

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth - Minutes

For Zoom meeting on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.30pm:

**Present online:** 16

## 1. Finance

Bank forms for handing over to the new treasurer, who needs to be a signatory, have been obtained. The current treasurer will progress this.

**2. Ecotip** - will be to encourage natural cleaning agents.

## 3. Climate and biodiversity campaign and BCAA and the council elections/climate pledge

- The Bucks County Council climate strategy is disappointing in that it is not ambitious and suggested actions will not start immediately. Therefore the focus should be on the election on 6th May, rather than getting current incumbents to change focus in their last few months.
- BCAA aims to persuade candidates to commit to taking climate action, organise hustings, (county-wide and local) and raise the climate crisis profile. Another group is working on making the climate crisis a hot topic for voters to ask their candidates about.
- Candidates who support climate action are more likely to be the independents so raising the profile of the independents may be one strategy worth pursuing.
- Councillors at present seem to be aiming to make actions deliverable rather than seeing actions as urgent, although they also need to be deliverable or progress will be limited.
- Candidates serious about the climate crisis need to be encouraged and supported, for instance, through comments on their Facebook page. All members are asked to do this.
- Air quality may be an issue to pursue locally as it is poor in central Wycombe and can be improved through planning. Parts of Beaconsfield and Aylesbury also have poor air quality.
- The speaker at Monday's zoom meeting of the Hazlemere Climate talks was David Sutherland, Head of Climate Change and Environment, from Bucks Council, talking about the Council's new climate change strategy and the nature recovery strategy.

## 4. Wycombe Environment (WE)

WE has its first meeting on Mon 8th March. A representative from Solar Streets will explain the initiative.

## 5. Fossil fuel divestment

Bucks County Council will be approached and challenged about their investment in fossil fuels following the recently-published report on fossil fuel divestment. Their position of passing the buck to Brunel who oversees Bucks CC investment will be challenged. Mark Carney and Bucks Climate strategy state that investment in fossil fuels is no longer desirable so this adds weight to the challenge.

## 6. Bucks Council Community Boards

Community Boards are encouraged by Bucks County Council to take account of climate change in decisions and formulate actions. This is positive but central Bucks County Council decisions and actions are also needed as they could make more impact and take the lead.

## 7. AOB

- Anti HS2 protests continue. There is a fund-raiser to get works halted so that proper licences can be obtained first. This could mitigate damage to wildlife locally and further up the line. The link to this is: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/protect-jones-hill-wood-from-h/>
- The possibility of WFoE meetings in person was briefly discussed. When rules allow, meetings combining physical meetings with Zoom meetings may be possible at the Friends Meeting House, High Wycombe.
- A member will report on the list of dormant and active like-minded organisations next month.

**8. Meeting ended** at 20.40. The next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday 7th April 2021.