

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes for Zoom meeting on Wednesday 2nd November 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: 9

Apologies: 2

1. **Ecotip** will be:

Save yourself a gardening job.

Don't be too meticulous in tidying up your garden. If you can, leave a pile of leaves and logs in a corner for hibernating creatures and leave some seed heads for birds and hollow stems for insects. Let leaves stay on your garden for a natural mulch.

2. Finance

- WFoE is currently acting as banker for WE. WFoE has a surplus of £63. We are saving on room hire by having Zoom meetings.
- Wycombe Environment will probably be incorporated into Wycombe Environment Centre - perhaps by the end of 2022.
- The treasurer invited anyone who hasn't paid subs for this year to do so.

3. BCAA website finance

BCAA is asking affiliated groups to contribute to their website expenses. Zero Carbon Hadenham is acting as banker for BCAA. It was agreed that WFoE would contribute.

4. **Esther Lutz-Davies** (the new regional officer for the east of England) introduced herself.

- She started in July and her role is to support local groups and climate action groups, with perhaps campaigning, adding skills, linking into national FOE campaigns etc.
- The Treasurer asked Esther if different groups had a different focus. Esther said yes, she would offer help and perhaps also help to link groups with similar projects.

5. United for Homes

- For information, the coordinator spoke to someone from Red Kite Housing during their outreach event and they have promised to ask their new sustainability officer to get in contact. He's apparently a "team of one" and currently on paternity leave, but will get back to us. The treasurer mentioned making contact with Marlow Energy Group and the One Can Trust as energy poverty will probably affect the same people.
- Bucks Council doesn't keep a list of private landlords, although they could do so.
- Esther is asking groups to push this campaign through energy and fuel poverty.
- Tenants associations etc. can help to push central government to subsidise and encourage improvement of properties. It is difficult to know how to encourage private landlords to insulate and upgrade their properties.
- Esther said none of it is straightforward. More info at <https://unitedforwarmhomes.uk/>
If we have questions we can contact her on esther.lutzdavies@foe.co.uk.

6. Local Transport Strategy/LCWIP:

- The new local transport strategy for High Wycombe has been issued for consultation. The consultation will be open until 28 November. You can find it here: High Wycombe travel consultation: Transport Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space.
- Rather than looking at walking and cycling as a leisure activity, this strategy does regard walking and cycling as an important means of getting from A to B locally. They hope to get people out of their cars to reduce traffic in Wycombe but it is not clear how this will be achieved, practically and financially.
- Buses are not always reliable. On demand buses are picking up but they don't operate at weekends or evenings.
- We currently only have one park and ride but it is still a car centred idea.
- Electric car chargers - how much is it needed in town as most people will charge at home, and for longer journeys charging will probably be elsewhere?
- In Eden Centre, 10:30am-2pm - Transport Strategy Exhibition, Saturday 5th November. The Living Streets personnel and others will meet there at 11am.
- Friday 18th November 10am-4pm - another exhibition and drop-in centre, both with officers who can answer questions.
- Walking routes are proposed along the valley, avoiding hills and radiating outwards. Existing routes will be improved and enhanced rather than creating new routes.
- We need to reduce the number of cars a household owns because there is a problem with congestion and pavement parking which makes walking difficult.
- Bucks Council tends to adopt the 'predict and provide' model for traffic and roads rather than encouraging other modes of transport.

All members are strongly encouraged to look at the strategy and respond to it.

7. COP27

- National FoE has issued some information about the Global Day of Action on Saturday 12 November.
- Various organisations are getting involved with COP 27. Local groups in Wycombe were too slow organising for the day of action on the 12th, so the best option is probably to attend the event in London. More information is available at: <https://climatejustice.uk/cop27> for those thinking of joining the action.

8. Bucks Climate Change Relay feedback: It was fairly minimal in Wycombe but every little helps. Good to remind the council that we are still out there. (Note added after the meeting: The relay did, however, get the organisers a meeting with the relevant council officer and possibly the Bucks Council lead on climate.

9. AOB

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th December which will be a social.