

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 3rd February 2010, 7.30pm at
The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

Present: 9.

Apologies: 4

1. Welcome and apologies

As above.

2. Finance

- Membership fees have been received from two new members..
- The fund is in credit.

3. Ecotip of the Month will be:

When the toner on your printer runs out, don't throw it away. If you take it to Cartridge City, 212 Desborough Road in High Wycombe. They will refill it for you at a fraction of the cost of buying a branded toner (eg HP). Alternatively, you can just sell them your empty toners!

4. Forthcoming Events.

- February 27th Thame and District Transition Towns community 'consultation event' in Thame Town Hall 2-4pm. It is a community event to explain Transition Towns and their purpose and engage people in discussing how it can be used to improve resilience in the area.
- Post Copenhagen event run by Thame and District Transition Towns on Wednesday 3rd March, 8pm at the Cross Keys, 1 Park Street, Thame, to discuss:
 1. What does it mean that the political agreement reached at Copenhagen is so weak?
 2. How does it feel to watch this process unfold?
 3. Does it change anything about what we are doing locally?
- Green churches event at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Great Missenden, and Gt. Missenden Church of England School on Saturday 6th March, 10am – 4pm. A Conference on Care for Creation in Churches and Schools.

5. Environment Centre Closure

- Environment Centre will close on 14th March 2010. There will be a meeting on Friday 12th March, 7.30pm at the Environment Centre for anyone interested in perpetuating the EC ideals in any way.
- A new venue, due to the closure of the Environment Centre for Wycombe FOE was discussed.

6. Food Campaign 2010

There are 3 National FOE objectives:

1. Campaign for a new law but this is complicated by the forthcoming election. Therefore, National FOE will try to raise awareness by putting forward an EDM to keep the topic at the surface. They will initially contact MPs after the election and attempt to persuade one MP to take this forward.
2. FOE wish to develop relationships with farmers. Any group interested can attend a training day on 6th March in Birmingham. This would take a lot of time and we

(Wycombe FOE) are currently heavily involved in the plastic bags campaign. If anyone is interested in this though, please let us know.

3. FOE wish to make the campaign more personal in terms of people's behaviour, diet etc.

For Wycombe FOE to do:

- Wfoe needs to be informed about our parliamentary candidates in view of the fact that Paul Goodman will not stand at the next election. This will be investigated.
- We need to find out if there is likely to be a Supermarket ombudsman and who it is. We could contact wider membership and the attendees at the Food Chain event for help in this, so **anyone reading this who would be willing to help, please email.**
- There may be an opportunity to screen 'Food Inc'. – an American film, possibly with Transition Towns.

7. Eden's Go Green Event

The new marketing manager at Eden is planning her year of events. She is organising the Go Green event. Mike Ch gave her some contacts. We can publicise our plastic bag campaign and our group at this event, and we will man a stand.

8. Plastic Bag Campaign

- There have been 2 sub-committee meetings on this since our last meeting. Coming up, 25th February will be an information evening for town centre shop managers and 6th March will be a town centre event promoting a reduction of single use plastic bags and encouragement to bring your own bags to town, ie bring your own bag day.
- The source of the Eden bags will be investigated.
- A sub-committee meeting will be held on Thursday 11th February, 7.30pm.
- Some posters for the Eden shops to display have been delivered and the rest will be delivered shortly. So far, about 80 shops are interested in the information evening etc. and 77 are interested in being involved with the event on 6th March.
- A landscape poster will be produced for the library to display.
- Perhaps shops could distribute a flyer to customers promoting the use of long-life bags.
- Some plastic bags photos are available could be used for our stand etc.
- Videos are available that could be used for the information evening. They will be put on the website and they will be made available for the information evening.
- Press releases – there have been some publicity in the Bucks Free Press. There has been a press release about the survey indicating that many chain stores are constrained by Head Office policy.
- The more enlightened shops and some of those with a particularly 'green' attitude to their bags, will be mentioned on the website.
- At the sub-committee meeting, tasks include:
 1. Forming a letter about the information evening and plastic bag free day to be written and delivered through shop doors.
 2. Planning the information evening and plastic bag free day.

9. Any Other Business

- Marinet is an organisation that campaigns on marine issues. We subscribe to this and it was agreed to renew our subscription and give a small donation.
- When our new venue is finalised it will be included in the WOW magazine (What's on in the Wycombe District).

- The issue of population growth was raised. One member will consider showing a relevant slide show/discussion evening possibly end February and find a suitable date before the EC closes.
- SE Co-ordinator update has been circulated and members are encouraged to view it.

10. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd March at 7.30pm at the Environment Centre (first Wednesday of each month **but this one will be the last one at the Environment Centre**).