

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 6th October 2010, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe

Present: 10

Apologies: 6

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Ecotip of the month. The Ecotip this month will be:

How about reducing carbon emissions and traffic jams and also having company on your trip to work, by joining the Bucks Car Share scheme at <http://www.buckscarshare.co.uk>. Anyone who registers for Bucks Car Share this month (October) will be entered into the free Bucks Car Share Lottery, which may result in £100 of shopping vouchers.

3. Sustainable Livestock Bill – lobbying of MP/s

- **All members** were encouraged to write to their MPs about this Bill. David Liddington and Dominic Grieve have received letters from members. Contact National FOE website for an easy way to do this.
- It was suggested that MPs should be alerted to the fact that the Bill should give importance to the sustainability/organic methods of farming as well as meat production and reduction of meat eating by the public.

4. Local Food Directory Launch, distribution etc.

- This has now been finished. Many hours have been put into this directory.
- Official launch is this Sunday at Hughenden Manor to coincide with their Apple Day - 11am-4pm. Leader of Wycombe Council, will be present at 12 noon. A BFP photographer has been invited.

5. Eden's Green Credentials (Gemma)

A member has sent an email to the manager of Eden encouraging them to sign up to the British Council of Shopping Centres to encourage green practises.

6. Local Authorities Plastic Recycling Practices – response to an email enquiry

- The Wycombe District Council recycling contract is coming to an end and they are proposing to combine it with other Local Authorities (eg Aylesbury) in a single contract. A good opportunity to highlight recycling provision.
- Members thought that it would be beneficial to make such enquiries, regarding, for example, incinerators and what happens to collected materials for recycling etc. A letter will be sent.

7. Highlights from Conference

3 members attended Conference last month.

- One member attended a Marinet workshop, a High Speed Rail workshop and a discussion by Philip Blond, a think tank conservative and historian and also Ken Livingstone. The ideas mentioned in this discussion are on the National FOE website.
- A member gave the group a short talk on the activities. He encouraged members to attend future conferences when possible.
- Meena Rahman from Malaysia, gave an inspirational speech at the end of the conference (again, this is on National FOE website).

- Conference helped to put environmental issues into a global perspective.
- It was suggested that FOE groups should use Facebook perhaps to communicate with younger people.
- Local groups were encouraged to communicate and form links with each other.
- Members are encouraged to push themselves to venture a little outside their comfort zone.

8. Draft welcome pack and updated posters

- A member produced a draft welcome pack - re-used/recycled folders containing the information could be obtained from Wycombe Resource Zone. The pack would encourage new members to feel part of the group.
- It could also act as a means of giving advice if requested – subject to availability of time and ability to do so.
- The pack could include: the local food directory, group leaflet, renewable energy leaflet, summary from the handbook, any free gifts to hand from National FOE, information on Freegle, a list of environmental groups in High Wycombe. This will be ready for the next meeting.
- A poster was produced to advertise our group.

9. Forthcoming events (also with TTHW) and distribution of materials (details on website)

- 5th and 6th November – Stop Climate Chaos Coalition – lobbying of MPs to convince them of the energy security, jobs and environmental reasons for action on climate change.
- Saturday 30th October – Climate Forum (1-7pm) and Climate Concert (7-9pm)
- Saturday 4th December – Challenge the government to take the action we need to address Climate Emergency.
- Saturday 23rd October – Thame and Chinnor Swap Shop (helpers also welcomed)
- A reply from is awaited from Amnesty (who meet at Bucks New Uni) regarding joint events with us and Transition Towns to entice more students.

10. Finance

- The group is in credit.
- The pros and cons of on-line/telephone/postal banking were discussed.

11. Blog

This is on hold at the moment.

12. AOB

- Demo against Agrofuels on Saturday 25th September at Portland was attended by a member, thereby representing our group.
- It was suggested that we swap ideas for the ecotips we have developed in our own homes etc.
- Topics for monthly talks were discussed, eg green travel, incinerators, planning. Also a social with Transition Towns was discussed.

13 Next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd November (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).