

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 5th September 2018 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

WFoE is in credit with no further income or expenses.

The Ecotip will be Toptenuk.org – *Topten provides consumers with at-a-glance, best-in-class listings for a variety of energy-using products, including refrigerators, washing machines, TVs, lighting and consumer electronics. By showcasing the best performing models, Topten provides a platform for manufacturers to demonstrate market leadership in using the most energy-saving technology across their product ranges.*

3. Air quality

A member circulated his proposed responses for the Wycombe District Council's draft air quality plan. It was agreed that it was a good response and if there are no other comments, he will send it on behalf of WFOE. There was discussion about bus times and reliability being important for the public to use it in preference to cars.

4. Plastic waste campaign

Plastic Free Picnic – 2 members have everything well in hand, including some activities for children. They have advertised the event on Facebook and all members are requested to advertise the event as much as possible. A poster has been produced for people to take and the event will be put on the events page in BFP. A5 flyers are available to give out for adults and children.

The film 'A Plastic Ocean' will be screened 14, 15, or 16th November.

A member will find out the availability of FMH on those dates so we can set a date and advertise it at the Pann Mill Open Day on 16th September.

Pann Mill Open Day on Sunday 16th September, 11am-5pm.

The rota is in place. The stall will promote the picnic and raise awareness of plastic waste. Some plants will be sold.

Plastic Packaging. A member commented via email that Iceland have committed to reducing their plastic packaging for their own brands by 2023, but still needs to approach the problem that black plastic trays are not detected by recycling machines in the shorter term. She will send a letter about this.

A member will re-circulate the FOE email about plastic waste which includes a letter to send to supermarkets.

5. Brief report on changes to National FoE's relations with branches (national governance).

FOE is intending to split off the campaigning part from the charity part of the organisation. They would like to improve local representation and communication with co-ordinators.

6. Any Other Business

October Meeting. Peter Sims from the Green Party will be speaking at our October meeting about divestment and the local Green Party generally. Business will be dealt with after Peter's talk.

Environment Centre

A member has contacted The Environment Centre and they have discussed a green fair possibly in 2019. The idea is to get the local students involved as well as local eco groups.

Thame green living plan has a consultation in progress. More information at:

www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk/2018/06/21/uks-first-green-living-plan-revealed-for-thame/

Forthcoming events

Saturday 8th September, 12 noon. Oxford Rise for climate Justice in Oxford. More information at:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/oxford-rise-for-climate-justice>

Saturday and Sunday, 15th and 16th September. Heritage Open Days are including tours of Lakeside Energy from Waste in Slough. Pre-booking is necessary. More information at:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/lakeside-energy-from-waste

22nd September. People's walk for Wildlife in London, lead by Chris Packham. FoE have a stall at the Reformer's Tree in Hyde Park from 10am and the march begins at 1pm. More at:

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/join-chris-packham-peoples-walk-wildlife>

October 2nd, 7.30-9.30 Talk about Plastic. by 'Action on Plastic in Chinnor' in Chinnor Community Pavilion, Station Road, Chinnor.

6th October, 10am-2pm. Chinnor and Thame FOE Autumn Fayre, in Thame Town Hall. A member will book a table on behalf of WFoE for £5.

Bucks County Council consultation on waste recycling centres is open. They have to make substantial financial savings. They are proposing to close at least one recycling centre and Bledlow is likely to go. Also proposing to reduce the hours at some centres, to charge the public for discarding DIY waste and have more recycle shops.

A member will draft a response on behalf of the group taking into account comments given, ie charges might be counterproductive re fly tipping, but hours could be changed. *Freecycle* and *Freegle* could be better promoted.

There was a discussion about how can we get our message out and find other ideas for events and attract and keep new people. It was thought that sub-meetings for events would facilitate action so after the Plastic Free Picnic we will look into other events, re plastic waste, and form a sub group.

9. The Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd October, at The Friends Meeting House, 7.30pm, 25 London Road, HP11 1BJ.