

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 2nd December 2009, 7.30pm at
The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

Present: 11

Apologies: 3

1. Ecotip of the Month will be:

CDs and DVDs are made from polycarbonates that take an age to break down in landfill. Why not either pass unwanted disks on to friends or charity shops or offer them on community re-use sites such as Freecycle? Failing that, take them to a firm that offers safe recycling options, such as London Recycling or Waste Care. Thanks to Michael Bloch of Green Living Tips for this handy hint.

2. Events

- Events will be added to the online calendar on the website.
- On 16th January in London, there is an FOE gathering where there will be updates on campaigns and various workshops. Deadline for booking is 8th December if anyone is interested.

3. Number of hits on website

There have been 57 hits on the website in the month since the last meeting. Many of those may well be our own members checking on the website. The average number of pages visited is 2 and the average time on the website is 3 minutes.

4. Handbook

- The handbook has been further updated and will be distributed by email to members.
- The constitution part of the handbook was explained and was agreed unanimously and therefore adopted.
- The handbook will be reviewed in 3 months time ready for the AGM in June and will then be reviewed annually.
- Further suggestions for the handbook are welcome and will be considered at the first review, and likewise thereafter.
- Our involvement with Facebook was discussed. It is minimal at present.
- Major website updates will be put on Facebook.

5. Bank Account Signatories

- A third signatory would be sensible.
- A fourth signatory may be agreed at a later date.

6. Regularising coordinator position

- The members present agreed that the deputy coordinator should continue.
- The role of coordinator was discussed. It was suggested that the talents of members would be maximised by the group working together rather more evenly as a team so that a few members, particularly the coordinator, are not overloaded. More delegation should perhaps occur in the future.
- Members thanked the coordinator for doing a great job in the last 6 months.

7. T-shirts, display boards and badges

- T shirts are available if needed.
- A display board has been made in 3 folding sections for use on a stall.
- The Wycombe Resource Zone may need a company or individual to act as a trustee in the future, as WDC may not be able to support it in future years.

8. Arrangements for The Wave.

- There will be a march from the Environment Centre at 9.30am through High Wycombe, ending up at the station to catch the train to London at 11.04a m, meeting in Grosvenor Square at midday ready to march at 1pm. Dress code is blue.
- Alternatively, all Wycombe FOE members are invited to meet at the station in time to catch the 11.04am train and perhaps take advantage of group tickets, eg 4 for 3.

9. Wycombe Strategic Partnership.

- WDC has asked WFOE to become involved in a project to reduce unnecessary and excessive packaging.
- A questionnaire survey of 200 shops in HW will now be conducted in January.
- Shop keepers will be invited to an information evening and eventually there will be an awareness day for the public in March 2010.
- Materials needed and their usage as well as how to raise awareness with the public need to be discussed - suggestions welcome.
- There should be a sub-group to look into this to make sure the project is done properly and the implications for WFOE considered. Initially, ideas will be gathered by email.
- The project is likely to be approved by WDC on 8th December.
- 4 members will meet to discuss the above.
- Transition towns have been asked by WDC to consider further projects that could be undertaken.

10. Food Chain Campaign.

A copy of the filming and transcript of the event has been edited and made for anyone who would like a copy. It can be put on CD on request.

11. Any Other Business

- A teacher at West Wycombe School thanks WFOE for providing web links to environmental information for use in school.
- Our Christmas Social will be on Tuesday 15th December from 7pm at The Falcon, High Wycombe. Food optional. All members welcome.

12. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th January at 7.30pm at the Environment Centre (first Wednesday of each month).