

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of Zoom meeting on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: 7

Apologies: 3

1. **Finance** - the group is in credit. 16 paid up members

2. **Ecotip**

*February is the time to think about preparing seed beds and sowing. It is not too early to sow tomatoes, chillies and peppers on your window sill. This will give them a head start. No garden? Consider growing herbs on your windowsill. Herbs are relatively expensive so this will save you more money too. For more info about what to sow when go <https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/your-seed-sowing-year/>*

3. **Consultations**

The next Community Board meeting will be in person Wed 13th March at the committee rooms, Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, HW. It will be a workshop style meeting where ideas for projects for the year ahead will be discussed. Members are encouraged to attend if possible.

4. **Campaigns**

a. Update on data protection for petition signatures.

A member has ascertained from Esther, FOE, that forms signed for Warmer Homes should be passed to her, avoiding a potential data protection issue for WFoE.

b. Action on petitions by Chinnor and Thame FOE

FOE are sending information to persuade the government to steer away from allowing pesticides in the countryside.

c. Warmer Homes (FoE). A member attended a call on this where they concentrated on social media and posting news and opinions. There are three strands to this: 1. insulation to create warm homes, 2. support for those most in need, and 3. move to renewable energy. FOE are trying to get MPs to sign up to pledge to this. A member shared the wording of the pledge with a view to asking Steve Baker to sign for Wycombe but other members living outside Wycombe could ask their MPs also.

d. FOE are pursuing two other campaigns this year - fossil free 2030 (A member will find out more) and the general election 2024. WFoE is likely to join these campaigns. 29th Feb, there is a Question Time at John Hampden Grammar School. There will be a student panel of 6 students from the local area at 6.45pm, followed at 7.30pm by the main panel of politicians and political experts debating very topical issues in this election year. Tickets are £5 per adult and £2 for students.

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/jhgs/book/selection/196752>

5. **Petitions** - 1. Ban pesticides and 2. go plastic free (count your plastic waste) in March.

6. **Social media.**

51 posts, 24 comments and 71 reactions. Most interest was shown in plastics, recycling and refill outlets. Least interest shown in political topics.

Members are invited to post relevant items on the Facebook Page.

7. **Events**

- a. 4-10th March [www.wycombefoe.org.uk/event/food-waste-action-week-2](http://www.wycombefoe.org.uk/event/food-waste-action-week-2)  
A member will find out if Bucks Council is likely to do anything for this.
- b. Pann Mill. A member to let Mary know that we intend to have a stall on 12th May subject to getting enough helpers. Attraction? A member has a relevant jigsaw puzzle. Pann Mill days are also 14th July and 8th September. Ask FOE for election campaign resources. Two members to liaise on organisation.
- c. 'Kiss the Ground' film. Amersham is organising the screening. No more information as yet but a member will monitor this for more information.
- d. Penn Music Festival, July. A member eventually made contact. The organisers are busy at present but will get back to her in due course. A member will monitor.
- e. Screening of 'Six Inches of Soil' - to be screened at the Regal, Henley, Wed 27th March, 8pm-10.30pm. Tickets £10. Also at The Phoenix Picturehouse in Oxford on 4th April, 6pm. The screening will be followed by a discussion panel.
- f. It was decided to do Pann Mill in May, possibly Penn Music Festival in July and possibly Pann Mill in September. Also look out for any dates for Downley Day (no dates or details yet).

8. **Air Quality** - nothing further.

9. **Gomms Valley Development**

A concern was raised on the Facebook Page that the tree canopy planned in this development is not in line with government guidelines. There are mature trees in the area that should be preserved. A member will contact the councillor for the area.

10. **AOB** - no AOB

11. **Next meeting** will be a face to face meeting at the Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, on Wednesday 6th March.