

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 3rd July 2019 at 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

Present: 12

Apologies: 3

1. Finance and Ecotip

- WFoE is currently in credit. The accounts from 2018-19 were formally approved.
- The Ecotips for July will be:
 1. Foods in season Reduce your food miles - this month is a great time to enjoy UK-grown cherries and other soft fruits such as strawberries and raspberries. On the veggie front, look out for broad beans, beetroots, radishes and artichokes.
 2. Drying your washing. Reduce your energy usage and dry your washing outside.
 3. Save water. Save your washing up and vegetable water to put on your flowers. Reduce your time in the shower and don't leave the tap running. Have you tried catching the cold water you run off waiting for it to turn warm for a wash and using that for your garden or cleaning. Also, have you tried using your hot vegetable water for washing your frying pan with just one drop of Ecover washing up liquid? Then simply rinse with a little fresh, cold water.

2. Climate Emergency

The Friends of the Earth's Climate Action Plan was read out and possible actions discussed. It was decided that we could explore a series of climate related events to include other like-minded organisations. Actions:

- Find a venue - two members to research
- Decide on dates - two members to research
- Format - could be a stall or base for conversation about the topic.
- Decide on topic - eg buildings (insulation, energy providers, saving energy)

All members to research buildings with relation to actions that members of the public can do.

3. Tree Cover

A member watched the webinar on the trees campaign.

Objective - to get the government to commit to doubling UK tree cover by 2045 and to make that commitment by next year and to do so in an environmentally way, eg planting in urban areas and low level agricultural land. Could help to reduce 10% of UK emissions annually. At present UK tree cover is 13%.

4. Plastic Attack

The June plastic attack was successful - about 10 people plus children attended. It was publicised widely on Facebook and a member talked to local radio on Wycombe Sound. A member will get some information and photos from the Facebook page to give for website. A member organised a viewing of 'The Plastic Ocean' in Marlow which was successful - 70/80 people attended. Marlow rowers were involved as river plastic waste is a problem. They will link with others at other Thameside places.

5. Air Quality

Bucks County Council are conducting two transport surveys with consultations.

1. How are road users affected by road conditions and congestion? leading to more general enquiries (ends August). 2. A40 London road improvements (this ends on 12th July 2019).

A member will respond on behalf on WFoE and he will enquire further about public transport provision as this will reduce the number of cars which will reduce emissions.

All members are asked to contribute by completing the surveys with a view to reducing congestion and improving air quality. Note that the A40 London road improvement survey ends on 12th July. The link is:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgconsultationlistdisplay.aspx?bcr=1>

6. Population Matters event - October 12th

WfoE will attend and set up a stall about climate change.

Wfoe will attend September Pann Mill stall.

7. AOB

A member was asked by a local resident to raise the fact that the Council has been spraying weedy pavements in Downley area. It was discussed and thought that some spraying was probably necessary to keep road edges and pavements clear. No action will be taken.

8. The next meeting of Wycombe Friends of the Earth will be on Wednesday 7th August, 7.30pm at The Friends Meeting House as usual, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ.