

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.30pm.
Held as Zoom/in person blended meeting

Present on Zoom: 9

At the meeting house: 3

Apologies: 7

1. **Ecotip will be:** *Low Carbon Christmas.*

2. **Finance** - WFoE is in credit. There will be a small loss over the year - room rental expenditure versus membership income. We may need to look more closely at this loss for next year.

3. **Proposed housing campaign: Improving energy efficiency standards in social housing / planning directives – how shall we progress this?**
 - National FOE will announce something on this soon. 3 strands: 1. Retro-fitting of social housing sector, 2. regulations for new builds and 3. affordable heating.
 - What might be done on retro-fitting and new build regulations; voluntarily and by regulation?
 - Now is a good time to push on this as Bucks Council are formulating a new Local Plan - consultation open until 11th February 2022. A member will circulate a link to this consultation to the group. There is plenty of scope in the consultation to highlight the climate emergency. Individuals, as well as WFoE, can add to the consultation and all members are encouraged to do so.
 - WFoE could contact a range of housing associations to ask how they ensure their tenants live in warm, well insulated homes and help to share good ideas potentially. Solar Streets may perhaps know more about this although their main focus is for the private sector.
 - Marlow Energy Group wants to help people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes - is there a possibility that we could share their ideas?
 - Next steps - draft a questionnaire/communication to housing associations.

4. **Transport / active travel consultation**
 - Draft is circulated to local council members before being sent out to members of the public. When the latter happens, we can do more.

5. **Feedback from our COP26 actions***
 - Good to meet up with other members of like-minded groups and to build up such contacts, but there were fewer conversations with general members of the public. Location was perhaps not ideal.
 - Amersham had more groups - organised by Amersham Town Council (well done to them) rather than the groups themselves individually. However, smaller groups in Amersham were not so visible.

- ATC displayed their electric mower for their 3 parks. Could pressure be put on Wycombe Council to have electric rather than diesel mowers?
- In Wycombe, more of the clientele are concerned with managing life and finances than in Amersham, where people are more affluent. Perhaps we need to think about how we can approach people across all sectors.
- ATC say this is the first of a series of displays they hope to run, so WFoE could keep an eye on this.
- ATC aim to be carbon neutral as a council by 2030, whereas Bucks as a whole is 2050.
- Perhaps a route through Wycombe Environment and Wycombe Town Committee might be a more successful approach with their council contacts.
- Is there a possibility that all climate crisis groups could come together on a parade/march to draw attention to the climate problems and gather support and momentum, because it is difficult to be prominent enough and draw enough attention to what we have to say. We would have to ensure a good turnout as a poor turnout could do more harm than good.

6. The Mozambique Gas project – a possible small-scale action against the UK government financing a gas mega-project off the Mozambique coast with implications for the climate emergency and human rights.

- It was thought best to write to the 4 local MPs and issue a press release about it. A member has circulated a draft letter for members to use as a basis to send to their MP.

7. Next meeting on 5th January - Zoom/in person blended meeting with a New year social - a walk and an outside coffee? Any suggestions welcome.