

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of Zoom meeting on Wednesday 5th February 25 at 7.30pm

**Present:** 11

**Apologies:** 1

1. **Finance.** Balance of £920.

2. **Ecotip** will be

### **Spring seed sowing.**

Spring is in sight, so get sowing. Feb is a good time to sow some hardy veg in your greenhouse, or window sill, e.g. leeks or lettuce. See gardening tips from RHS <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/february>

3. **Social media.**

57 posts by members

22 comments by members

101 reactions by members and 2 by visitors

Most viewed - Steve Morton Memorial Walk and Meeting with Emma Reynolds

Least viewed - MP Watch: What's next for the Water Sector?

Also:

19 paid up members and 14 following the FB page

12 visitors have posted in the last year

On Average 67% female and 33% male

Highest demographic = 45-54

Top Towns - Wycombe and Marlow

- 2 members have had discussions about how to improve the Facebook page.
- To use social media effectively, we need to engage the public or take an educational stance by quoting references to reports so people can check it.
- Air Quality is a national issue but also has local concerns for residents in High Wycombe because of the valley. However, the council has not repaired air quality meters in HW.
- It would help for members to post a verified report about climate change.
- 2 members will work together to formulate a social media policy to increase the views and members. They will report back at the next meeting.
- If people enquire and seem enthusiastic about joining WFoE, it is difficult at present to tell them exactly what WFoE is doing for them to join in and help.

#### 4. Events coming up

- Pann Mill Sunday 11th May.
- Wednesday 5th March. Bean Beanland on Heat Pumps, 6.30pm-9.30pm at the One Climate Centre OX39 4BW
- Sat, 15th February 10am-1pm, Climate Action Now, Risborough is hosting a climate cafe, cakes, stalls at St Mary's church Hall, HP27 9AF. See Facebook - Climate Action Now Risborough.

There was discussion about holding our own events. Summary:

- A small group of WFoE members could take on an event, e.g. the Lord Deben event through MP watch didn't take much organisation but had about 100 attendees.
  - Perhaps for an hour beforehand, invite other groups to come and have stalls to advertise themselves and create interest.
  - A member agreed to sketch out a plan with strands that members could help with.
  - A member contacted the person who was organising the Energy Show but he found it too much of a struggle for various reasons. However, it was mainly businesses he was targeting.
  - Members to think of a few ideas before the next meeting which will be an in-person meeting, and a small group could decide on a short list.
  - Ideas from members during the meeting:
    - A protest or a march
    - Getting a speaker, perhaps with stalls
    - A member to identify some speakers from Oxford uni.
    - Use Wycombe Sound and writing to BFP
    - Air quality - protest outside County Hall before an air quality event.
    - Highlighting water quality
    - Housing - insulation
- A member will consolidate the list and put it on email.

**5. Pann Mill** - 11th May. A member to make up a poster and book a stall and set up the rota nearer the time.

**6. Meeting with Emma Reynolds, MP** - feedback and next steps.

- It was a successful meeting, beginning with a power point presentation of some of the problems.
- WFoE indicated they were keen to find ways of supporting Emma in climate related topics and various climate issues were discussed.
- She asked about what other countries are doing to combat climate change (which we agreed to research).

- Fuel poverty is high in HW. Emma would like more information on local fuel poverty and leaking homes. New builds should be higher spec. and more insulated - change planning?
- Agreed to have another meeting with her subject to her availability.

**7. Attracting potential WFoE members from other backgrounds.** Perhaps tap into churches and mosques who are environmentally friendly as they have good venues and potential audiences.

**8. Film screening/other ideas for events?** See above, item 4 Events.

- Film screening There is a new vice chancellor at Bucks New Uni. The One Climate Centre is willing to host but that is not in Wycombe.
- Does the film highlight the problems enough?

**9. Do we want to apply for Asda Funding for improving an outside space?** WEC passed it on to WFoE.

- A member will ask if there is a deadline. Applications the sooner the better probably.
- Members to think about any outdoor space that could attract this funding.

**10. Windy Way Project** - any more updates? Damon?

- WFoE agrees to support in general.
- The project needs to find a way to connect to the national grid which is run down.
- Bucks Council - a proposed project to build a battery facility near Penn? This would use up the only local connection to the grid which is a problem for the Windy Way Project. Work still to be done. A member will supply more details.

**11, WEP/WEC activities**

- Saturday 8th February Repair Cafe, High Wycombe Parish Church 10am-1pm.
- Saturday 1st March - Basic Sewing Workshop with a Sewing Machine. 10am-1pm at the Refresh Store in the Chilterns Shopping Centre, HW.

**12. AOB**

- Mycelium Map (get us connected to about 20 other organisations). A member has had a reply to say that basically we are not yet connected.

**13. The next meeting** will be an in-person meeting on Wednesday 5th March at The Friends Meeting House and will be mainly a discussion about ideas for future events.