

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 3rd October 2012, 7.30pm

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

Present: 12

Apologies: 1

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Ecotip of the month will be:

Now you can put your tin foil into your kerbside tins and plastic bottles box to be recycled.

3. Forthcoming Events

- Sunday 7th October – Bring and Buy Plant Sale at the Environment Centre, 11am-4pm
- Friday 12th October 8-10pm. – St Thomas Church Hall, Holtspur. Talk by Wycombe Wildlife Group and Wildlife Trust about bees
- Saturday 13th October - Population Matters AGM, London. AGM –10.30am-12.15pm. Conference -1.15-5pm. For more information see:
<http://www.populationmatters.org/annual-general-meeting-conference-2012/>

4. Presentation and discussion about food and drink waste

3 questions were asked for discussion:

1. What is the carbon footprint of food?

Answer - 20-30%.

2. What is the problem with food?

Land use, transport, water usage, waste, pollution

3. What can we do about it?

Eat less meat, use less packaging, employ sustainable agriculture
use fewer pesticides and fertilisers, organic farming, use less processed food, use correct portions, use leftovers, use correct storage, eat seasonally, use fewer food miles, know your expiry dates, buy only what you need.

Eco Food Summary:

Grow, get or buy...

- only what you need and what you can store properly
- local, seasonal, organic, vegetarian produce, with minimal packaging and buy
- produce with an eco label
- From sustainable sources/companies
- Store... properly and keep an eye on best/use before dates
- Plan... meals
- Cook... from scratch (not processed) using correct portions
- Keep... leftovers and store at right temp etc.
- Compost... what you can and put rest in green wheelie bin for council to collect.

5. Reflections and any actions on the Nikki Packham session - would we like her back in November, and to discuss what?

Nikki could come back to discuss how we could maximise our effectiveness in view of the fact that we have quite a healthy number of members compared to some other

groups. However, are we achieving relative to our numbers? She could share ideas on how other groups organise themselves. It was agreed that the co-ordinator will discuss with Nikki the possibility of her returning to discuss the above.

6. Report on fracking talk

3 members attended a very informative talk by Paul Mobbs – independent Environmental consultant on fracking. The talk was very balanced and included scientific but understandable detail. Overall the conclusion was that fracking is not sustainable. Information discussed at this event can be found on www.fraw.org.uk/mei

7. Bees Campaign update

- 6 members ran a successful stall at the entrance to Booker Garden Centre in September. 53 campaign postcards were signed. It will hopefully be repeated in the spring.
- A member will contact relevant people regarding plant of the Sunters Wood Close roundabout.
- A member is monitoring relevant letters in the Bucks Free Press.

8. Selling FOE goods at 30% discount

Tea towels etc can be bought from National FOE at 30% discount and then sold at stalls, via leaflets and the website. There was some discussion about whether this would be worthwhile. A member will gather more information.

9. Finance and membership.

Sleeping members who have not responded to a request to continue membership by the end of September will now be removed from the membership list. Thank you to the 3 members who replied, out of the 15 contacted.

10. AOB

- A member mentioned that Marlow WFOE is conducting a plastic bag campaign with shops in Marlow.
- The council will fund an investigation into contamination of Bassetsbury allotments.
- Fairacre – (an old planning application we monitored previously off Priory Road) - the appeal was allowed so it could now be developed.
- A member urged all members to check the information he has circulated on the National FOE conference.
- Christmas celebration – we will bring festive food for the December meeting and a member will investigate the possibility of a pre or post Christmas meal.

11. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th November 2012 at 7.30pm at:

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