

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 5th December 2012, 7.30pm

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

Who's here (8) and who's missing: (7)

Tonight's facilitator is: The Co-ordinator

It's your meeting: *(new item)* 2 members met up during the last month to discuss which changes could be implemented. The co-ordinator explained that agenda setting took up a lot of his time prior to the meeting, not only deciding which items to put on to the agenda, but also the content of each item. He felt other members should have more input into the items to be discussed and one way of doing this would be to set the agenda at beginning of the meeting rather than at home before he gets here. Possible topics could be e-mailed before the meeting date, i.e. We are all encouraged to make suggestions, either during the month or at the beginning of the meeting, but priority of topic and time to be allotted to each subject would be decided by members present at the start of the meeting. We may need to use a large notice pad to list agenda items.

The business bit: (To include finance and general administrative and organisational issues)

The co-ordinator gave a brief review of last month's meeting and Nikki's results. Some of the conclusions are that we should have a rotating facilitator, a collectively decided agenda, and smaller meetings outside the monthly one.

Campaign co-ordinators: Each campaign needs a co-ordinator, who would take responsibility for keeping the campaign moving, but this does not mean that this person has entire responsibility for the work involved, other members would help to share the load. The Bees Walk leaflet campaign was offered as an example of members working together – someone is taking responsibility for moving it on a step – but it is very much a joint effort.

Other campaign ideas will emerge out of member's interests. If we do something in name of FoE, it needs to be approved by other members, and must not be contradictive to national FoE. Campaign should not depend on one person only.

Anyone should be able to come forward and make a suggestion for action, either alone or with others who feel similarly inspired.

Agenda: There should be a standing outline agenda – as per tonight's agenda and additional sub-items can be added at start of meeting. The facilitator will moderate, i.e. only put in as much as we have time for. If you have something you wish to contribute, please bring it along.

What's on: Roots have a late night opening on Thursdays until 8 p.m. and taster sessions will be held between 5 and 8 p.m. on Thursdays throughout December.

Green living: (*replaces tip of the month and member's tips*). After some discussion we finally decided on:

"Be creative with your presents, using natural materials, rather than purchasing shop bought plastic items" e.g. bee hotel - a member is going to try out an idea she picked up from a book and she will circulate for web-site and general information if successful.

Tips: On the battery theme, it was mentioned that it is worth getting a good quality battery re-charger if using rechargeable batteries. A member will do some research and this may be an idea for the eco-tip for next month

What we've been doing:

Bee Leaflet. 5 members met to organise actions for WFoE Bee Leaflet. Decisions made:

1. 2 leaflets to be produced – spring/summer and summer/autumn.
2. To be double-sided A4, folded into 3, concertina style.
3. Fields and footpaths in local areas encouraged and some specific local areas suggested.
4. Target audience – families with young children up to approximately 8 years old
5. On recycled paper – to be researched, and printing costs (colour, perhaps on one side only). Anyone have any contacts or help with this?
6. One side to include an illustrated bee story for children.
7. Front fold of leaflet to be attractive and eye-catching
8. Second side to include:
 - information about bees and their problems, targeting a more adult audience
 - ideas for types of places to walk and tips for looking more closely at different types of bee
 - common bee friendly wild flowers to look out for from wild flower list
 - activities on the leaflet, if room; if not, a link to and details on WFoE website
9. To include WFoE logo and contact details.
10. Final leaflet to be put on website.

11. Colour leaflets, hopefully sponsored – there is email contact with Nikki, resulting in Garden Centre sponsorship being discounted as they are unsound from an FOE point of view. Will therefore probably apply for a small fund loan from National FOE. Meeting approved this in principle.
12. Distribute leaflets hopefully in Environment Centre, Wycombe and regional libraries, school May and summer fairs, Pann Mill Open days. Permissions to be obtained Jan/Feb. Any other suggestions gratefully received.
13. Ask Bee keepers personnel to scan leaflet for any inaccuracies.
14. To be ready ideally by Easter time.

The above sub-group will meet again on Wednesday 16th January to:

- Bring work completed as actions above
- Decide on layout of leaflet with a view to producing a prototype in February.
- Estimate numbers and printing costs
- Apply for FOE small fund loan, if still appropriate
- Plan distribution possibilities and permissions

Thermal imaging: There is still a waiting list from last year. Those who offered to undertake thermal imaging will be receiving training in December.

What's happening out there: Energy Bill: this will be postponed to next year's meeting. The idea of fracking was briefly discussed; it maybe something we should involve ourselves with in view of the fact that the Vale of Aylesbury is a proposed site. Government is not supporting renewables. FoE is generally opposed to it.

BCC waste strategy has been adopted. We do not know what it is though.

Campaign Ideas: We have been sent 16 winning entries from the Clean British Energy Campaign photographic competition which FoE would like us to display. Suggestion: library mezzanine floor, environment centre. If anyone has any other ideas for places to exhibit, i.e. could be in a workplace somewhere, please advise. A member will enquire with library. Another member will ask about Environment Centre.

The co-ordinator will circulate information on related e-mail actions and MP lobbying opportunities.

Anything we've forgotten: Date of next meeting – falls on 2nd Jan. General consensus was to change to 9th Jan. **ALL MEMBERS** please take note.

At this point, temptation to tuck into the variety of foods which had been sitting in the middle of the table for the last hour overcame us and we duly put all FoE topics aside in favour of warm samosas, chocolate in various forms and other savoury titbits.

Happy Christmas everyone.