

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

Present: 13

Apologies: 3

Names in **bold** indicate action required by that person.

1. Finance and Ecotip*

The bank account is in credit with the only recent expense being website expenses and room hire.

There will be 2 Ecotips for February – 1. food waste and 2. using Ecosia, which is a web search engine which donates 80% of its surplus income to non-profit conservationist organizations, with a focus on tree planting.

2. Air quality

A member has been invited by WDC to attend the Air Quality Management Group which will come up with a plan to improve air quality. There will be a meeting on 20th February and then one to one meetings with individual groups. There will be a group discussion with ideas and then the groups attending will outline any ideas they could implement. We have national FOE's suggestions for improving air quality on which we can base our approach. We need to be prepared to take some action in order to make our involvement meaningful. The agreement of the meeting to this involvement was sought and gained. A member sent in a response to the WDC consultation on behalf of WFOE.

3. The government's 25-year environmental plan

It was thought that there perhaps should be more stages and shorter time frames in the plan. Although the general ideas stated are good, the government seems to favour targets being achieved through encouragement and voluntary action rather than legislation.

4. Campaigning

FOE campaigns for 2018 – climate change, fossil fuel free, bee cause, clean air, Brexit and plastics - and then we added food to the list for consideration for a WFOE campaign this year. A member gave a brief outline of possible areas for a food campaign. We had a vote between food and plastics, the other campaigns being deemed less favourable for us, and the result was split. Two members will look into pros and cons of plastics and report back next meeting, at which we will have a further vote to decide on our campaign, as it was thought that more information would be advantageous.

5. Politicon event at JHGS

6-9pm. Students will be encouraged at the end to ask questions of the stall holders. Three members will attend.

6. Greatmore visit

Wear trousers, 10.30am start – tour is 45 mins, questions afterwards could take ½ -1 hour+. Can't leave early, as part of a group. Can take photos at certain points. No pacemakers. A member will contact all those expressing interest in going. Car sharing was arranged.

7. FoE South-East regional Gathering

This is on March 10th. No venue as yet. Morning – presentations. Afternoon – organisational skills. A member will be going probably.

8. Visit by Julia Spragg (Greenpeace)

Julia will talk at our April meeting. We will need the bigger room and the projector and screen and the means to play a DVD.

This will be a public meeting and advertised as such, with WFOE urgent business briefly discussed at the end. We will advertise WFOE as a group at this event. A member will find out the topics included in the talk. Julia will need expenses paid.

9. Partnership renewal

Peter Sims from the Green Party will be available to talk at a monthly meeting at some point later in the year and there's a possibility of having a speaker from Fair Trade High Wycombe.

10. Contact lists

Two lists have been formulated, one list for emails on discussion points and a wider one for events publicity.

11. AOB

1. The position of 'Wycombe' in 'Friends of the Earth, Wycombe', on the logo cannot be changed, say national FOE. But 'Wycombe FOE' on the website etc. can remain unchanged.
2. Morrisons stream litter pick and stream clearance jointly with Wycombe Wildlife Group has been suggested. Several members were willing to attend. A member will arrange.
3. Marinet film is 6 minutes and of interest. A member will circulate the link for members to view.
4. Bassetsbury allotments – WDC are currently running a public consultation on putting mobile homes on the site, which is contaminated rendering it unfit for allotment use. Plans will also include a new lodge for the Chiltern Rangers.
5. Local food guide. Producers have to pay to be on 'Big Barn', which is a national website listing local food producers.
6. Some tea bags have plastic incorporated in the paper of the tea bags (PG tips).
7. The WFOE Facebook page is active and members will liaise about the Twitter account.
8. The tree officer at WDC is doing a research project on public opinion on protecting trees. A member will circulate details for members to fill in a questionnaire for her, if they wish.
9. Just for information - Handy Cross roundabout will be closed for 3 weekends from 16th February for re-surfacing.

12. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th March 2018.