

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7.30pm  
online via Zoom

**Present through Zoom:** 13

## 1. Ecotip and finance

The ecotip will remain the same as last month as it is Christmas related.

There was little change to the finance - a couple of membership fees were added.

## 2. Solar Streets

Background. A specific area of mainly housing is targeted to receive solar PV installations giving rise to savings from economy of scale. Individual households will pay approximately £4,000, with a potential saving of 20% over isolated installations. This started in the West Country and is being rolled out in a number of towns including Marlow and Thame locally. The project is carried out jointly by *Iddea*, [www.iddea.co.uk](http://www.iddea.co.uk) a solar company based in the West Country, which has a depot in High Wycombe, and a promotional company called *The Green Group*. They suggest the best model is where the town council endorses the scheme. A network of people or organisations will be sought to enable this to happen in High Wycombe.

Actions. The Wycombe Community Board of Bucks County Council and the Town Committee are both interested in setting up a group of people to get sustainable ideas and beneficial biodiversity taken forward in the town. Councils have a community fund that can be tapped for solar installations on community buildings, such as youth clubs. There was some discussion about which of these groups would be more effective in carrying out the initiative. It was decided that WFoE will support this initiative.

## 3. WFoE Constitutional amendment

The amendment was agreed as follows:

Delete: *The group will work within the geographical area of the Wycombe District.*

Insert: *The group will work within the geographical area of High Wycombe and surrounding areas of South Buckinghamshire.*

(Reasoning: Wycombe District no longer exists as a local government area. Furthermore, we have never strictly limited ourselves to members from within Wycombe District, but have been happy to welcome members from e.g. Beaconsfield.)

## 4. The climate campaign (including BCAA)

It is good news that, quite rapidly in the last few weeks, the geographical area of the groups joining up to BCAA has grown. There are now approximately 20 organisations across Bucks. The next step is to co-ordinate and channel their energies into an action plan. A wide range of organisations are welcome to join BCAA to show the Council that there is broad support across the county on climate change actions.

## 5. Council subgroup meetings - no further news at present.

**6. Green and fair recovery** - no further news at present.

## **7. Regional support and contacts**

The co-ordinator is the local group contact for National FOE. If anyone else would also like to be a contact, please let the co-ordinator know.

FOE runs training courses on various topics. There is an online training course for ways to ensure your Council's Climate action plan is robust and effective:  
*FOE webinar Council Climate Action on 10th December, 7pm.*

FOE Nature Campaign will be launched in the new year.

## **8. Divestment**

Aim of the divestment group - to persuade Bucks County Council's pension committee to remove their investments out of fossil fuel stocks. Bucks Council is not keen to push this at the moment. More work needs to be done here but opinion is generally moving in the direction of divestment from fossil fuel stocks. BCAA's draft action plan may include work on this.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- The Brexit agricultural subsidies and policy is encouraging as it will support farmers who aid wildlife and biodiversity on their farms rather than subsidies for acreage.
- Congratulations to two members on their recent letters to the BFP.
- There is a planning application on the Cressex Island for Aldi and a drive-through MacDonalds. An objection was discussed, on grounds of transport links, i.e. it forces people to drive there, resulting in implications for air quality and healthy living.
- There is a planning application on a brownfield site north of the station at Saunderton. Pros and cons were discussed.

**8. The next meeting** of Wycombe Friends of the Earth will be on Wednesday 6th January 2021, 7.30pm, via Zoom.