

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 2nd August 2017 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 15 Apologies: 1

2. Finance and Ecotip.

£10 was earned at Population Matters evening. Balance £360.

The Ecotip will be:

Would you pay a bit extra to get more sustainable produce? Well, don't! With 10 Mile Menu it is more sustainable AND cheaper. Order a veg box from www.tenmilemenu.co.uk/

3. Volunteering register

Organisations can register with contact details. People can then find organisations that might be of interest and who are requiring volunteers. <https://do-it.org>.

A member will add WFoE to the register requesting a volunteer to run a Facebook page for WFoE.

4. Chinnor Autumn Green Fayre/Pann Mill stall

A member has booked a table at the Chinnor and Thame FoE Autumn Green Fayre in Thame on 7th October. Items to be sold on our table - members will provide honey (donations requested), cards plus plants perhaps. Costs - £5 a table.

A member will book a table at Pann Mill Open Day on 10th September possibly with plants and cards to sell, and set up the rota. Air quality will be the main public awareness topic.

5. Air Quality (including the government's plans)

- A member's article about air quality, slightly altered, was published in the Bucks Free Press.
- The Government has published an air quality plan, focussing on meeting legal limits of air quality in which petrol and diesel cars will be banned from 2040 but there was no legislation for more "clean air zones" that would charge the dirtiest vehicles to enter some of the UK's most polluted cities. The areas with the worst levels are required to formulate a plan for reducing air pollution.
- It is thought that nowhere in Wycombe district will be above the legal limit. A few areas of HW, eg at the bottom of Marlow Hill and by the M40, (and the centre of Marlow) are currently above the limit but the Government is hoping that current downward trend in emissions will continue so that legal limits will be met by next year by many areas, and this could be the case for High Wycombe.
- An FOE study shows that more areas/roads are exceeding limits than those reported. Lower levels than the legal cut off point should be aimed for. For instance, an area reaching a point below the legal level will be deemed to be a success, but will not make the quality of air much better and the aim should be to improve it further.
- A member will have spoken to Wycombe District Council by our next meeting.

6. Bucks Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation

- This is about forecasting amounts of waste and how to deal with it rather than reducing waste. Probably the best links to the BCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan are www.buckscc.gov.uk/news/residents-can-help-shape-new-minerals-and-waste-blueprint/ and www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/minerals-and-waste-local-plan/new-local-plan-preferred-options-consultation/ There is also a "roadshow" with an appearance in High Wycombe High Street on Saturday 2nd September between 10 and 4.
- Condensed waste is being taken from High Wycombe to the incinerator near Bicester, opened in 2016. One of the problems is that it actually requires large amounts of waste in order to run efficiently so it does not encourage the reduction of waste.
- 2 members will investigate tours of the incinerator.

7. Future speakers

- We have a possible speaker on veganism (Carla Quinn) for October, possibly.

- A member will confirm this and speak to Peter Sims again, having met him at the Population Matters evening.
- A speaker on recycling is a possibility for a future meeting.

8. Forthcoming events

- Pann Mill Open Day, High Wycombe – Sunday 10th September, 11am-5pm.
- Chinnor and Thame Green Fayre – Saturday 7th October, 10am-3pm in Thame Town Hall.
- 14th October – day of action – discuss next meeting.
- 8th, 9th and 10th September – Superhomes open days.
- w/c 18th September – Waste less, live more week.

There followed a munching and chatting time, where members brought items of food to share.

9. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 6th September, 2017** at 7.30 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, address above.