

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 6th July 2016, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 11

Apologies: 2

1. **Finance** – over £400 in credit.

2. **WDC Community Grow Project** – a member of this organisation gave an outline of the project.

- She has found that this initiative has engaged communities (and potentially faith groups) and gets people talking.
 - The Community Grow Project starts off garden areas for the community to take over themselves. Volunteers drawn from, and endorsed by, WDC, Chiltern Rangers etc.
 - To date – Ground Force Day in Mapledean Children's Nursery and Chiltern Gates School in Cressex. Easy for people to access and get started on. Mapledean has since cleared another area and made a wildlife area. Downley and Beechview schools want to make their own gardens. Raised beds can go in quickly by getting wooden boxes from Chiltern Wood Recycling.
 - The project now has their own community allotment behind London Road Retail Park.
 - It is intended to do some cooking with basic ingredients and store cupboard items as well as produce from the gardens. Fair Share in Oxford takes surplus food from supermarkets and the project can access this food free of charge.
- Some information and images about CGP will be put on the WFoE website.

3. **Green Living** tip of the month will be:

Now (hopefully) the better weather is here, make sure you don't use those energy-guzzling items like tumble dryers. Put your washing outside to dry. Do you really need those extra minutes in the shower? Save energy and money by minimising your shower time. Do you really need to iron your clothes and sheets? Save time and energy, and live with the odd crease. A 30° wash doesn't crease the clothes so much and reduces energy usage.

4. Future Events

11th July - World Population Day

9th September 10am-4pm Ivan's Superhome open

11th September 11-5pm Pann Mill Open Day

Throughout September - Superhomes Open Days. See superhomes.org.uk

October 8-16th - Climate Coalition Event for local groups around the country.

5. Air quality

- FoE action guide was circulated before the meeting.

Ideas we could carry out:

- Highlighting Crendon Street and the Staples roundabout as having poor air quality but we would need firm evidence.
- Encourage use of plants that help to clean up the air at Pann Mill Open Day in September and raise awareness of local air quality.
- Contact schools for parents to turn off engines when picking up children – not taking car, walking to school, car sharing but many schools do this already.
- Also buses should be turned off outside bus station when waiting for departure.
- Encourage WDC to be more active in this area – a member will attend WDC meeting and report back at our August meeting.
- A member will investigate a petition idea.

6. Wycombe District Council Draft Local Plan (which all members should have received).
A member suggested members look at item 5 for an outline of proposals –
[www.wycombe.gov.co.uk/new local plan](http://www.wycombe.gov.co.uk/new-local-plan)

- There is some proposed development on Green Belt land and AONB land as there is not enough brown field sites.
- The closing date for the consultation is just after our August meeting.

7. Possible food waste campaign

- The Love food/hate waste organisation was invited to attend this meeting but no-one has attended.
- After discussion it was agreed to foster this idea in the public by raising awareness through talking and leaflets on one of our stalls eg Pann Mill in September.
- The local supermarkets (except possibly Morrisons) have signed up to back this.

8. Brief Report back from Basecamp

- There were approximately 450 attendees.
- Our member concentrated on information about internal structures, politics and air quality.
- Keynote speaker was Shami Chakrabarti.
- FOE Europe AGM is in Peak District just before Base Camp.

9. AOB – there was no AOB

10. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd August 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House.