

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 2nd November 2016, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 8 Apologies: 2

1. **Finance** – no update.

2. **Green Living** tip of the month*- suggestion

Save yourself a job in the garden.

When clearing away summer plants in the garden, don't be tempted to tidy too much. Hollow plant stems and soft rotten wood provide a welcome home over winter for some of our solitary bees and other pollinating insects such as lacewings and beetles. Also, fallen leaves and a pile of logs could provide a winter home for other wildlife, such as hedgehogs.

3. Future Events

November – Chinnor and Thame AGM

12th November – WEC AGM at Bucks New Uni. 10.20am in reception.

November 19-27th Waste Reduction Week

25th November - Buy Nothing Day

November 26th - December 4th - Tree Week

4. Clean air

- Still waiting for WDC to appoint this post.
- National News today reported renewed urgency to combat air pollution. 40,000 premature deaths are thought to be attributable to air pollution and worst culprits are diesel vehicles. A member will write to the Council to encourage action re this.
- It is thought that National FOE will include diffusion tubes in the air quality packs (which have not yet been received).
- A member will ask 'Ruby Moon' if they will be willing to position a diffusion tube outside their shop in Castle Street.
- Other useful places to position diffusion tubes could be outside the Council Offices, Wycombe High Street, outside a member's house on the Marlow Road near the Handy Cross roundabout, outside Bucks New Uni and on the London Road (perhaps on notice board of Friends Meeting House) will be good places potentially. A member will investigate a likely place in Marlow. A member will email Transition Town, Marlow re this.
- Re vegetation on motorway barriers – the point has been made but no active progress so far.

5. Possible Population Film – 'Sense and Sustainability'

- A member could put the film on a memory stick for members to view with a view to setting up a public screening. It has information on population growth, women's rights, equality and is over an hour long.
- National FOE's position is in support of population reduction but that individual consumption is the key issue.
- Concerns were raised about right wing organisations using population reduction to further their cause, and that it is not a WFOE remit specifically. In Western Europe the rate of population growth is declining. India's rate of population growth is declining but world population growth rate as a whole is increasing. However, in undeveloped countries individuals have lower consumption than those in the west.

- It was decided that we might show it in a FOE meeting evening but not as a public screening. A member will give this further consideration.

6. Hughenden Stream/Morrisons

- Two members walked the Hughenden Stream with a member from Wycombe Wildlife Group to note any problems. It was noted that the main problem was litter at Morrisons.
- A member will go into Morrisons to attempt to see Andrea Philby, regarding a joint venture between WWG and WFOE to get rid of the litter on their bit of the Hughenden Stream that runs through their premises.

7. Coffee Cup Recycling

A member contacted Waitrose to ask about the recycling of their coffee cups and received a reply which stated that they are in discussion with other coffee outlets to solve this national problem. He will follow this up.

8. Global Crisis meeting in Oxford – no feedback available.

9. WEC – thoughts from last meeting

Re WEC project on solar panels - with Bucks New Uni, WEC hopes to raise funds for WEC by arranging solar panels on public buildings. (For more information see October minutes)

A member of Low Carbon Chilterns Cooperative has talked to WEC about this as LCCC has experience of this type of initiative.

The WEC Facebook is very active.

10. AOB

Publicity about rejected recycling. A member has received a recycling guide from WDC but there is nothing available for us to put on a stall. The problem is that people don't always put the correct item in the correct bin but there does not seem to be information available about the specific problems that contribute to contamination. He will distribute the more detailed recycling guide he has received.

Beth Manship has contacted us asking for information on WFOE through email. A member will reply inviting her to join the email ring.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House when there might be a showing of 'Before The Flood'. There may also be mince pies!