

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting at Wednesday 3rd December 2014, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 9

Apologies: 2

2. The Business Bit

- Finance – Funds are in credit.
- Renewal of Affiliation to national FoE – it was agreed to pay the affiliation.
- Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG)
 - This suggests two possible FOE main aims – a long term vision (perhaps 10-30 years), perhaps to provide an opportunity for a recruitment drive on a large scale.
 - Members watched a BHAG introductory video and discussed the contents.
 - Number 1 BHAG – By 2030 our cities will be great healthy places to live that have led the successful global fight against climate change.
 - Number 2 BHAG – (By 2030/within a generation) every child will be free from environmental poverty (forever).
 - Members thought that the aims, as they embrace the global community, were over ambitious by 2030. It was also thought that some of the terminology was unclear, eg what exactly is environmental poverty? Also, though worthy, it was felt that the aims are not very precise, and are without achievable steps towards reaching them.
 - Members collaboratively filled in the questionnaire which seeks the views of local groups on the BHAGs.
 - A response to the results of the questionnaires will be drafted and subsequently send off.

- Frequency of meetings

It was thought that our meetings should return to being held monthly, with alternate meetings being more social and of general interest, perhaps including speakers/films etc. Meetings held every 2 months have resulted in rather a loss of momentum. We will resume monthly meetings from February as January will be our post Christmas social.

- Lobbying Act (unlikely to affect us, but it is as well to be aware of it).

This should not be a problem for WFOE as we don't act for or against any political person or party. The act ensures that organisations don't influence the outcome of an election.

3. Campaigns (previous actions, ongoing campaigns, and environmental news and developments).

- Wildlife Gardening in High Wycombe

Four of our members have met members from Wycombe Wildlife Group to discuss ways in which both groups can help each other to increase areas of bee friendly planting in High Wycombe. A site visit has been arranged for 16th December at 2pm, meeting at Morrisons, in order to view the potential of possible sites around Morrisons for bee friendly planting next year.

- BareGardens

- Gardens are not being taken up at the moment and the website has now lapsed.

- Wycombe Environment Centre could perhaps take this on but this has not been fully explored. WEC has members of the public passing their doors who could be informed about this. This will be followed up.
- We do not need to renew the website. 2 members will explore how to retrieve the content of the now lapsed BareGardens website and leave the information on our website but take off the link.

- Run on Sun (schools, solar power campaign)

A letter enclosing a card containing information about solar power for schools have been distributed to 48 schools. National FOE response will be sought.

- Municipal grass cutting

Little has been done with this. The County council is trying to pass such tasks to the parish councils. A member will contact the Parish Councils about this. they could be included in our collaboration with Wycombe Wildlife Group. WFOE members could help with practical land management but a date has yet to be confirmed.

- New Local Plan

The locations of the reserved sites have been released. WDC will be asking local people to be engaged in this.

- 2 solar park applications were refused by councillors on the basis of its impact on SSSI. There has been local opposition.

- Future Learn

A member informed the group that there are online courses carried out by some universities. There is a course on Fracking – 3 hours per week.

- Thermal Imaging – WEC looking for volunteers for thermal imaging. Volunteers should contact office@ecobuzz.org.uk

4. The Ecotip will be:

Confused by date labels on your food? Do you throw away products just in case they're not safe to eat? Waste less food and save money with this easy guide to date labels <http://england.lovefoodhatewaste.com>.

5. Forthcoming events

- WFOE Christmas get-together will be on 14th January at The Bell, Frogmore, (opposite Yates), 7.30pm. Members welcome.
- A member has asked COIN to come and give a talk. They are willing but they only do 5 hour day time courses at several hundred pounds, but not short evening talks.
- FOE South East Regional Gathering will be at on in 139, Clapham Road, London SW9 on Saturday 21st February.

6. The next business meeting will be on Wednesday 4th February 2015 at 7.30pm at The Quaker Meeting House, entrance in Stuart Road, High Wycombe.