authorities and community leaders
4. inform the community of environmental issues through public engagement, media and newsletters

Wycombe FOE Handbook is in progress and a model local groups' constitution has been researched. Drafts of both the handbook and the constitution will be available shortly.

There were several suggestions regarding format of future meetings and organisation:

- Having meetings that inform eg films, talks.
- Having distinct campaign areas with a campaign leader.
- Having sub-meetings for these campaign areas.
- Getting involved in local issues.
- Campaign leader could itemise small tasks and ask for volunteers in wider membership to take on these tasks, so that more people are involved.
- Question and answer sessions.

It was thought that during the last two years all of the above have been covered at some time.

The current situation of the Eden plastic bag campaign will be summarised and put on website. A part of the website will be devoted to a history of past achievements so that work and progress is not lost.

b. Campaigns for 2009:

Campaigns by National FOE in 2009:

1. The second part of the Renewables campaign, ie gather support from other sympathetic groups for renewable energy and inform MPs.
2. Livestock/meat consumption. More information will be sought.
3. Low carbon communities campaign. There is a Marlow group at present.

Campaigns by WFOE in 2009, including *possible* campaigns:

1. Renewables (National campaign) to be carried forward to second phase.

2. Schools energy wastage is ongoing.
3. Greening up of Eden is ongoing.
4. Plastic bag campaign will be summed up and assessed.
5. Marinet information will continue to be passed on.
6. Transition Towns – WFOE will continue to support this where relevant.
7. Biodiversity – local, linking with Wycombe District Council. A possible campaign area.
8. Transport – cycle routes, High Wycombe to Bourne End rail link, airport expansion etc. Another possible campaign area.
9. Sharing gardens scheme. A possible campaign area.
10. Water quality. A possible campaign area.
11. Biofuels. Transition Towns have been active on this. Information will continue to be gathered where possible.
12. Local planning. This will be monitored for involvement in any relevant projects.

Any WFOE members or members of the public interested in getting involved with any of the above projects, even slightly, will be warmly welcomed, and should contact WFOE through the website 'contact us'. www.wycombefoe.org.uk

4. Any Other Business

Transition Towns have film showings scheduled for 2009. These films may be of interest to WFOE members and others. See Transition Towns website for titles and dates. 7.30pm start.

5. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th February at 7.30pm until 8.00pm at the Environment Centre (first Wednesday of each month).