

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 14

Apologies: 2

2. Finance and Ecotip

WFOE is in credit.

The Ecotips for November will be:

1. Cheap and eco fabric softener

Freshen and fluff your laundry without artificial fragrances or additives. Add up to a **quarter of a cup of white (clear) vinegar** to the drawer where you'd normally add fabric softener to your washing machine. Pop in a **drop of essential oil** if you want to add some natural fragrance.

2. Wrapping paper. Lots of wrapping paper has a plastic film over the surface and glitter and gilt added. This cannot be recycled. Therefore, consider getting your Christmas wrapping paper from places like Oxfam who produce recycled wrapping paper which itself can be recycled as it's simply paper. Consider keeping wrapping paper for re-use – some of it can be smoothed and kept for re-use. Also. Perhaps you can dispense with plastic fixing tape and use string or other eco methods for holding your parcels together.

(This tip will remain for the December Ecotip).

3. Plastic waste campaign

a) Schools

5 members met up. The Powerpoint for schools had some amendments and was approved. The Powerpoint is linked to the primary science curriculum on materials and outlined the problem of using so much single use plastic and gave some ideas for the children to do to reduce the problem. The Powerpoint was sent it out to Wycombe and district schools with a message encouraging reducing and recycling single use plastic in schools generally, including some ideas they could try.

So far there has been a reply from two people in Tylers Green who are engaged with the plastic problem in a local school. They suggested a meeting to discuss ideas. It was agreed that 2 members will meet them. They will be contacted to make a date.

b) Film arrangements (lasts 1 hour, 45 mins.)

Will be shown on Tuesday 20th November at the Friends Meeting House. 7.30pm.

Projector, screen and laptop will be organised from 6.30pm. A member advertised the event during an interview he gave on Wycombe Sound yesterday.

Donations will be requested and refreshments may be offered at the end.

The display board will be put up and some of the ideas from the plastic free picnic will be available.

4. Air quality (including WDC clean air plan and our response)

Wycombe District Council have now finalised their air quality plan. The original steering group met and from that WDC produced a draft action plan, circulated to the steering group for comment. Subsequently, an improved version was issued for public consultation. The group put in comments. However, the action plan was put forward to WDC cabinet with no further changes. The person who sent it out was also keen for the plan to be stronger but he was unable to change it for a variety of reasons.

A member will contact the council further to suggest that it should be stronger.

Also.....

- Last week, the BFP ran an article about the impacts of the Heathrow expansion on air quality.
- Bucks County Council is consulting on school transport.

5. Climate change

a) A member has been to Germany, just outside Cologne, to join a group, Ende Gelände who were illegally occupying a coal mine in protest against coal mining. She camped with many others (approx. 7,500 people in all), meals supplied (and it was very cold).

b) Climate Justice March in December – no details yet. The co-ordinator will circulate details when he has them.

c) FoE's new campaign starts at the beginning of 2019. FOE is asking local groups for ideas.

6. Waste and recycling

A member has submitted comments on the Council's waste plan.

7. "Do-it" community fund. Do-it.org.

This is a volunteering website with a wide variety of opportunities which people can sign up to. If we had a project for which we needed help, we could advertise on this website for volunteers. Members are asked to look this up and we might sign up at some point.

8. Chinnor + Thame approach re Whatsapp

C&T FOE have a Whatsapp group. A member will sign up and keep WFOE up to date with anything relevant. Others could also join up.

9. AOB

a) A member will attend 11am outside Barclays at Piccadilly Circus, Saturday 10th Nov with 'Buddhists against Climate Change'. They meditate outside the bank as Barclays invest in fracking. The event is monthly.

10. The Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 5th December, at The Friends Meeting House, 7.30pm, 25 London Road, HP11 1BJ. **The evening will include mince pies and attendees are invited to bring some to share.**