

Wycombe Friends of the Earth – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 4th February 2009, 7.30pm

The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

Present: 15

Apologies: 1

1. Finance

The group is in credit and has received membership fees from three more members.

2. Ecotip of the Month

Consider wearing more clothes rather than turning up the central heating. Nevertheless energy will still be consumed so compare the performance of the energy generating companies and consider green energy.

The meeting then split into sub groups to discuss items 3-6 inclusive, and reported back to the main meeting as follows:

3. Plastic Bag Campaign

- A recent sub-committee meeting concluded that members have little time to follow this up to the extent that it probably needs.
- The campaign was reviewed and latest figures suggest that shops in Eden have reduced their plastic bag usage by about 30%.
- Shops were contacted to encourage them to reduce usage.
- The campaign will continue with one member contacting the shops, but she would welcome someone to assist her on visits. Please email if you can assist. She will also ask shops for the catalyst that led them to reduce plastic bags.
- The list of shops who are and who are not active in reducing plastic bags will be updated.
- The Eden Centre management will be contacted to find out if the Eden Bag for Life is being promoted adequately.
- The website will be updated to this effect in due course.

4. Website

The website will shortly be restructured to include:

- Active campaigns
- Our main concerns
- An events section that will include events at Transition Towns and the Environment Centre.
- Links that may be of interest.
- An archive section to include the information gathered during past campaigns.

5. Sustainability in Schools

The sustainability officer from Bucks CC has contacted us with a view to meeting up and our two organisations helping each other. 2 members will offer to meet her, with a representative from Transition Towns, in order to see how to proceed.

6. Communication between like-minded groups

There will be four organisations who will assist each other to begin with: The Environment Centre, Wycombe FOE, Transition Towns, and The Chiltern Society, by forwarding emails to the other group, displaying posters and leaflets for each other by sending one email to all above groups. The link person in each group will access the list where posters can be displayed free.

7. National Campaigns

Local FOE groups are asked to decide which of the three following National campaigns to focus on, by April.

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.
3. Low carbon communities campaign.

8. Any Other Business

- There have been 2 responses from the Schools Energy Survey. Certificates will be issued and the website updated.
- Our membership of Marinet has been renewed. Marinet encourages members to write to MPs.
- Biofuels – the content of the website regarding this has been updated but no further action needed at the moment.
- The draft Wycombe FOE handbook will be circulated by the end of this week, for feedback from members.
- 2 new members were welcomed. One is concerned to protect green spaces and to protect against back garden development. The other new member is concerned that walkers and cyclists should have more help from Councils in the form of cycle paths, sensitive parking and cleared pavements.
- The next Transition Towns film is on Wednesday 25th February – ‘The End of Suburbia’.

9. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 7.30pm at the Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe. (first Wednesday of each month).

ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME