

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 3rd August 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present on Zoom: 8

Apologies: 6

Name in **bold** denotes action by that person.

1. **Ecotip for August will be**

Save Water

Water is precious worldwide, but in the UK it is very dry currently and the reservoirs are low. Much of this is due to climate change. Make sure you are not wasting water. See:

[13 best ways to save water | Friends of the Earth.](#)

More tips:

Catch the water that you run off before the hot water comes through. Water plants with it. Use your hot water used for cooking vegetables to wash that greasy pan - saves energy too! Water your plants with your washing up water when you've finished washing up. Can you or save any 'grey water' that you've used for washing for watering plants?

2. **Finance** - bank account is in credit.

Only 12 have renewed memberships so far. Reminders to be sent out

3. **September outreach events:**

- a. Pann Mill – Sunday 11 September - a member to book
- b. Marlow Carnival – Saturday 17 September. Can drive onto Higginson Park to unload only.
- c. Energy Efficient Homes – Saturday 24 September - in The Wades Centre, Station Road, PR, HP27, Princes Risborough. After the event closes there is an opportunity for networking with other like-minded groups in Bucks. A member is going and will take a table for WFoE.

4. **Housing (energy efficiency)**

In September, national FoE is launching a campaign on energy efficiency in homes in collaboration with Fuel Poverty Action. This will provide us with an opportunity to relaunch our campaign on this issue, perhaps with some fresh ideas.

5. **Buckinghamshire Council's Local Plan Consultation.**

£3000 + people responded to the above consultation in Bucks and came out with green issues being a concern. This is quite a high response figure.

- It will influence new plans but not necessarily improve existing environmental concerns.
- There will be further stages later on, when there will be proposals to respond to.
- BCAA responded and wrote a free style form and it was issued separately and in a favourable light - might be an idea for WFoE to do the same.
- Planning stages are in a state of fluidity because of current central government uncertainty.
- John - Power Planning Course 15/9 on four consecutive thursdays. If interested see:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/power-up-registration-382917365147

6. Wycombe transport plan and LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)

Steve Broadbent talked to WE a couple of weeks ago.

- There is a HW Transport strategy of 40+ pages, concentrating on 'connecting locally' without vehicular travel. Cycling should be separated from walking for safety reasons. It will be progressing to public consultation for 6 weeks.
- A member was involved in the cycle route from Wycombe to Marlow so will take an interest in the cycling aspect of the transport plan.
- WFoE should be ready to respond at the WFoE October meeting, as will Living Streets. We need a facility for gathering responses to putting it into a coherent form.
- The Wycombe plan tends to be a little fragmented.
- A member will look at the (now bypassed) Wycombe Transport Strategy and will coordinate thoughts on that and three members can put together a response for the cycling and walking aspect of it.
- Several outlying districts of Wycombe could be brought into the 'centre' so they are better served with public transport, eg Downley, Booker.

7. Bucks Council's approach to the climate emergency (and what we can do about it)

- There is a new Climate Change cabinet member.
- BCAA are discussing the approach to take. Is it best to be conciliatory or attack the worst aspects? We agree that Bucks is not doing enough and want them to do better, but how?
- Some councillors will not change their view, others may change if supplied with information but is it best to attack their views or work with them? Difficult to know. Council motions don't seem to produce much of a result. But WFoE has to state what they believe in. Perhaps discussing concerns with individual councillors rather than the chairman will produce better results but councillors often react according to where they think the electorate will vote.
- Retrofitting houses and walking and cycling instead of taking the car makes sense on financial and health grounds. It would be better to push these benefits to the individual.

8. Whether to invite Esther (our new regional officer) to a WFoE event

It was decided to invite Esther to the social in September.

9. AOB - none

10. The next meeting will be a social on Wednesday 7th September 2022, 7.30pm, at the Mad Squirrel, directly opposite All Saints Church in High Wycombe.