

Wycombe Friends of the Earth – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 4th March 2009, 7.30pm

The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

Present: 12

Apologies: 4

1. WFOE Handbook The handbook is developing.

2. Local Group information

A link will be circulated for members to find out information about local groups from the Regional gathering. In this link there will also be information about the national campaigns. We have to decide on our campaign focus by 17th April, so we need to make a decision at our next meeting. Questions re: FOE current finance will also be on this link. Support for local groups will be maintained where possible, but national changes will occur, eg the National Conference. See website for more information.

3. Ecotip of the Month Make and preserve ponds – this fits in with biodiversity.

4. Website The website is in progress.

5. Communication between groups

A list is being compiled of places that advertising posters/leaflets could be distributed by us and others from like-minded groups. A list will be sent out to members to request places where they could place posters etc. and whether any members can print off colour posters.

6. Marine Reserves

Members were asked to contact their MP about this and encourage them to sign the Marine Reserves EDM. There is a template letter on the Marine Reserves website.

Members will be requested to write or email to the Bucks Free Press and the Council to support funding of the Environment Centre.

7. Wycombe Council

- Mike Ch reported that The Rye Open Air swimming pool is closing, among other cuts.
- The Council is reviewing allotment provision and will be proposing finding new land for allotments. They may approach the National Trust for some extra land.
- The Council decided that they will not support a bid for Fair Trade status for High Wycombe at the moment but they will only buy fair trade products as a Council where it is no more expensive.
- The Company administrating Wycombe Market has gone into administration, but the market will continue.

8. National Campaigns

- **Members** to look at the communication about possible campaigns to support as stated above. Information about the campaigns is also on the FOE website.
- Renewables – a meeting will be set up to target businesses for them to send postcards to MPs, via FOE. FOE would like groups and individuals who are not necessarily linked to green issues to sign to demonstrate support from the wider community. The Renewables Campaign will end in 5 weeks because the Energy Bill will be decided then.

9. Local Campaigns

- There will be a meeting with the Bucks County Council Sustainability Officer about sustainability in schools on 23rd March.
- The Eden shops spreadsheet has been set up and shops will be visited shortly.
- Two schools have received certificates for completing school energy surveys.
- Attempts to green up Eden have been made, but little progress so far.

10. Any Other Business

- At the next meeting we will decide on the National Campaign to support and also identify a local campaign.
- Aylesbury Vale FOE has asked local young people/artists to produce a poster about livestock/meat consumption. Wycombe FOE will try and support this. This role would be low commitment and simply involve support and perhaps helping to choose the winning entry.
- A new member was welcomed.

Forthcoming events –

- Energy Saving Trust Exhibition at Reggie Goves Centre on Saturday 7th March 10.30-3.00pm
- Talk at Bucks New Uni at 5.30pm on 25th March about alternative Energy for the Thames Valley.

11. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st April 2009 at 7.30pm at the Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe. (first Wednesday of each month).