

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 4th August 2010, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe

Present: 6

Apologies: 6

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies as above.

2. Ecotip of the month will be:

Re-using bath water.

During dry spells consider re-using your bath water to water your lawn/flower bed or wash your car. This can be done by siphoning out the bath water with a garden hose.

If eco-friendly products (eg ecover shower gel) are used, the water can be used to water your vegetable patch as well.

3. Forthcoming events

- 21st August: HW Library: Transition Town launch their energy saving kit. This has been combined with Council "Small Change Big Difference" campaign
- 25th August, 7pm: TTHW AGM at Friends' Meeting Room. And from 8:00pm discussion on the Local Food Directory.
- Early September: Wycombe Marsh Community Event – possibility for a stall or film showing.

4. FOE Conference

- Booking deadline is approaching (20th August). Event is 10th -12th September at Reading University. Cost £65 some of which can be paid from group funds.
- Ken Livingstone is guest speaker on Friday evening. Also on Friday evening is meeting of local groups affected by HS2.
- Pre conference process will involve choosing which motions should be debated.

5. Eden's Green Credentials – comparing shopping centres' performance

- Eden should be reasonably "Green" as they are quite new; however shopping centres are in general quite carbon intensive.
- We should judge performance in their own right and by comparison to other shopping centres. A research study has been found which might provide a framework by which to judge them. Included a wide range of measures – eg whether they provide shower for staff who cycle in.
- The Government would like them to generate 10% of their own energy.
- It will be worth looking at the national standards that they should be complying with
- A basis for our response will be produced to discuss next month – which could take the form of a table with areas of interest, how they perform and how they could improve.

6. Discussion on Population

- A presentation on population and the Optimum Population Trust was given. The speaker would like FOE to recognise the importance of population's impact on the environment

7. WFOE/TTHW joint working and EC update

- TTHW are quite keen to work together to show films etc., possibly with the involvement of the local Amnesty group which would allow a more diverse range of films to be shown. Bucks New University are also interested, which would provide another venue. The overall group would then share choosing films and the burden of publicity which can be quite time consuming. It was suggested that films could be shown in a less formal way with no discussion afterwards which may encourage others. The wider range of films that would come from working with Amnesty could allow us to show films more frequently than we do at present. However we should have some discussion on whether there is enough backing for such an initiative in Wycombe, given that up to now attendance at these films has generally been low. This should be raised at the TTHW AGM on 25th.
- EC had EGM last week to appoint 5 new Trustees. They were also seeking approval for an outline forward plan which included obtaining premises.

8. Food Chain Campaign

- Latest action guide was received approx a month ago. First reading of Bill was successful, but in order to go forward it needs a number of MPs to support it through its second reading on 12th November. As a result objective is to get enough MPs to support it which will be by approaching our local MP.
- Number of means – postcards etc, but most simply we could each just write to our MP. We should revisit this at our September meeting.

9. Local Food directory

- 4 members of WFOE have worked on this.
- The project will receive £1000 grant from Chilterns Conservation Board Sustainable Development Fund on successful completion of the project
- An A5 size booklet will be produced with a cover design derived from the work of school children in Flackwell Heath. A member of TTHW is assisting with design. The booklet is loosely based on that produced by Totnes. There will be extra sections on WFOE, TTHW, Bare Gardens and other initiatives.

10. Marinet and FOE financial appeals

- Marinet are doing concerted campaigning for changes to the European Common Fisheries Policies. This will carry some cost so they are appealing for donations to support their work.
- FOE are also appealing for funds. Emails have gone around but a big box of several hundred flyers has just arrived, continuing the appeal.

11. Brief Updates on WDCs Carbon Reduction Framework, High Speed 2, Blog

- 3 members from TT Marlow going to a WDC Working Group to discuss how WDC could reduce Carbon. One member will lead on how to engage the public. There will be a WDC member to lead for WDC – lots to do before deadline in January which is fairly daunting.
- High Speed 2. Meeting of various groups including Chiltern Society in late August but unlikely to be meaningful as Government have postponed consultation while they review details.

- Blog – not much has happened as yet

12 Finance

- Bank signatory change forms passed on to relevant member.

14 Next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st September (regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month) at 7.30pm at **the Friends Meeting House**, 25 London Road (on the corner of London Road with Stuart Road).