

Wycombe Friends of the Earth -Minutes

Monthly Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: 8

Apologies: 2

1. Finance: As there was no access to the Co-op Bank, we have no update on bank balance today. We know of one new membership during the month.. Balance is about £950. It was suggested that we send out a new reminder to ask for membership, as income on membership is so far lower than last year.

2. Ecotip: Use the High Wycombe Refresh Store In the Chilterns Shopping Centre in High Wycombe.

3. Social media: Prior to meeting, a member had circulated, via WhatsApp, graphs of the statistics on Facebook posts. There was some discussion on these results. How many comments do local posts attract versus global? September looked fairly even but in general it was felt that local posts gain more interest. The Ecosia search engine post got the most views. We are not sure how Ecosia creates green energy, which is its claim, though it does plant trees according to views. The least viewed were the Climate and Nature Bill and Gomm Valley Development. Perhaps we should concentrate on more local information to post. The social media member is doing a very good job and makes an effort to thank anyone posting for the first time. See also extra notes below on September posts.

4. Events Review

- Pann Mill review: on finance we seem to have made a loss of £6.50. £3.50 worth of plants were recorded as sold. Stall costs were £10. Footfall was as previous years. We handed out Eco-tips sheets and Refresh Store flyers. Heavy rain brought the day to a slightly early close.

- Wycombe Celebrates review: a member, attending the event for his allotment group, found it better than other town events. Sunday is perhaps a good day as people are not distracted by the need to shop. He reminded us that some sort of activity is good to attract people in.

5. Upcoming Events

10th October - People Planet & Pint Sustainability Meet Up. Meet local environmentally concerned people at The Mad Squirrel at 7.30 pm.

12th October - Friends of the Earth Climate and Nature Day of Action

19th October, Risborough Community Centre (Wades Centre): Future Proof Home and Businesses Fair, sponsored by NW Chilterns Community Board and supported by Climate Action Now Risborough. Stalls and workshops. Free to attend. There will be a local Climate group room and we were invited to join them. 9am - 3pm. A member to put on facebook page and a member to send out on Google Groups.

22nd October: There is an **afternoon** meeting for feedback for Wycombe Celebrates. A member has details if anyone wishes to join.

22nd October, 7 pm - 8.30 pm at The Patch (Old Library): Environment and Climate Change task and finish group meeting. Focus is on how to deliver the combined education and awareness programme This would seem to be a follow on from suggestions made at 24th July meeting of the Community Board.

29th October - Bucks CC Community Action Day in High Wycombe as part of the market. Various advice available around recycling and energy efficiency. Council organised.

30th October - FoE webinar follow up on how the Day of Action went on 12th October - ie. meeting with Emma Reynolds

6th December: WFoE Xmas social. Still have November to discuss. Perhaps best to hold as a social rather than a business meeting, with snacks and beverages. Bring and share. Need to coordinate a little.

23rd December: We note that this is the anniversary of Steve Morton's death. Do we wish to do something in memory? Any ideas? As the 23rd is 2 days before Christmas, it was suggested we wait until the New Year, but also contact WEC to see if there is any enthusiasm with other groups as they organised the walk a year ago. A member offered to contact WEC.

1st Jan 2025 is a Wednesday, which means we will probably wish to meet on the 2nd Wednesday.

6. Meeting with Emma Reynolds - 12 October - support for Climate Action. Three members have been offered a meeting for Friday 13th December. The Meeting House is only available after 3 pm so they may have to look for an alternative. We agreed that WFoE would cover any charge which may be necessary for a meeting room. The meeting would follow national FoE's suggested agenda of a new climate action plan, heat leaking homes. Air and water pollution. Some others are interested in joining. Plan to meet again and rethink questions. Emma is not yet supporting Climate Action and Nature Bill.

It was suggested that the discussion presentation could be used as a webinar next year. Perhaps present at one of our meetings and possibly take further afield if deemed appropriate.

Two members are interested in holding a meeting with the Beaconsfield MP, but so far no response to their enquiry.

7. Windy Way Project - The relevant member not present so no update yet. We are waiting for a little more info before we endorse it. A member to give him a nudge.

8. Gomms Valley Development: The current plans were rejected, The Hands Off Gomm Valley group are concened that with some minor adjustments the development may still take place.

9. Mycelium Map: A member signed up and put us on the map. Expected to link up with other groups. We rather quickly went through the list on the WFoE website and identified which groups we felt we should link up with. Thanks to a member for keeping record.

Did someone keep a record?

Bucks Climate Action Alliance

Chinnor and Thame Friends of the Earth

Climate Action Now Risborough

Climate and Environment High Wycombe (a Next Door Neighbourhood Group)

Community and Climate Cafe

Grow Together CIC

Hazlemere Climate Action

Repair Cafe

Hughenden Valley Climate Group

Marlow Energy Group

Revive The Wye

Sustainable Amersham

Transition Town Marlow

Wycombe Environment Centre

Wycombe MP Watch

Wycombe Environment

10. AOB:

WEP project.bulb planting on 5th and 12th October. See circulated leaflet.

11. Next meeting: 6th November on Zoom.

Facebook Statistics

Most viewed - September Eco Tip (Ecosia web search engine)

Least viewed - Climate and Nature Bill and Gomm Valley Development

Ratio of 1:1 local versus global posts

Local = Energy -Marlow Energy, Bucks CC Energy Upgrades; Bucks New Uni Renewables talk; refresh; Bucks Active Travel; Gomm Valley; Community and Climate Cafe ; West Wycombe Waste Awareness Day; Lindengate charity; Six Inches of Soil Screening in Chinnor.

Wycombe Food Hub - posted 13 times. A member met with marketing rep for WFH and agreed that posts on our page will be once a month and on eco/sustainability subjects.

Our Group - Pann Mill

Global - Zero Hour and the CAN Bill; Fairtrade, Travel - Cycling vs car travel and Flight Free Travel; Ecosia Web browser; Our Earth Week; Ethical Supermarket (Co-Op); Digital Climate 2030 Check; UK Leaky Homes