

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Zoom meeting on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: 8

Apologies: 3

Names in **bold** indicate action by those persons.

1. **Finance**

The account is in the black. One more membership fee has been received.

2. **Ecotip**

Use the High Wycombe Repair Cafe.

Don't throw it away. Take it along to the High Wycombe Repair Cafe and find out if it can be repaired. Clothes, books, clocks, watches, ceramics, household appliances, portable garden equipment.

Free but donations welcome. 10am-1pm.

*Next High Wycombe Repair Cafe is on **9th November** in All Saints Parish Church in the centre of High Wycombe. Future dates (not open in December):*

11th January 2025

8th February 2025

8th March 2025

Flackwell Heath RC, Community centre, 1st Sat in the month 10am-12 noon.

Hazlemere RC, Hazlemere Community Centre, 4th Sat in the month 10am-12 noon

See Wfoe website for more venues and dates www.wycombefoe.org.uk

3. **Social media**

- 18 posts 6 comments 39 reactions.
- More local events viewed than global.
- Refresh Store had the most views - 792; least viewed - CAN bill - 20.

4. **Discuss no. of emails on WfoE group**

Members should try and use the group only when they are addressing the group rather than one individual. Just be careful when you hit 'reply' intending it to go to an individual and see where it's likely to go. **All members** to be aware.

5 **CAN Bill.**

- 5 members will man a stall to raise awareness of the CAN Bill and encouraging constituents to contact their MP.
- Stall will be in High Wycombe outside Tesco on **16th November and/or 14th Dec.**
- Zero hour zoom call was 5th Nov. and there will be another one on 4th Dec.
- **The 5 members** will liaise about manning the stall. **Anyone else** willing to join them, please contact one of them.

6. **Meeting with Emma Reynolds re CAN Bill**

- Friday 17th January. A room is booked in the library in High Wycombe (£30) for a meeting with Emma Reynolds, 2-3pm
- 4 members to attend. Anyone else, particularly constituents, who want to join for this meeting, please get in contact.

7. **Events coming up**

- **Energy Efficiency Homes Fair, Sun 10th November**, 3pm, Haddenham Village Hall
- **"Common Ground" Film Screening, Henley Regal cinema, Mon 11th November**, Regenerative Farming with Q & A
<https://www.picturehouses.com/movie-details/011/HO00015374/green-screen-common-ground-recorded-q-a>
- **Our Earth Week - 11 - 17 November** - community radios to come together to celebrate nature and talk about the climate crisis.
<https://thecommunityradioenvironmentnetwork.com>
- **Can Bill** - CAN Bill Constituency Week 12-19th Nov
See Item 5 above for Can Bill stall on **16th November and/or 14th December.**
- **Green energy fair, 23rd November**, St Michael's Church Amersham 1300- 1600
- **Zoom event by Zero Hour, Wed 4th December** - re pushing MPs to support the CAN BILL
- **WFOE Christmas Social, 4th December** - an in person meeting at the Friends Meeting House. A member to book the back room and the kitchen. Attending members to bring a small amount of Christmas eco food or drink to share. It will be a social, not a business meeting but we will be discussing the Steve Morton Walk (see item below) and a film screening.
- **Thame & Chinnor FoE Green Christmas Fayre, 16th December**, Thame town hall.
- **Steve Morton remembrance day - December 23rd.**
Perhaps do another walk in the new year, possibly January. Discuss again at the December meeting. In the meantime, Liz will float the idea to other groups.
- A member to put above events on the website.

8. **Windy Way Project**

- WFoE does support the project 'in principle'.

Questions:

1. Who will the shareholders be and how will the profits to shareholders benefit local activities and cohesion? WFoE needs clarification of this sentence in the leaflet: *The group will distribute profits to the community and shareholders for local benefit, activities and cohesion.*

2. Are WW asking for a WFoE rep to help set up the steering group or be on the steering group. Ask for clarification..

- There were no actual volunteers for the steering group.
- A member will put this out to the WFoE google group for anyone who might be interested in getting involved.
- A member will contact WWP for clarification to the above questions.
- WFoE will get back to WWP subject to the clarification and feedback from the membership before going further.

9. **Gomm Valley Development**

Gomm Valley Group:

"Taylor Wimpey lost the appeal for a reason that they can overcome so they are working to overcome it." We will have to see if we can argue against whatever is proposed as a solution. For Gomm Valley to be saved it would ultimately need removing from the current local plan, which is unlikely, as this would possibly open the council up to more legal challenges. Also been advised that a new local plan for Bucks will be needed in the next few years and that will now need to find more land within Bucks unitary area that "far exceeds the amount of land currently allocated in the existing local plans."

10. **Mycelium Map - any update**

- A member will follow this up.
- After discussion, it was decided to add Chiltern Rangers and The Chiltern Society to our list of connecting organisations.
- There is the facility to add events onto it, eg at the WFoE Tesco stall.
- A member will send the list to the meeting attendees to look at.

11. **WEP/WEC activities**

Bulb planting 9th November,

Next Repair Cafe 9th November,

Refresh Store open, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:00 - 16:00,

Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 - 16:00, Sundays 12:00 - 16:00. Closed on Mondays.

12 AOB

- FOE sent an invitation to an **anti racist training programme** on 30th November in London.
- Liz attended the **Green Fayre in Princes Risborough**. Had 3 plastic tubes and a bag of tennis balls, each tube labelled according to your carbon footprint. Had to answer a question about a specific activity and then throw your ball into the corresponding tube. An idea for WFoE stalls?
- Can rent the **film '6 inches of soil'** for £7.99 for 3 days,
- New documentary - '**Common Ground**' about regenerative farming. A member to send details (post meeting - see item 7 above).
- BNU and school students might be willing to get involved in **WFoE screening a film** if they're studying media studies. A member to ask BNU if interested. Other possible sites - John Hampden School, Wycombe Arts Centre. A member will enquire about Wycombe Arts Centre.

13. **The next meeting** will be a social on Wednesday 4th December at the Friends Meeting House, 25, London Road, High Wycombe. More details in item 7 above.

Post-meeting news for interest, from Liz:

"Greener Frieth - Children at the Primary School wrote to Coca Cola to highlight the issues with plastic as well as They've done it again! We still can't quite believe it but the Vice President of Coca-Cola European Partners replied to our letter (snail mail worked where repeated emails, phone didn't). Result?. The children's Coca Cola 8 page presentation explaining why plastic is such a catastrophic problem , and asking Coca-Cola to make a video about not dropping litter and to stop making plastic bottles by the time they grow up, was delivered in person to their headquarters. This week's Henley Standard did a follow up feature. Fingers crossed it will inspire Coca-Cola as much as the children of Frieth primary school have inspired us".