

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 5th August 2009, 7.30pm at

The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

Present: 8

Apologies: 4

1. Ecotip of the Month will be:

It's a sad fact that industrial fishing techniques are bringing global fish populations to the point of collapse, especially sought-after species like bluefin tuna and cod. Look for products marked with the blue tick of the Marine Stewardship Council, as these are from more sustainable sources. It will be added to the website.

2. 'How are We' Assessment

- 12 members completed the assessment. Results were summarised briefly. Overall, we view ourselves as a group quite negatively in some areas but high expectations may be partly responsible. This will be re-visited and discussed when more members are present, if it is deemed appropriate.
- Wycombe FOE has been nominated for an 'Earth Movers' award which sees our groups as being rather more effective than perhaps we see ourselves from the 'How are We' assessment.

3. Environment Centre

- Rent is in negotiation.
- Re: partnership working. The Centre would like those using the centre to contribute to some weekend events. We agreed we could do this perhaps twice pa.
- These decisions will be reported back to the Environment Centre.

4. Low Carbon Transition Plan White Paper

This will be investigated and summarised for the next meeting.

5. FOE Conference, 12-13 September in Nottingham

2 members expressed an interest in attending. Booking deadline is on 7th August.

6. Facebook

This will be investigated.

7. Food Chain Campaign

(i) 15th August 10am-12.30pm

- Tim Atkinson from National FOE will attend to lend support.
- 7 members will attend and man a stall opposite Milletts.
- The main purpose will be to raise awareness of the National Food Chain Campaign and persuade people to sign a postcard to send to our MP.
- Other purposes will be to advertise our group by giving out flyers and also to advertise our event at John Hampden on 26th September.
- 2 members will take photographs to go with a press release.
- 3 members will meet on Monday 10th August.
- On the 15th, meet initially at 10am at the Pepper pot Market House.
- Sandwich boards will be made and a display board and table acquired.

(ii) Sunday 23rd August

- Aylesbury FOE has an event on 23rd and has invited us to lend support.
- 3 members may attend and would man the event for a couple of hours. This will also give us the opportunity to advertise our group and our events.

(iii) Marlow Farmers' Market

- We could attend this with a stall on 6th or 20th September; more likely to be 20th.
- At least 3 members will attend. Discuss at next meeting.

(iv) Event on 26th September at John Hampden Grammar School

- Two farmers, Paul Goodman MP, National Friends of the Earth person have agreed to attend.
- There are other potential panellists from whom replies are awaited.
- Publicising this event is important, possibly via food distributors, WI, Transition Towns, Vegetarian societies, Animal welfare, Oxfam, Environment Centre, Schools Roots delicatessen, Farm Shops, car windows, door to door veg delivery, distribution list.
- A facilitator will be sought.

8. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd September at 7.30pm at the Environment Centre (first Wednesday of each month).