

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7.30pm.
Held as Zoom/in person blended meeting

Present on Zoom: 11 **At the meeting house:** 6 **Apologies:** 2

1. **Ecotips will be:** *Garden clear up and Low Carbon Christmas*
2. **Finance** - WFoE is in credit.
3. **Presentation by Trevor Snaith: Wycombe Food Hub (WFH) - Tackling food waste and food insecurity.**
 - WFH is an environmental organisation to stop good food going to landfill, to make residual food available to those struggling, making food more affordable for people on low incomes, to offer quality food at a nominal cost or free.
 - WFH was set up and run at the first lockdown by volunteers. They collect residual food from supermarkets to give to those in need. They are requesting charity status and feeding more people every month.
 - WFH has a team of over 100 volunteers - drivers, shop staff and warehouse staff.
 - Reducing food waste is one key solution to climate change. Food waste is a major problem in the UK, with food being wasted from manufacturing, hospitality and retail but mostly through households.
 - Any food waste that can't be used for humans will be used to feed animals.
 - Areas of Wycombe have many people who are hit by food insecurity, in particular in Wycombe Marsh, Micklefield, Castlefield and Disraeli.
 - Each month, WFH collects 2-3000 crates of residual food from supermarkets and local businesses, stopping about 50 tons of food going to landfill.
 - It invites customers to choose how much they can afford to spend, offering a level basket of food for £3 or 2 for £5. There is a self-serve display of fresh and frozen food and daily special offers. Customers can pay by either cash, card or Healthy Start food vouchers. WFH also makes some home deliveries and supplies food to other charities and groups.
 - It helps people, such as pensioners, those on benefits as well as those who have lost income or are on low income.
 - It works with outlets such as farm shops, direct supply from farm producers, dairies, allotments, retailers, catering, supermarkets, pub groups, fast food outlets.
 - WFH also has pre-loved clothes, shoes, bric a brac, toys and baby items.
 - Delivers to the HW area only because of delivering chilled and frozen products. Will deliver further when it has a multi temperature van and hopes to set up 'regional hubs'.
 - WFH is looking for volunteers - drivers, fundraising, financial donations, run local events, identify spare food sources.
 - Anyone can direct people in need to the hub for food. No red tape, no questions, anyone can visit the hub.
 - There are some ready meals and food to which boiling water can be added, for those with no cooking facilities. The Council is starting courses to teach people how to prepare and cook the food.
 - Students can be recipients at the Food Hub and can also volunteer to help.

4. Last minute arrangements for WFoE's event as part of the Global Day of Action for COP26 on Saturday 06 November.

- Arrangements have been made. 11am-3pm at the Guild Hall, HW.
- Members of the public will be asked to write views on flip-chart paper, or record a 20 second video clip on their phone and put on Twitter 'Your bit, my bit' which will find its way to Glasgow. Have handouts from FOE to hand out.

5. Arrangements for WFoE's contribution to Amersham Town Council's Climate Change Action Day on Saturday 13 November from 10 am to 2 pm, setting up from 9 am.

- This will be outdoors and hot coffee/tea will be available from the church.

6. Suggestion of a WFoE meet up at a café and/or WFoE walk.

- Because it would be a nice thing to do, and because it would be an ideal opportunity for new members and old hands to get to know one another (which is quite difficult on Zoom).

7. Discussion/consideration of the campaign ideas that arose at last month's meeting:

- Wycombe to Marlow / Bourne End cycle route
 - Campaign for high energy efficiency standards for (social) housing in Buckinghamshire (retrofitting and new homes)
 - Campaign for zero food waste and to get all supermarkets to contribute to e.g. Wycombe Food Hub
 - That's the ticket! One bus ticket for all buses locally and elsewhere in Wycombe and Bucks
- At the next meeting, a couple of topics will be chosen, e.g. social housing insulation, promoting and supporting Wycombe Food Hub.
 - The consultation is opening around now for Active Travel Strategy for the Wycombe area, including cycling and walking routes, and linking a route from Marlow to HW.
 - It was decided that individuals and WFoE as a group could submit comments.

8. AOB

In recent years, but not last year, we have had a post-Christmas social and mince pies at the December meeting but this year we could incorporate mince pies perhaps with a walk together. To be arranged.

9. Next Meeting will be on 1st December 2021.