

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 7.30pm at  
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 18 including 3 members of Wycombe Environment Centre    Apologies: 4

### 1. Finance - in credit

### 2. Green Living tip of the month\*- suggestion 'bring your own coffee cup'.

A co-ordinator will ask Waitrose and a member will ask MacDonalD's about their take away cup/recyclable cup/bring your own cup policies. The tip for the website will be:

#### **Stop coffee cup waste**

Contrary to popular opinion, many take away cardboard coffee cups cannot be recycled as they have a plastic content that is difficult to separate so they end up in landfill. However, many coffee shops will now happily fill your own cup with coffee, sometimes with a slight reduction in price, eg Starbucks will reduce the price by 25p, Costa Coffee have given 25p to charity (only up to mid September 2016) and both sell reusable cups for a modest price. So spread the word and if you know anyone who regularly uses take-away coffee encourage them to take their own cup to reduce materials usage and waste.

### 3. Future Events

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 6.15pm - 8.30pm followed by social event –

'Global Crisis, Local Action - What can cities and communities really do about climate change?'" by Oxford FOE. Wesley Hall, New Inn Hall St, Oxford

### 4. Clean air

- A co-ordinator summarised Wycombe District Council's recent history on their clear air policy. He has had dialogue with WDC who are in the process of appointing someone new to be responsible for this. When this post has been filled, two members will meet with him/her.
- Motorways - vegetation alongside the motorway barriers will help to soak up noise and air pollution – this is an area we can encourage perhaps.
- Scientific papers on air quality info can be gained through Access to Research. A member will ask about this at Wycombe Library.
- FOE 'clean air kits', in the form of diffusion tubes, need to be sited at a main road for 2 weeks before being sent for analysis.
- We could offer information about air quality to the public, such as leaflets at Pann Mill stall, and on WFOE and WEC websites. A member will look into a Facebook angle. Two members will produce some information to be available on the WFOE website.

### 5. Future of Wycombe Environment Centre

A member of Wycombe Environment Centre outlined the organisation's current situation and possible prospects.

**6. Population Matters film** – 'Sense and Sustainability'. The possibility of showing this film at a later date will be discussed at our November meeting.

## **7. AOB**

### Rejected Recycling

- A co-ordinator contacted WDC to enquire about rejected recycling rates. WDC show the same pattern as nationally (risen to between 7.5 and 10.5% in recent months). He ascertained that the main reason for this is that the cost of recycled material has reduced this year, making a contaminated batch not cost effective to sort out, so the whole batch is rejected.
- He offered WFOE help where possible – eg reviewing information leaflets etc. Many members of the public are not clear about which plastics are recyclable apparently. WDC will pay residents a visit to explain the recyclability of objects and which bin should be used for which materials. The co-ordinator will ask for any information WDC has, for us to put on one of our stalls potentially.

## **8. Main item**

The 10 year anniversary of Wycombe Friends of the Earth was celebrated with coffee, tea, and cake. Our main achievements over that time were available to view.