

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 6th November 2019 at 7.30pm at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

Present: 15

Apologies: 3

Isabel was welcomed to the meeting.

Names in **bold** indicate action required by that person/persons.

1. Finance and Ecotip

WFoE currently has £458. Four more members paid membership this evening.

The Ecotip for November will be:

Ecosia. This is a search engine which will plant a tree for 40 odd searches through.

To prevent the worst impacts of climate change it is imperative we dramatically restrict our carbon emissions. However, latest climate science tells us this alone is not enough. To keep Global Warming to less than 1.5-2 degrees we need to reach net-negative emissions. This means removing and storing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than we're putting into it. And how do we do that? By planting trees. It's Simple. We plant trees for you. It costs £1 per tree. The tree absorbs CO2 and makes the world a better place.

3. The Climate Emergency Campaign

a. Climate Emergency Stall, Eden, High Wycombe

Good coverage in the BFP on the stall, it was deemed a worthwhile activity. There were a few interesting and supportive conversations with one slightly negative response. Another response was against waste in the NHS. The possibility of talking to the hospital about sustainability was discussed.

The possibility of manning more stalls in various places was discussed and several venues will be investigated.

b. Wycombe Sound

A member has been interviewed on Wycombe Sound. Two members will be on Wycombe Sound on Thursday evening. They may discuss the various ways of getting the climate message over, possibly referring to Extinction Rebellion and Trump.

c. The new unitary authority should be encouraged to spend time and money on climate issues, eg declaring a climate emergency, followed by relevant actions.

All members to write/email the new authority to encourage this action. There is a consultation closing on 25th November where you can express your views.

d. Climate Action Groups

FOE are encouraging Climate Action Group. The aim is to pressurise local government. We could re-brand one of our meetings as a Climate Action Group, perhaps every few months. Other groups who have set up Climate Action Groups to be researched.

A member is meeting the person responsible for environment issues at Red Kite.

A member will contact those on our wider contacts list to ask if they would like to be involved in a Climate Action Group potentially.

All members – consider if you could be involved in helping to set this up.

e. Possibility of an event at Wycombe Arts Centre

A member has a half price promise of 3 hour event. May be Population Matters. Could be a launch event of a Wycombe Climate Action Group. We will discuss this at next meeting.

f. Hustings

The possibility of helping to organise a hustings for the electoral candidates was discussed.

A member will email schools and the university to see if they are organising a hustings that we can help with and potentially asked candidates about Climate change issues and policies. Two members will also investigate.

All members – please let us know if you know of any upcoming election hustings.

4. Politicon – John Hampden Grammar School. 13th Feb 2020. Booked.

5. Air quality

A member has requested specific input on the Council's supplementary planning document, in particular making provision for alternative types of transport and fuels, e.g. What would be needed to speed up the move towards better air quality? How do new houses need to be set up for charging, electric buses, facilities for cycling?

Two members will investigate a WDC workshop to develop planning policy relating to air quality.

6. Feedback from the BCC Transport Strategy meeting

A member attended an event about the High Wycombe transport strategy, jointly developed by district and county councils. The strategy takes us up to 2050. It has a positive message and has a public consultation event. The area covered is small – not the whole of the district. He fed in opinions. People need to be encouraged from their cars to public transport but a huge transformation needs to happen for public transport to be more workable and attractive.

Cycle routes were also discussed and were favourably accepted.

7. AOB

On behalf of WFoE, a member conducted a successful, child-friendly assembly on the problems of single use plastic, at Millbrook School last month. He may go back next term to conduct an assembly on climate change.

All members – if you have any school contacts, please enquire if they would like Ed to conduct an assembly on plastics and/or climate change and email Ed or Jean.

Events

November 18 – Population Matters AGM at Ivan's

November 16– Chinnor Village Hall, Swap Shop and Bike Exchange. 10am–12 noon

November 23 - Chinnor and Thame FOE Green Fayre. Thame Town Hall. 10am-3pm

November -29 - Student Climate Strike –, 8am outside Wycombe High School.

December 13 – Wycombe Wildlife Group talk – How climate change effects wildlife, 7.45pm St Thomas Church, Holtspur.

8. The next meeting of Wycombe Friends of the Earth will be on Wednesday 4th

December, 7.30pm at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ, at which there will be **FOOD**.

All members – please let us know if you can bring a food contribution on 4th

December and feel free to bring a soft drink for yourself.

Please note that the first Wednesday in January is 1st so we will need to change the date of the January meeting to January 8th 2020.