

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7.30pm at The Friends Meeting House, 25, London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

Present: 6

Apologies: 4

1. **Finance** - £780 in account.
2. **Ecotip**

### Food Waste

Food requires a lot of resources to grow and transport. Many of the fruits and vegetables that we have here in the UK are not even grown here and they are imported from other countries. This means that we're consuming fuel in trucks and planes to transport food, but it all goes to waste if we're not actually eating the food. Plus, growing crops requires a lot of resources like energy and water too, which gets wasted along with the food if it's not eaten.

Ways to use leftovers here:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/heart-matters-magazine/nutrition/cooking-skills/ways-to-use-your-leftovers>

Top way to help prevent wasting food: buy food items in the required quantities only - make a menu plan. Other ideas here:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/heart-matters-magazine/news/10-ways-to-cut-your-food-waste>

### 3. **Consultations**

Wycombe Town Council consultation is open until 7th April. Since the unification of Bucks Council, Wycombe hasn't had a council. Wycombe is one of the few towns, and the only one in Bucks, which is not represented directly by a council.

**All members** to consider responding to it.

Consultation can be found here:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/buckinghamshire-council-seeks-residents-views-on-governance-arrangements-for-high-wycombe/>

### 4. **Campaigns**

a. Fossil Fuel 2030 campaign - no update at present.

b. Election campaign.

- Liz posted FoE events on our FB page. The next one is Get Ready for the General Election on Wed 20th March @ 6-7.15 pm.

A member to remind members about the event.

- We also received key events from FoE with suggestions as to how we could get involved :

-[https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/key-dates-campaigning-calendar?utm\\_source&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=](https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/key-dates-campaigning-calendar?utm_source&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=)

and we received a list of events with suggestions as to how we could get involved:

[https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/key-dates-campaigning-calendar?utm\\_source&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=1062843\\_LAG%20%20February%202024%20newsletter&dm\\_i=78W4,MS3F,1CBQZH,2ZN4W,1](https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/key-dates-campaigning-calendar?utm_source&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1062843_LAG%20%20February%202024%20newsletter&dm_i=78W4,MS3F,1CBQZH,2ZN4W,1)

- A member attended an hour of the FoE Parliamentary Constituency Campaigning on 29th Feb. The aim is to provide an Environmental Data platform that examines constituencies in England. Shared data could help voters to make more informed decisions when voting. For example, tactical voters may opt for Labour in order to remove Conservatives but data may show options. One of the presenters from the anti-fascist organisation Hope not Hate had compiled data centred on High Wycombe (i.e. targeting Steve Baker's constituency). Another presenter from the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit has data from CBI which shows how a Green Economy can work in practice. A member has a link for the webinar with time slots for specific speakers, which would give you a good overview.

- The 2nd reading in the Commons of the Climate and Ecology Bill has yet to be announced but this pack and the Open letter to MP may be useful as part of our focus upon Election Year. More info can be found from the Climate & Ecology Bill Campaigner Pack for 2024 General Election

c. Warmer Homes (FoE)

A member will contact Esther and try to obtain a recording of the event on 28th Feb.

**5. Petitions** - none relevant currently.

**6. Social media**

- A member reported: Facebook - 38 posts - 21 comments - 77 reactions

**Most viewed** - Advice re solitary bees (909 views), Weekly Wild Walks (177 views), Repair Cafe (77 views)

**Least viewed** - Climate and Ecology Bill Passage

FoE message about contacting MPs re Warmer Homes (5 views)

**Posts requesting help for Pann Mill and 2 other events** - 32 views but no offers of help. A member will approach other groups directly.

Clearly, there is a wildlife/nature bias and not so much interest in political information. What's the way forward in view of it being an election year? It was decided to try and cover environmental issues only and to consider this when looking into election candidates and encourage members/voters to keep the environment in mind when choosing candidates.

- A member has asked Bucks Climate Alliance how their "engagement stats" pan out. A member will report back on that when they have an answer.

- Look at Vote Climate UK to maximise your vote to save the planet:  
<https://voteclimate.uk/>

## 7. Events

a. 4-10th March - Food Waste Action Week.

[www.wycombefoe.org.uk/event/food-waste-action-week-2](http://www.wycombefoe.org.uk/event/food-waste-action-week-2)

b. 27th March. Screening of 'Six Inches of Soil' - film in Henley, Regal cinema:  
*Greener Henley is pleased to be hosting our next Green Screen event Six Inches of Soil at the Regal Cinema on 27th March @ 8pm.*

c. 12th May - Pann Mill

d. 19-21st July Penn Music Festival

e. 'Kiss the Ground' - no update

## 8. Stalls

a. Pann Mill 12th May - focus? Attraction? Possibly: Have a black and white drawing of a scene - urban or rural? - on A1 card on an easel. Invite members of the public/children to colour in a bee or butterfly pollinator to add to the scene with an eco message on the back. Or colour part of the scene? Heading 'Help the Pollinators' (for example). They can take one to do at home if they want to with the eco message. Can it be made with moving parts to be interactive? A member to investigate further. A member to investigate a solar frog he was given. A member to ask for more volunteers.

b. Downley Festival 15th June is being publicised now and the email for potential stall holders is [downleydaybookings@gmail.com](mailto:downleydaybookings@gmail.com)

c. Penn Festival 19-21 July - no further news. Awaiting a reply. A member reported that they are still being put on the "back burner" and waiting until they get "less busy". Two members have contacted musicians they know but they show little interest in Penn Festival. It was decided to wait until nearer the time to see which one we do but it was thought that we couldn't do both.

d. Pann Mill and Festival of Wycombe are both on 8th September. Festival of Wycombe is promoting Wycombe, sustainability and environment. We will wait until nearer the time to see which one to go for, or whether they will be linked in some way.

## **9. Gomms Valley Development - any update on mature trees?**

A member messaged the relevant councillors (Nabeela Rana, Matt Knight, Andrea Baughan). There is an appeal next week which the public can attend. A member has informed the person in our FB group who has expressed concern and will keep her updated on the process of the appeal. Further details are outlined on the Planning Portal with this link:

<https://publicaccess.wycombe.gov.uk/idoxpa-web/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RCOXM6SC05J00>

## **10. AOB**

a. Food Waste Action Week in March - A member had some exchanges with Rob Whitehouse, Waste Reduction Projects Coordinator. There will be a webinar for Food Waste Action Week in March - details to follow. A member also has the link for the "Intro to Composting" webinar that Garden Organics ran on 22 Feb. They gave the link to a member of Risborough Climate Action through our FB page.

Rob Whitehouse from Garden Organics re Wastebusters also wrote:

If anyone from Friends of the Earth in Wycombe would be interested in partnering with the campaign to reduce household waste or would be interested in being a volunteer where you can then have access to all our engagement leaflets, if you can get in touch with my colleague Viv at [vstein@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:vstein@gardenorganic.org.uk).

b. Tues 19th March Foraging Walk, 11am-1pm. Harry at Wycombe Wanderers Foundation, Charmaine and Tyler at Khepera supported by High Wycombe Community Board will take you on a foraging walk around The Rye. Meet at the car park by the Lido on The Rye.

c. Saturday 27th April, 11am-3pm is Grow Together community allotment open day. The entrance to the allotment is at the junction of Sierra Road and Genoa Way. HP11 1GX. Nearest car parking is at the Retail park five mins walk from the allotment.

**11. Next meeting** will be a zoom meeting on Wednesday 3rd April.