

Wycombe Friends of the Earth  
Minutes for Zoom meeting on Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: 6

Apologies: 7

1. Ecotip

Approved as suggested. The question of warm hubs for the general public was raised in this connection. There are some churches and libraries which are offering their location for those needing a place to keep warm, but we have not heard of anywhere in central Wycombe.

2. Finance

The treasurer spoke with members of Wycombe Environment during the month as he is concerned that much of the money in our bank account belongs to Wycombe Environment, for whom FoE has been acting as agent. Wycombe Environment Centre has been approached to see if they would be willing to perform this role as their own income is probably greater. WE is unable to hold its own bank account as they are not an official body. There is some funding outstanding to WE from the Community Board. Once that has come in, then a transfer to Wycombe Environment Centre can take place. Initial indication is that they agree in principle. FoE are just about breaking even but WE has a hefty surplus. Expenditure will drop now as we are no longer meeting at the Friends Meeting House. There are still some subscriptions outstanding.

3. Feedback from the September "social" in the Mad Squirrel – was this a success?

About 8 people came and those who did generally found it worthwhile. There was even someone we had not met in person before. Next face-to-face meeting will be in December.

4. Feedback from September outreach events

- Pann Mill – Sunday 11 September. A member made the experience of engaging with a family and finding that the children were more willing to talk about climate change, than the parents. Maybe action will come from bottom up. It seems easier to raise the subject in general conversation because of various climate invoked disasters. More awareness than 20 years ago but the government is not taking a lead. Individuals need to act. It seems that Liz Truss is planning to go to COP27 6 - 18th Nov. Rees-Mogg is a climate change denier. Global day of action on 12th November. Need to take action and join with other groups. Can we put pressure on current gov't.? Steve B. says we cannot afford the cost of meeting nett zero. Generally we felt we should keep on writing and letting him know that many of us think differently to him.

- Energy Efficient Homes – Saturday 24 September

Only 130 turned up but it seemed to be a worthwhile event. Quite informative. A lot of repetition as presenters covered the same concerns. Key: insulate and ventilate. Sales and factual information was available. Not just sales. Parish councils are often more supportive than Buckinghamshire council. Any chance of Wycombe becoming a parish council? Aylesbury seems to be getting prioritised over Wycombe.

Climate change relay now complete. It was quite well attended in Wycombe. Ed Gemmell there when handed over. Recommendations from Wycombe were Air Quality, e-car clubs and request not to use weed killers on pavements. Not known what villages asked for. 10 walks took place in all.

## 5. Housing

National FoE's United for Warm Homes campaign. More information is available here:

<https://unitedforwarmhomes.uk>.

The co-ordinator gave a presentation on FoE's national insulation campaign. Permanent fixes to our failed energy system. How we will win. United for warm homes - go beyond FoE boundaries and make links. Find what communities we can join with. Organise a kick off event. Lobby. Insulating homes seems important. Can we take this on?

Check out "Bucks community energy" Are Housing Associations working on upgrading their properties with insulation? Steve will make some enquiries with Red Kite.

## 6. AOB

New climate cafe at Front Room. See FoE Facebook post. Worth supporting. It is open for meeting at 7 pm on Thursday 27 Oct.

Update on Local Cycling and Walking programme and transport strategy. Councillor Lesley Clarke says public consultation on 14th October to last for 6 weeks.

Suggested Ecotips: Other suggestions welcome, by email or at the meeting.

### 1. Save Energy

As the days get colder, and with energy prices so high, look up these tips for ways to save energy and therefore money and the planet:

<https://www.moneysupermarket.com/gas-and-electricity/energy-saving-tips/>

### 2. Food poverty

If you are struggling to feed your family,

- Visit the food hub next to Primark in Church Street in High Wycombe:

It's really simple to get residual food from Wycombe Food Hub.

There's no fee to join and our rules are really simple.

The food hub is open to everyone

No Barriers, no Referrals, no red tape

Collect 2 bags of food for a small donation.

More details at:

<https://wycombefoodhub.org/get-help/>

- Get a referral to the One Can Trust. More at:

<https://onecantrust.org.uk/about/what-we-do/>