

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 5th December 2018 7.30pm at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 14

Apologies: 4

2. Finance. The group is in credit.

1. The existing November Ecotip on wrapping paper.
2. As far as possible, try to give gifts that are non-plastic and do not require batteries.

3. Plastics

a. Feedback from "A Plastic Ocean"

- The film evening was deemed a success. Asking for donations easily covered expenses. Approx. 35 attendees. There was a useful discussion after the film although many of the attendees were aware of the problem already. Perhaps try a different venue another time to attract a different group of people, eg sixth form students, university students. It was thought we would repeat the event in 2019.
- An attendee explained the action she was involved with in Birmingham which she mentioned at the film event (Plastic attack/flash mob). The point is to raise awareness on media. A supermarket is selected to target but the manager should be approached first about what will happen and why. Shopping is bought, peacefully, packaging taken off and left at the checkout. The idea is first posted on Facebook to ask if others will join in. If possible, target all main supermarkets so one doesn't feel victimised. Containers can be brought for rice etc. Hopefully, it will move the industry in the direction of less plastic wrapping. The action is welcomed by like-minded shop managers. In Birmingham, photos and video were taken for media. WFoE will stage a similar action in 2019.

b. Tylers Green Meeting

- Two members met with 2 people who are in contact with a school. They have challenged the school children to a litter pick during the holidays (poor take-up) and a lunch box challenge, which they monitor frequently. They intend to decorate a Christmas tree with lunchbox plastic waste and have had favourable talks with WDC to provide a plastic recycling bin for the school. It was agreed to keep in touch and share ideas and progress.
- Following this report, there was some discussion about how we might take forward our plastic waste campaign.

c. Plastics Action Plan.

- The co-ordinator suggested approaching MPs to encourage a plastic waste action plan.

d. Next steps.

- Early in 2019, a meeting of the plastics subcommittee will discuss how to take the campaign forward.

3. Air quality

A WDC cabinet member has agreed, in local press, that the air quality action plan doesn't go far enough, in response to a member's letter to the BFP suggesting the same.

4. Climate change

Several members attended the march for Climate Justice on Dec 1 in London. It was poorly attended generally.

5. Invitations to participate in events

a. John Hampden Grammar School "Politicon" event (Thursday 14 February). It was decided to have a stall at this event.

b. Population Matters High Wycombe event (October 2019), with stand-up comedian possibly. A member will inform the group of the date when decided.

c. Action Network –deferred.

6. Extinction Rebellion – 130 local groups. We may ask them for a speaker at some point.

10. The Next Meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th January 2019**, at The Friends Meeting House, 7.30pm, 25 London Road, HP11 1BJ. **Please note date.**

During the evening, the founder of 'Helping Our Planet's Environment - HOPE introduced the WFoE members to her new company which sells environmentally friendly and plastic free items such as soap, shampoo bars, soap nuts, wax squares (instead of clingfilm), bamboo toothbrushes. She can supply and deliver to the Wycombe area and she has plans for her company to grow gradually. She brought a selection of her products which WFoE members browsed after the meeting.