

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes for Zoom meeting on Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: 9

Apologies: 2

1. Ecotip for April

Will be:

Let's help out the pollinators together.

April and May are ideal months for sowing seeds and planting out, so bear in mind that some plants are much better for supporting pollinating insects and go for those whenever you can. Many plants now have a 'good for pollinators' logo on the label.

*Or look out for High Wycombe's **Bee Squared project** run by Wycombe Environment. You can get free wildflower seeds to plant up a one square metre patch of wild flowers or a pot or two. You can find out where you can get your free seeds here:*

<https://climateactionnow.uk/bee-squares/>

Scroll down and put in your postcode. Collection points will be available from mid April to the end of May.

Plant Pots. Also bear in mind when buying plants that black plastic cannot be recycled easily and some garden centres are moving over to different coloured plastic pots for this reason so go for these if possible and then reuse and recycle them. Of course, if you sow your own seeds you won't need a plastic pot at all! If your supplier is still supplying black plastic pots, you might like to email them and ask why!

2. Finance and Treasurer role

- The treasurer has now completed WE's transfer so all WFoE funds are now solely for WFoE. He will now hand over to the new treasurer.
- The new treasurer will send an email out to members asking for 2023-4 membership fees.

3. Benefits and aspirations of Wycombe FoE membership - anything further?

- Local nature projects - tree planting, River Wye, etc. Active Travel. Raising awareness of local features and important environmental aspects.

4. Pann Mill and Amersham stall update

- A member has made contact with Amersham Town Council about the stall in Amersham on Saturday 10 June. He will post the response when received.
- Pann Mill Display Board. Suggestions: IPCC update? One message, more photos/pictures, practical actions people can take. Children's table? A member will put ideas together for consideration at the next meeting.
- A member will send out a request to the group to man the stall and compile a rota.

5. Bucks County Council Climate and Environment Work - update

The co-ordinator has made contact about this but is waiting for the relevant person to respond as she is out of office currently

6. Climate and Ecology Bill - update

- A member posted information about this soon after the last meeting.
- The idea is that the bill will provide a link between global heating and ecological breakdown. First reading in the Lords in May 2022 and it is awaiting the third reading after which it will go to the Commons.
- The member intended to write to her MP to support the bill.
- **All members** are asked to contact their MPs and ask them to support the bill.

Discussion points:

- With regard to projects like Active Travel, it is better to consult with the local areas at the planning stage rather than telling people what they are intending to do, but Bucks Council is less inclined to do this than other councils.
- The public are often more interested in projects that could save them money.
- Results are often difficult to quantify.
- The co-ordinator - Marlow Transition Town has managed to introduce a school street, ie, closing a street near a school at school starting and leaving times. Residents can be allowed through by number recognition.

7. Ecotip in BFP - update

A member is in contact with the BFP about this and is awaiting a decision from them.

8. AOB

- Demonstration. Chinnor and Thame FoE will send a group to the demonstration on 22nd April outside Houses of Parliament to mark Earth Day. People will march for nature, biodiversity and the planet. This will be a colourful, creative and family-friendly day and an opportunity to join in with Friends of the Earth members and many other groups.
- A member to send an email out to the WFoE group to discover interest in attending.
- Stalls:
 - Marlow Carnival, Saturday 16 Sept in Higginson Park with a green corner.
 - Marlow Bee Festival, Higginson Park, Saturday 15th July.We have been asked if we want to have a stall at either of these events and, after discussion, we are more likely to do the September one. Discuss at the next meeting.
 - Downley Day, 17th June. A member will send an enquiry,
 - Perhaps share a stall with Wycombe Environment Centre?
- Air quality - locations outside schools and one in each Community Board area.

9. The next meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023, 7.30pm.