

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 1st October 2014, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road , High Wycombe, HP11 2LG

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Present: 7

Apologies: 5

2. The Business Bit

- Finance : We are solvent. Not much expenditure at the moment.
- EC3 venue. The Environment Centre is now open and looking good. All are welcome to drop in at any time and if anyone has time to spare, volunteers are always needed. It is not yet clear whether the centre can be used in the evenings.

3. AOB. There is **an event in Oxford presented by COIN** (Climate Outreach and Information Network) on Wednesday 8th October. This is a talk to launch Naomi Klein's new book "This changes everything". Further information available on COIN website. There is a further talk about George Marshall's book on 4th November discussing why our brains are wired to ignore climate change.

A working party will carry out some work on the **flower patch on Suffield Road.** on Monday 27th October at 10 am. If one or two others can join us, that would be great.

The climate change march was mentioned which was well attended by various organisations. 5 WFoE members travelled up to London to take part. Some pictures of the march were shown.

4. Campaigns

- Run on Sun** (schools, solar power campaign): We have more or less finalised the list of Chair of Governors for around 50 local schools. It is intended to post out the FoE information cards and it was generally agreed that the £25 postage costs could be covered from WFoE funds. **Jean and Sally** have this in hand. We should mention the chance of winning free solar panels.

- Grass verges and wildflower planting:**

No further responses to letters had been received and a follow up message will be sent. Princes Risborough Town Council are taking over grass verge care from the county council and forming a hub for other parish councils so it would especially be worth contacting them. Pictures of good and bad examples of verge cutting for web-site still needed. An article to go into local magazines could be written.

- New Local Plan.** It is almost inevitable that all reserve sites will be released for development. If council proposes these areas then it prevents others from putting up their own plans. Final decisions on density etc. will be made as the need arises. Concern was expressed about Conservative party policies to reduce space requirements of individual houses and their proposals to lower standard of energy efficiency in order to save on initial building costs. This seems rather short sighted. A member is following events quite closely in his role with the Chiltern Society.

5. Wycombe Community Farm

Our proposed speaker for the evening, did not arrive. It seems that there are still communication problems with this organisation and although a member of the Community Farm had agreed to attend, the final e-mail confirming arrangements was not acknowledged. The co-ordinators will contact her again and try to re-arrange the presentation.

6. Ecotip*: The meat free Monday was the favoured tip of the month, though some doubt was expressed as to the validity of the quoted savings on the carbon footprint compared with a car.

7. Forthcoming events

- SWAP SHOP and BIKE EXCHANGE (Chinnor Village Hall) Sat 8 Nov, 10am -12 noon
- GREEN FAYRE with toy exchange (Thame Town Hall) Sat 22 Nov, 10am – 3pm
- WFOE Christmas Get-together? We were all generally in favour of a Christmas get-together but agreed that it should not displace the business meeting as it would make the gap between meetings far too long! It was generally thought that it could be advantageous to join up with the Environment centre if they are planning a social meeting towards Christmas. It could be a chance to get to know like minded people.

8. AOB.

The point was raised that we seem to be losing momentum as a result of only meeting once every 2 months. Perhaps we could go back to monthly meetings, but make a more social occasion out of every other meeting, i.e. meet in a pub without an official agenda. The social evening could then be used for organisational decisions if required or it might remain as an evening to chat. It was generally seen as a favourable idea but needs the agreement of the majority of active members. An e-mail to see how others feel about the idea will be sent out.

A member suggested asking if someone from COIN might be available to give a talk in Wycombe perhaps with the idea of inviting a wider audience than just our members. We thought it could be interesting. This will be followed up.

9. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 7.30pm at The Quaker Meeting House in Stuart Road, High Wycombe. Interim meetings may be set up to discuss campaigns on grass verges and 'Run on Sun'. Watch out for dates.