

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 12

Apologies: 5

2. Finance and Ecotip

£350 in kitty after paying £30 website expenses and tonight's room fees.

3. Plastics Campaign

A member introduced posters from FoE for Plastics Pollution campaign and stickers. We are asked to get local MPs to pose in front of poster and be photographed. Potentially national FoE can work with these MPs to promote plastic free. It would be good if we read FoE's briefing note. New environment bill is approaching and FoE clearly want to influence this.

A member has read that supermarkets and manufacturers will have to charge for returning packaging.

In the context of pollution it was mentioned that plant based eating is the single biggest way to reduce environment impact as an individual.

Supermarket action is being arranged by a member and is to be scheduled for 4 weeks time (but after next meeting). Will post in different groups. Need someone to take photos and Ivan offered to contact someone who may be willing to take a video of the event. BBC may come. Bucks Free Press. Wycombe Sound. Dora will contact all. Location: Dora will speak to supermarket prior to the event. Favouring Morrisons as more central. Will plan for about 11 am. Watch for Facebook and email postings.

Schools campaign: A member will follow up with another mail-out. A member suggested some of us undertake to phone some of the schools after the second mail-out.

2nd screening of film, 'Plastic Ocean'. A member says we could do if we cover the £50 fee. Need to work on an alternative venue. Suggestions are Marlow (transition town) or Beaconsfield. A member will ask plastic free group Beaconsfield. How about Bucks New uni? A member is prepared to ask at university for any possibilities. We could possibility sound out the idea via Julia Wassell.

A member mentioned that plastic came up as a question at the local council meeting. Mark Harris from Greater Marlow has residents asking what happens to plastic in recycling bin and whether any might end up in the oceans. Councillor (Cabinet Member for the Environment) responded that mixed recycling is sent by road to "materials recovery facilities" in other parts of the UK. Some may then get transported overseas. Only 0.03% of plastics from the UK are likely to end up in ocean.

A member offered to contact this councillor as he seems interested in the subject.

4. Air Quality

With reference to the BFP article about the Waste Strategy Consultation. A Councillor asked whether consultations are indeed a waste of time as so little was changed in the approved action plan as a result of the consultation. Councillor Adey defended their position and action.

Officers are currently seeking funding into consultation into clean air zone emissions zone. This would appear to be a step forward.

5. WDC waste strategy (report)

Waste strategy consultation - closure of recycling centres. Decisions announced. Will close Bledlow from next financial year (assumed) and Burnham by September. Two other sites reduced to 5 days a week.

Will not ban users from other counties. They will be treated as Wycombe residents and seek like agreements with other counties. They will monitor fly-tipping and whether charges are likely to affect fly-tipping. In papers which went to cabinet (7000 public responses) responses from organisations i.e. ours were printed in full.

6. Other Business

FoE Partnership agreement, now called trademark agreement. No more fees necessary. Steve has completed and sent in agreement. Lauren: fillfood.co.uk offers foods by weight. Discussion as to whether we should invite her to come to meeting. Many members interested. A member will contact her.

Extinction Rebellion: A member tried to contact but no success yet.

Climate emergency meeting in Oxford on 17th Jan.

Anti-fracking meeting at FoE headquarters in Feb. 2nd Feb. Need to register.

County Council unitary meeting - to be finalised this week.

Politicon -14th Feb at John Hampden Grammar School. Same format as last year. 3 members were willing to man the stand. Another member will stand in if necessary.

Shall we arrange a social for all green groups and like-minded people? At Falcon. Not finalised.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th February 2019 at The Friends Meeting House.