

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

**Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 1st November 2017 at 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ**

Present: 12

Apologies: 2

1. Finance and Ecotip

£59 made on Chinnor and Thame Green Fayre. £6.60 from the Vegan evening.

The Ecotip will be:

From the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Remember to check bonfires for hedgehogs.

Make a hedgehog home for hibernating hedgehogs in your garden. This is a very simple affair and easy to make. Get a big, thick cardboard box and cut two side air vents about 15cm by 5cm and an entrance of 13cm square. Put some dry leaves or straw inside with clean, dry grass or straw on top and tuck the box near a hedge, if possible with the entrance facing South. The top of the box should then be covered with a small piece of plastic sheeting, for example an "opened up" old carrier bag. Twigs should be put all round to make a dome and then covered with dry grass and leaves.

2. Clean air campaign

- There will be two new air quality management areas and a reduction of the width of the zone along the M40 (because air quality levels have improved) by Wycombe District Council. Also one in Marlow High Street and one along the A4155. Guidance number is 36 rather than the 40 that the legitimate level above which action should be taken because of the detriment to public health. The High Wycombe zones include the radial routes from the town.
- There is a consultation which individuals are encouraged to comment upon – closing date 24th November. We will put in a WFoE response. Questions posed - should the zone include a wider area than just the roads in question? Also the westerly radial route zone stops short of West Wycombe village and we discussed why that would be. It was thought that the zones were valid overall for traffic patterns in High Wycombe. A member will send round some ideas for members to consider as a WFoE response to the Council.
- Keeping engines ticking over while stationary is a problem, eg outside schools to keep occupants warm and there was some discussion about this.
- A member read a response to a question he posed to the Council about the setting up of an air quality steering group. The response was positive about WFoE being part of the steering group. There will be a meeting in January.
- National FoE will be rolling out the next strand to their Air Quality Campaign with an invitation for local groups to get involved and a member will respond to this in order to get more information.
- Road overhaul plans by Bucks CC – little information in the public domain so far. Members to keep watch for information. Money is being requested from Central Government for re-working the A40 London Road to help traffic flow which will also improve air quality. Another area for possible improvement is the roundabout where the A4155 crosses the A404 just outside Marlow.
- Public transport needs to be more on time and with fewer cancellations so that people trust it enough to use it. Local railways should be encouraged but there have been no decisions yet regarding opening local line/s.

3. Review of recent events

Climate day of Action. A member passed round the picture plus caption that appeared in the Bucks Free Press. The day was deemed a success.

Vegan Talk last month. Approximately 35 people attended and there was interesting discussion after the talk. More evenings with relevant talks would be good to aim for.

Thame Green Fayre. A member raised the possibility of WFoE putting on a green fayre in High Wycombe. A member will ask a member from Chinnor and Thames FoE about finances and commitment for their fayres. It is thought to involve a lot of work but would be good to raise profile of green issues and organisations in HW.

4. Visit to Greatmoor Energy from Waste Plant

No charge. Max group size – 15. They offer tours between 9.30am and 3.30pm and 5.30pm and 7.30pm plus weekends. If we require technical information, a weekday visit is best as personnel with such information would not be available at weekends. A member will make enquiries and attempt a Monday viewing. Look out for emails re dates.

5. Migration from Yahoo to Google

Yahoo will soon be part of 'Oath'. Soon a member will put in motion an email to be sent out to members on the email ring asking them to accept membership of this new Google group in favour of the current Yahoo group. If you have a Google ID, make sure your details are kept private when accepting.

6. Retaining and engaging young members

A member suggested finding out if there was a young 'green' group locally, perhaps at the Bucks New University, that we could tap into/make links with. It was thought that individual young people who have come along in the past do not have others of the same age with whom to relate – a pity the 5 or 6 young people who have come individually over this year did not come together!

7. Local food guide (or similar local project)

The current food guide needs updating but it involves a lot of work and several members thought it too much of a commitment for them.

8. Radio broadcast through Wycombe Sound

A member spoke on environmental matters for an hour and a half with breaks. Wycombe Sound can be found on the internet and on 106.6 FM. We have an open invitation to contact them if we want to advertise events etc.

9. AOB

- John Hampden Grammar School has invited us back to their Politicon event on Thursday 8th February, 2018. This involves inviting stalls holders and speakers with an interest in aspects of current topics, political parties etc. for sixth formers in the area to get information on current affairs and ask questions. A member will accept the invitation.
- A member said that the Woodland Trust are providing trees and perhaps we could plant some trees in High Wycombe to help fight against climate change and raise awareness.
- A member said that Green Peace are offering speakers which might be of interest to us.
- Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th December and will involve mince pies etc. The January meeting is likely to be at the pub!