

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012, 7.30pm

at The Environment Centre, Wye River Studios, 17 West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG

**Present:** 6

**Apologies:** 8

**1. Welcome and apologies** – as above.

**2. Ecotip of the month** August's Ecotip will be:

If you need a new kettle, you can now obtain them locally with a feature that enables you to set the kettle at 60 and 80 degrees C as well as boiling point, thus reducing energy when making coffee etc.

**3. Forthcoming events**

- National FOE conference 2012, 14-16 September 2012, Imperial College, London
- Wycombe Harvest Local Food Event 27th August, High Street, High Wycombe.

**4. Finance**

- No update.

**5. Procedure re lapsed members**

Within the next 2 weeks a letter/email will be sent out to members who have not paid or communicated in the last year or two with a view to taking them off our list if they do not express a wish to remain and pay a membership fee by a set date.

**6. Aylesbury Vale FOE**

On 30<sup>th</sup> August, Aylesbury Vale FOE will have a meeting to discuss closing their group. WFOE co-ordinator will try to attend the meeting to gain more information about this and ascertain any implications for WFOE.

**7. Nikki Packham's continued offer of support to Group**

- Nikki has offered one to one coaching for group members. She will also help to maximise our effectiveness when holding stalls at events and raise public profile.
- She has suggested several methods of doing this, ie send written resources, or come to a meeting, or run a tele conference. It has been suggested that she attends the September meeting.
- She may need a lift and possibly a meal as she will probably be arriving by train early evening.

**8. FOE Motions process (look up for separate e-mail from Mike Ch about this)**

Motions process at conference is different this year. FOE is subdividing the motions into 1 - new campaign ideas and 2 - constitutional motions. The most popular three in each category will be taken forward to conference. Local groups are asked to discuss these possible motions and rate them in order of importance.

There are 6 campaign motions:

1. Smooth cycling –to improve conditions for cycling and cyclists.
2. To promote international co-operation between FOE groups in different countries at grass roots level.
3. To limit the use of illuminated bill boards and raise public awareness.
4. To raise awareness about and discuss disposal of nuclear waste – empowering local opposition and lobbying MPs and councillors. (Currently there is an intention to bury nuclear waste under the Lake District)
5. To produce affordable zero-carbon homes.
6. To limit the amount and variety of plastics in packaging to make recycling easier and more efficient (will probably require legislation). (Members present approved of this one in particular)

Constitutional motions:

1. Urgently consider the hours and remuneration of the FOE local/regional campaigners.
2. Consider a larger number of motions to be discussed.
3. Raise the profile for the need for major economic change towards a sustainable economy. (Members present approved of this one in particular)
4. Consider the values being promoted in FOE campaigns and ensure that they are consistent with FOE core values of environmental protection, sustainability and social justice.
5. Set out a statement that ensures that the organisation is properly accountable.
6. Explain to conference every year what progress has been made to mobilise for implementation of our new and powerful organisational strategy 'Sustainable Development in a time of Planetary Emergency'.
7. Ensure that the full breadth of the sustainable development campaigning agenda is made available and accessible to local groups to the largest extent possible by the national organisation.
8. Improve communications effectiveness to the public.
9. Combine organisational performance, accountability, breadth of campaigning and improve communication.

**All members** are encouraged to email Mike Ch with their views on the above motions and to rate them according to their importance.

## **9. Brief updates on Bassetsbury Allotments, and incinerator / waste transfer stations**

- Bassetsbury Allotments are being closed due to contamination. 2 points emerge:
  1. They will be removing the plots (about 30)
  2. What will happen to the site? (We could encourage a wild flower meadow?)
- Incinerator/waste transfer station – High Heavens waste transfer station has been built. Amersham site has been recommended for refusal. Will they therefore channel everything through High Wycombe?
- 

## **10. Wycombe Harvest Local Food Event 27th August: volunteer availability / assistance with display**

- A member will be available and will also be working on BareGardens.
- Local 'Roots' will be having a stall and may be asking for some help.
- Members available, please contact Mike Ch so a rota can be set up.
- 3 members will not be available.

We have plenty of bee information and planet friendly farming info could be included. A member has bee education pack from FOE. All the not-for-profit organisations will be grouped together.

### **11. Bee Cause Campaign and related matters:**

a) campaign duration – until December 2012

b) stalls – Wycombe Local Food Event 27<sup>th</sup> August and at Notcutts 22/23 September.

c) bee hotels

2 members are meeting soon to make bee hotels. ANY OFFERS OF OLD CANES WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

d) influencing those who manage amenity land: messages, photographic record of the good and bad, petition, lobbying

- There may be an opportunity to promote a wild flower meadow at the Bassetsbury Manor Allotments.
- We could contact the contractors. New contractors have recently been appointed although we do not know who the contractor is at present.
- The co-ordinator has written to BFP encouraging wild flower planting.
- A member has also responded and as a result the BFP would like some communication and photos.

e) Sunters Wood Close roundabout – a member will find out more about targeting this roundabout for wild flower planting.

f) Bees Walk leaflet

- 3 members will meet next week about illustrating the bee leaflets.
- Long term, the leaflet will be available next year as a member is researching flowering times of plants available this year.
- The overall leaflet could have a set format with changes that make it relevant to Spring, Summer and Autumn, thereby producing 3 similar leaflets in the year.
- Perhaps school eco-councils and/or gardening clubs could be targeted.
- Funding for the leaflets could come from sponsorship or charging for the leaflets.

See notes from subcommittee meeting for more information.

### **12. AOB**

A member mentioned information she had received that involved changing our approach during environmental discussions, so that the public are encouraged to think that people promoting and/or acting on 'green' issues are the norm rather than the minority. This approach could result in the public taking these ideas more seriously and being more willing to take them on board themselves.

**13. Next meeting** will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 7.30pm at:

**The Environment Centre, Wye River Studios, 17 West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG**