

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 6th September 2017 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 13 Apologies: 3

2. Finance and Ecotip.

Balance £347. Meeting room costs and Chinnor Green Fayre table are recent outgoings. The Ecotip will be:

1. According to Drawdown research, eating a plant-based diet is one of the top solutions to climate change. This is an efficient and ethical way of using resources. Instead of feeding the cow with plant-based food and then eating/milking the cow, we simply eat the plant-based food. This also reduces the need to kill animals for their protein. See full list of climate solutions at www.drawdown.org/solutions-summary-by-rank.

Veganism is on the rise. Most supermarkets now do a range of Vegan meat alternatives (e.g. quorn slices, tofu) and non-dairy milk (e.g. almond or oat-based). You can buy a Vegan lunch from Began's stall on Fridays. It is opposite the Falcon's pub on the High Street in High Wycombe. www.facebook.com/Begansstreetfood/. They also have Vegan brownies.

3. Future 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.
- 8th, 9th and 10th September – Superhomes open days.
- w/c 18th September – Waste less, live more week.
- 14th October – International day of action on climate change – see item 9.

3. Air Quality

A member has been in contact with WDC. Their Air quality officer said that the air quality report will be in the public domain sometime in September.

5. Visits to Greatmore Energy from Waste plant

Visits are welcome but should book in advance – Sat 23 Sep and Sat 25 Nov are next visiting days. A member will enquire further regarding cost, numbers, dates etc.

6. Communications/contact lists/young members

- Google - we would like to move our contact address from Yahoo to Google as there are advantages, including adding people to the group more easily. But it may be more difficult to join if an invitee did not have a gmail address. A member will look into this further and use other members as non gmail account guinea pigs for the process.
- Contact lists – a contact list is being compiled to whom we will send advance information about events and activities.
- Young members – we have had a number of younger people who have come to a meeting but not reappeared. If there is some way of getting these people together, perhaps a discussion could emerge about what they are looking for in order for us to accommodate them.
- Getting out there - other things we should be doing include being publicly more visible and vocal, eg in the media, being active locally.
- Social media – various members will be willing to help WFOE with Twitter and promote our Facebook page.

7. Speaker for October (on Veganism)

Carla will talk at the October meeting for about half an hour followed by questions.

A member to use contacts list (plus possibly FOE members who live in the High Wycombe area) to inform people about the meeting and the vegan talk.

Members will put it on Facebook and on the website.

Attendees may be invited to donate as there may be a few samples of vegan food.

8. Pann Mill (10th September) and October Green Fayre (7th October).

- Pann Mill: The rota is set up.
- October Green Fayre: It is possible that Chinnor and Thame FOE will request general help for their Green Fayre on 7th October. 2 members will attend the WFOE stall at the Fayre. Others will be reserves for either our stall or the Fayre in general.

9. What to do for the International day of Action on Climate Change – Sat. 14th October.

FOE is producing an action guide. Their focus seems to be on fracking.

After discussion, it was decided to put up banners drawing attention to climate change.

Three areas to be decided upon: 1. Making the banner, 2. Words 3. Locations.

Words should be brief and to the point such as: Save energy, save the world. Climate change – take action. Stop climate change now. Keep the oil in the soil.

A member will check with FOE whether there are general resources we could use.

All members to think of locations – railway embankment, roundabout near Eden Centre, Bucks Uni outside Arts4every1 and outside the Friends Meeting House are all some of the possibilities.

Members will contact the university and ask Arts4every1.

A meeting will be arranged to decide on words, locations and making the banners.

10. The Divest Buckinghamshire Campaign.

The Green Party will join with other groups to launch their Divest Buckinghamshire Campaign.

It's a petition to get BCC pensions to divest from fossil fuels (7% of the BCC pension fund).

Renewable energy is financially advantageous now for investments.

We agreed that we are generally supportive of the idea and are willing to offer support where appropriate and possible but will not make a large commitment to this.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 4th October**, 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, address above and will include a talk on Veganism.