

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Zoom meeting on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: 7

Apologies: 2

The Coordinator paid tribute to Steve Morton. Wfoe and many environmental groups in Wycombe lost a very active campaigner.

A new member was welcomed to the group.

1. Finance - The account is in credit after paying website fees.

2. Ecotip -

- Cards without glitter can be recycled via Council kerbside collection
- Wrapping - keep what you can for reuse and recycle the rest via Council kerbside collection (glittery paper not suitable for collection)
- Christmas Trees - can be taken to High Heavens tip or, if subscribed you can dispose with your garden waste collection which resumes on 22 January.
- Unwanted Gifts - charity shops (there is one at High Heavens tip)

More info:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63862344

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/12/christmas-waste-recycling/

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-recycling-and-waste-services-christmas/

3. Consultations - Active Travel

The coordinator reported that Buckinghamshire Council has now approved and adopted their Transport Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for High Wycombe. Whilst the draft was driven by words such as “might” and “could”, the final document is driven by “will”. Thus a move in the right direction.

4. Campaigns - Warmer Homes (FoE)

The coordinator obtained 40 signatures for the petition when he attended the Marlow Energy Smart Show in November. The question of data protection was raised in conjunction with the names and addresses on the petition. FoE will be contacted for advice on how we action this. Chinnor and Thame FoE will be contacted to ask how they have actioned their petition.

5. Petitions - None active at present

6. Social media - The footfall on the Facebook page has improved a little and we have a Twitter account but it is not active at present. The FB post with the most views was “MP Watch” posted from the Bucks Climate Action page (which is very active). Greenpeace is active on social media at the beginning of this election year in pushing the message of Vote for Climate. A member felt that this was a key theme to pursue this year.

7. Events - The coordinator reported on the three stall events last year. Pann Mill was the most successful in terms of engagement with visitors. Wycombe Wellbeing Event in June and the Marlow Festival in June were not so successful. It was felt that the stalls were in a bad position. At Marlow, visitors were drawn to stalls with "attractions" ; something that could be considered for our stalls in 2024.

Focus upon 3 projects in 2024 to allow for good planning and a good complement of volunteers was suggested. Idea of using events to push our agenda during this election year. Ideas included a meeting in Wycombe to include local candidates and a presence at Penn Music Festival. Penn Music Festival will be investigated.

Screening of "Kiss The Ground" featuring the importance of soil. The coordinator said that a venue in Amersham has been secured and it will be screened before the end of March. He will represent Wfoe during the Q & A session following the screening and will update.

"Six inches of Soil" a documentary about British Farmers transforming the way they produce food. The documentary makers are trying to obtain funds for distribution. A member will post on FB and will keep an eye on Eventbrite local screenings and events to link to the FB page.

8. Membership fees and updates list - The treasurer reported that membership fees are all up to date.

9. Air Quality - A member will update the group on this issue. Richard noted that there is an air quality monitor at the school in Sands.

10. AOB -

a) Gomms Valley Development - concern over the preservation and care of mature trees was received via the FB page. A member has contacted the Arboriculture team at BCC to question the suggested 15 m "buffer zone". A member suggested contact with John Thaw, Chiltern Rangers, and with The Chiltern Society to gain more information and advice. A member will contact above.

b) Update of the Eco Outlet list on Wfoe website. A member has actioned this.

Next Meeting - Wednesday 7th February at 7.30 pm. Online/hybrid tbc.