

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm.
Held as Zoom meeting

Present on Zoom: 16

Apologies: 3

The meeting began with one minute's silence for Ukraine.

1. Finance

- WFoE is in credit. There has been little change.
- Subscriptions are due from April. Expenses such as room hire, website, Wycombe Environment, will be slightly more than income this year with the current number of paying members.
- It was decided to keep subscriptions at £10. Any other donations/expenses could be put to the membership for donations. Otherwise, reserves will be kept at around £500.
- Members are invited to speak up if there is a project on which they think we should be spending money.

2. Ecotips will be:

1. Great British Spring Clean 25 March – 10 April 2022. At Keep Britain Tidy, we believe that every act to protect the environment, no matter how small, makes a difference. And so, when hundreds of thousands of #LitterHeroes all join forces and take the same action at the same time, the difference we make is huge. Back for its seventh year. This year the message is simple. Join our #BigBagChallenge and pledge to pick up as much litter as you can during the campaign.

You might choose to pick up just one bag, or you could set yourself a #BigBagChallenge like Danny and Jojo, who are collecting a bag of litter every day during Ramadan.

We've got loads of tips and advice to help you get started and clean up safely, so whether you're a litter-picking pro, or this is your first time, join the Great British Spring Clean and pledge to pick up a bag - or more – today. If you are a school, please join our Great Big School Clean. More details at:

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

2. Earth Hour is an annual event where hundreds of millions of people switch off their lights for one hour from 8.30-9.30pm on March 26th to show they care about our planet. Discover a new world without electricity. More at: <http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/>

3. Housing (Environmental Quality)

- Aylesbury Vale Housing Association has a net zero target.
- Bucks Council cabinet was discussing affordable housing on Tuesday 1st March but it was pulled at the last moment as it needed more consideration.
- Red Kite took over Wycombe social housing stock and AVHA did the same in Aylesbury. The drawback of this is that the organisations are not in the direct control of the Bucks Council so BC cannot insist on certain standards across the board. As it is, different organisations are responsible for this.
- The coordinator has contacted Red Kite and will follow this up and will contact AVHA.
- WFoE must be careful not to criticise too much as environmental aspects are being considered but we could ask if they would like to include us for constructive opinions.

4. Active travel

- The Active Travel report has been pulled. There may have been a confusion regarding dates but we don't actually know if what is published on the website will go out to consultation or not.
- A member suggested that such a consultation should consult more directly with the local communities, especially people who are more keen to walk and cycle, who may well be in a position to offer solutions. WFoE should be able to add input to this.
- Living Streets local group has been set up in Marlow recently (A member will find out more about the people involved with this). This would be a good move for High Wycombe. We could then negotiate some more meaningful green transport, e.g. raising the profile of walkers and cyclists.
- Wycombe does not now have a town council who could link in with this, as Marlow has.

- Schools are supposed to have travel plans but it's up to the school as to how strongly this is followed.
- HW transport Strategy goes back to 2019, at least. It was held up with the unification of the Council and Covid, but it supports walking and cycling and is a good document. The public consultation is where one can add views and influence. We could push for the transport strategy to be moved along as soon as possible and also push for the walking and cycling strategy to be stronger.
- Sustrans is promoting walking and cycling routes in Aylesbury but Wycombe doesn't seem to benefit so much.
- Cycling is often more evident in such plans than walking.
- It was decided that we need to find out just what the Council's intentions are with regard to these strategies and find out more about Living Streets. Perhaps someone from Living Streets would come and talk to us about it but they are overwhelmed with enquiries at present. Two members will keep abreast of action re Living Streets. Walking Summit info (22 March): <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/national-walking-summit>
Join Living Streets (and attend Walking Summit for free): <https://act.livingstreets.org.uk/page/81474/data/1>
Marlow Group: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/local-groups/marlow>
<https://www.facebook.com/marlowlivingstreets> Arup is the organisation producing the Wycombe LCWIP: <https://www.arup.com/expertise/industry/walking-and-cycling> Their Associate Director, Susan Claris, is a Vice President of Living Streets and will be one of the main speakers at the Walking Summit.
- A member will contact Lesley Clarke to seek clarification about the transport consultations and strategies.

5. Pann Mill (8 May) is going ahead as far as we know.

- A member will provisionally book a stall and seek members to man the stall.
- WFOE could have a stall at the Marlow Bee Festival on 4th June.

6. Forthcoming events

Chinnor and Thame FOE Green Fayre on May 7th at Mill Lane School, Chinnor, OX39, UK

7. AOB

1. Steve Baker Watch. WE agreed at the AGM to keep an eye on this. A member is now involved. Last weekend there was a vigil against this movement. A member and Steve Baker had a long conversation but whether anything will come of that is debatable. There was a Guardian article covering this 'protest'. There has been much coverage about this in the BFP. There will be other events to which all members are welcome to join. A member will keep us posted.

2. IPCC. The latest IPCC warnings are more startling than anything that has come out before but at present it is being pushed out of the news reports.

3. Bee Squared seed packing on 12th March in the HW Parish Church 10am-1pm (yet to be confirmed) coinciding with the Repair Cafe. Open to all to come and pack - all members.

8. The next meeting, possibly a blended Zoom/in person meeting will be on Wed. 6th April 2022.