

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 7th September 2016, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 10

Apologies: 2

2. Finance – in credit

3. Green Living tip of the month will be

Reduce waste by stopping junk mail arriving through your letter box. Look at this guide summary on how to do it:

<https://stopjunkmail.org.uk/guide/15-minute-guide>.

The Royal Mail's form for opting out link is:

<http://www.royalmail.com/sites/default/files/D2D-Opt-Out-Application-Form-2015.pdf>

Royal mail's own blurb about the whole thing is:

https://personal.help.royalmail.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/293/~/_how-do-i-opt-out-of-receiving-any-leaflets-or-unaddressed-promotional-material%3F

and spread the word to others.

4. Future Events:

Sun 11th September – Pann Mill Open Day, 11am-5pm.

Sat 17th September – Revive the Wye Social – Funges Meadow, 3-6pm

Throughout September – Superhomes - book a slot to view. See website:

www.superhomes.org.uk/get-inspired/events/ and scroll down for High Wycombe homes.

Exhibition – World of Clean Energy at Wycombe Environment Centre – on at present.

Thursday 22nd September – Car Free Day. See www.daysoftheyear.com/days/world-car-free-day/

October - WFOE 10th Anniversary. Members will make a cake each and a member will make up a list of achievements and look up past members etc. for an invitation.

6. Air quality campaign

Result of bus survey at the High Wycombe bus station - a few buses were left running but most were turned off when driver left the bus. Buses were usually left on while taking on passengers and to show display. Display disappears when engine turned off in older buses. A co-ordinator will mention this to the company when next contacting them but it was thought unnecessary to make a special point at this time.

- A member produced an A5 leaflet and an A4 poster for viewing. They were largely approved by the meeting for use at the Pann Mill Open Day.

- A co-ordinator has looked through the WDC 2002 action plan, now outdated, and made comments on each point for possible comment and suggestions.

- Meeting with Council – a council member suggested that WFOE meet the officer concerned who is responsible for air quality and making out an action plan but he/she hasn't yet been appointed. Two members will attend when appropriate.

- A co-ordinator will send WDC the comments on the action plan for their consideration with regard to how we can help, prior to the meeting, eg in 2002 they displayed figures relating to air quality so perhaps that can be done now.

- In 2002 part of the problem noted was pollution from the M40 but the Council was powerless to action anything regarding speed limits. However, in recent years speed limits have been more widely introduced on stretches of motorways to reduce noise and pollution so such a possibility could now be more likely.

- What is our capacity to do something? We could perhaps man a stall booked and resourced etc. by WDC, if offered, to raise public awareness of air quality. Perhaps we can work on this in tandem with personnel from Wycombe Environment Centre. WEC is likely to be homeless but functioning from November/December.
- We would consider helping the Council raise awareness and advise schools and members of the public of the problem and how to help.

7. Pann Mill, Sunday 11th September, 11am-5pm

Areas on each of 4 display panels:

1. Bees and the Environmental Pledge (see below)
2. Air quality (see above)
3. National FOE and WFOE
4. Climate Change

Table items: Food booklets – '16 things you should know about food', plus bee leaflets, air quality and WFOE information, form for signatures to support WDC in taking action on air quality in High Wycombe. The rota is set up.

8. Steve Baker, Brexit and The Environmental Pledge

We will incorporate Brexit and The Environmental Pledge into the Bee panel at Pann Mill. (FOE website – 'What does Brexit mean for bees?') The current ban has come from EU – will it be maintained?

A member will write to Steve Baker MP to ask him about his commitment to the environment in the wake of the Brexit vote but it was decided that there is not much point in asking him to sign The Environmental Pledge as he is unlikely to do so.

9. Reducing rejection of recycling waste

A member played the clip that was circulated.

After discussion, it was decided that a co-ordinator will ask WDC what Wycombe's rejection and recycling rate is and discuss at next meeting.

Part of the problem is inconsistency between Councils in England. Also that the public are not sure about the finer requirements in recycling, eg, an empty milk carton can be recycled but one with some milk in it cannot be; a cardboard box can be recycled, but one with food on it such as a pizza box, cannot be recycled.

10. AOB

A member mentioned information she has received informally about possible investigative drilling for fracking near Longwick.

A co-ordinator said that there has been mention of a requirement for a new reservoir in the Aylesbury Vale.

11. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House and will include a WFOE 10 year anniversary cake eating session.