

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Virtual Meeting: 09 Sept 2020 on Zoom [19:30 – 21:40]

Chaired by Fergus and Noel

Notes taken by Judi

Minutes

Present: Ben Jackson (Trustee), Chris White, Eleanor Lines, Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Gracie Fickling, John Turton, Judi Marshall, Kimberly Monahan, Maggie Marriott, Mary Dignan, Michael Bailey, Noel Sharp, Rosemary Bailey (Trustee)

Apologies: Adrian Hill, John Andrews, John Latter, Nikki Ind

1. Litter pick feedback

All

Gracie: It was a 2-week campaign to do litter picks in families. It wasn't a massive event, but quite a few people and families participated.

Advertising was via social media posts, posters round town and email to all. Given the timing it was not possible to use Clubs and Schools to help publicise.

People put comments and pictures on Living in Tetbury Facebook. 6 entries to the Picture Competition and a winner picked. The prize was a token from the Yellow-Lighted Bookshop.

Some people do litter picking weekly.

Kimberley: Did it and loved it. Many parents did not know about it. Understandable as there is lots going on. Some people were concerned about touching litter. To do anything was a success. It was a good base to build from. Thanks to Mary for helping to organise.

Fergus: With Mary did Malmesbury Road near Tetbury Hospital. Sadly, found a lot to pick up. People were interested in what they were doing.

Nikki Ind did it and Tetbury Town Council (TTC) put her picture on Facebook.

A reminder that **Litter picking kit**, including High Vis waistcoats, is available from the Town Council. Big items can be discarded at the back of the Council Offices. People would need to inform the Council if they are leaving large items there.

Next time:

Could advertise earlier and wider.

Try to have bigger groups going out.

Could do every month.

Could do at Half Term. 26th – 30th October.

2. Green Homes Grant scheme

Fergus

Fergus: Government Grant Scheme is quite generous in what it is offering. Wondered if it would be possible to help some low-income families in Tetbury apply for grants, perhaps through affiliation with GT. Charity *Warm and Well* has a list of low-income households, as a possible connection.

The Scheme operates in 2 phases, so people prioritise how to improve their homes. Undertaking Phase 1 work (eg roof insulation), opens possibilities to apply for Phase 2 (eg ground source, heat pumps).

Grants are maximum £5,000 – or £10,000. Mostly, Grants only pay two thirds of the cost. Low income applicants can claim 100% Grants up to £10,000.

From discussion across the group:

It is important to publicise the Scheme speedily as timing is tight. The Scheme starts at the end of September. Works and payment need to be complete by April 2021.

Vouchers can only be obtained, and work undertaken, if competitive quotations have been obtained in advance. Need appropriate technical advice.

Quotations need to be from approved suppliers. Expectation is that these will be in high demand.

Low-income applicants would need to be homeowners to be eligible.

Social landlords are eligible. Would be good if they stood up for their responsibility. Eg draft proofing windows and letter boxes.

Some non-approved suppliers are already knocking on doors. Need to be careful.

Citizens Advice give energy advice. Could they be involved?

Promote to everyone, not focusing on low income families. Wealthy have important contribution to make and should lead the way.

Important to note that there are **qualifications to the potential benefits**: Some via Sunday Times article (6th Sept 2020 - Rosemary) and an article in Which magazine (Fergus).

For example: Installing insulation can introduce damp. Scheme cannot be used to replace poor double glazing, or address wall insulation. Ground source heating has to be combined with underfloor heating.

People are vulnerable to opportunistic builders and scams.

Suggested actions: Needs more agreement on who will do what

Publicise through: Tetbury Advertiser, Facebook, posters, GT website (already on)

[Not leafletting, as not sustainable.]

Ask Kevin Painter to mention it in his column in the Wilts & Glos Standard (**Mary** – already in touch with Kevin)

Raise with TTC, inc Steven Hirst and Kevin Painter. Will CDC be pushing this as part of climate emergency action? **Ben and John** to raise at TTC Climate meeting Thurs 10th Sept.

Refer people to the Government website on Green Home Grants as core source of info

<https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant>

Point people to the Govt's simple energy advice service website.

<https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk>

Fergus could consider speaking about it on Radio Gloucestershire (Rosemary suggested)

Contact Bromford to see if they can be persuaded to work on some of their 1950s housing stock –

Rosemary.

Can members of GT as a Charity help possible applicants? Eg help people reach certified installers.

Kimberley is willing to help someone do an application.

Speak to approved local suppliers - see what they know and build relationships with them (Gracie suggested)

Encourage local builders to become accredited?

[Greenshop in Bisley and Ecovision in Doughton both do heat pumps. Both reputable suppliers. (Ben)]

If people do receive Grants, can they be encouraged to track any energy saving benefits/ other outcomes as case studies?

3. www.giveasyoulive.com

Fergus

Giveasyoulive is a way to raise money for the charity. Fergus has registered GT. [Has not gone into possible Card that one can use alongside. See how it works first.] People thanked him for doing so.

Action:

Fergus to email GT list and ask people to register and nominate GT to generate money monthly. Email sent Fri 11th Sept.

GiftAid will increase donations by 25%.

Maggie will put link on GT website

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/donation-reminder-homepage>

4. Membership: voting and fees

Fergus

Fergus: It is time we clarified about membership. The Charity Commission expect us to have a membership and to register members. Would add to credibility if trying to influence local businesses, for example. Membership entitles people to vote at meetings. It can generate income from an annual subscription. [Noel: Email list is currently 60 people]

From discussion, arrived at the following agreements, and Proposed actions:

Membership can be free, but people can make a voluntary subscription. £5 will be suggested.

Form will also clarify that people can make a larger donation, and can tick Gift Aid box if appropriate.

(Gracie could help with wording.)

People will be invited to email GT and request a Membership form. Fergus will reply and send form, with its suggestions re donation, making it clear that this is completely voluntary.

He will also send bank account details in a non-editable pdf. (Gracie willing to advise on this.)

Bank transfers preferred as cheques incur bank charges.

Have an annual membership renewal date – to simplify things (Maggie)

Further discussion:

Might it be possible to have a business in town that would collect fees in cash and membership forms? For those who are not adept with online banking. (Judi asked.)

Is there a Members Charter that people need to sign up to? (Kimberley). It does not say this in the Constitution. Could say that should uphold the principles of GT.

Could there/ should there be a GT badge? How to have one that is low impact environmentally? Wood? Recycled plastic bottle caps? Not resolved.

Noel note on Chat: What the constitution says about Membership

"Any individual working or living in the area of benefit interested in furthering the aims and objectives of Greening Tetbury may become a member by applying to join the mailing list. The managers of the mailing list will send confirmation of membership to the new member. Any member will be able to send messages through Greening Tetbury's mailing list to promote activities furthering the aims of the organisation."

Action:

Fergus to email GT list and ask people to consider becoming members. Email sent Fri 11th Sept.

5. HMRC and Gift Aid

Fergus

HMRC has now accepted GT for Gift Aid purposes.

Data needs to be kept in an Excel spreadsheet, showing donor affirmations that they are tax payers. Data then copied into HMRC format when required. (Gracie will share format.)

6. School uniform repair scheme.

Fergus

Fergus had read about a Leeds example in which someone is collecting, cleaning and repairing outgrown school uniforms to help them be re-used. He wondered if something similar is happening/ could happen in Tetbury.

St Marys School does occasional sales. Kimberley volunteered to investigate.

Action:

Kimberley to contact St Marys School and see if they would welcome any support on this.
Email: Thurs 10th Sept. St Marys already has an extensive scheme thru which outgrown school uniform is donated and re-used. No additional input required at this time.

7. Update on Tip of the Month

Rosemary

September was Foraging for free – with Woodland Trust website pictures and advice. Elaine posted it, designed a logo. It did not go on the Mayor's Page as intended, but it is hoped future Tips will. Is on Facebook page.

Suggestions for October [copy due by 16 Sept]:

- A. Check that running at recommended tyre pressures for environmental benefits – less fuel, less tyre wear and less pollution (from John A.)
- B. Environmentally considerate IT use:
 - Not pressing Reply All
 - Unsubscribing from email lists rather than repeatedly deleting items received
 - Not creating or emailing round large files.

There was some discussion of how significant the environmental impacts of IT are. Including: coal fired mega servers burn more fuel (Rosemary); server farms are around the world, IT has multiple effects which are more polluting than all aircraft (Maggie); More or Less on Radio 4 said emails have a minuscule impact (Noel). Individually miniscule. Collectively huge. (Ben); it's data storage, not just sending (Maggie).

It was suggested that solid data is needed to back up suggestions. Rosemary said that John Andrews can provide this.

Data Centres Energy Use (from Maggie)

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3431148/why-data-centres-are-the-new-frontier-in-the-fight-against-climate-change.html>

This article says re data centre energy use: "In 2016, it was reported that the world's data centres used more than Britain's total electricity consumption - 416.2 terawatt hours, significantly higher than the UK's 300 terawatt hours. At three percent of the global electricity supply and accounting for about two percent of total greenhouse gas emissions, data centres have the same carbon footprint as the aviation industry."

- C. Switching banks and/ or electricity and gas accounts. (Kimberley). Annual Switching date coming up in Nov.

Info on changing Banks <https://www.campaigncc.org/timetoswitch>

RB – some things might be controversial – such as energy switching

Mary - If people are concerned about changing supplier, people who can help – NAMED – BUT I DID NOT CATCH IT

8. Intersectional environmentalism

<https://www.intersectionalenvironmentalist.com/about-ie>

Postponed until next meeting as Ceridwen would like to be present to answer questions.

9. Help with website

Maggie

Maggie is the only person who keeps the website updated and does take some time off, so would like to share this role.

Volunteers: Gracie, Kimberley (on Mondays – if instructed how)

Maggie will make them both administrators on the site.

10. Any other business

10a. Account

There is some money in the GT Account to pay for smaller items. (Fergus. He has donated some money.)

Would prefer agreed channels for fund-raising rather than individuals making donations. (Chris)

Could send out note with these Minutes to help people know what the costs are. (Noel)

Maggie to send invoice for Website membership to Fergus for payment/ reclaim.

10b. Has there been any contact with Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (GC-B; MP for the Cotswolds) since the Virtual meeting on the 30/06/2020?

No.

Fergus phoned GC-B's secretary. As far as he knows there has not been another meeting. He has been promised he will be informed when one is planned.

No-one present had received a response to emails sent to GC-B as preparation for the June meeting (including Ben's resending of his February 2020 email).

Ben volunteered to collate previous emails and send them on to G C-B requesting replies.

Action – All

Send previous emails to **Ben** for forwarding to G C-B.

10c. Walking bus for St Marys

Ben is working on this and requested help with Excel. Kimberley offered help.

10d. Liaising with Tetbury Town Council and CDC

John and Ben to attend Climate Change Vision and Strategy meeting with TTC Thurs 10th Sept.

John read from a Briefing Document in which GT is mentioned, along with Gloucestershire County Council and CDC, as connecting organizations. Document includes intentions such as going carbon neutral by 2030.

There was concern that this seems ambitious, and it is unclear how it could be measured or achieved.

Need baselines and to define terms to be able to measure targets (Rosemary).

However ambitious it might be, is this valuable as something to hold TTC to? (Noel)

This statement is a legacy of an early drafting by Nikki Ind. (Ben)

John asked what issues would GT like raised at the TTC meeting?

- What actions are being developed from recent transport surveys? Eg re cycling. (Maggie)
- What will TTC do in their own practice to show commitment to addressing climate change? (Rosemary)
- How will auditing and target-setting be undertaken? (John)

Proposed action:

Link from CDC Climate Change website to go into Minutes and on GT website:

Cotswold District Council proposes low carbon leadership

https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/cdc-cabinet-proposes-low-carbon-leadership-role-for-cotswolds?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn

10e. Plastics

Mary is despondent about current situation re plastics, especially exacerbated by actions in response to Covid19. Does not want to continue as community lead for Tetbury. Mary would be happy for someone else to take the lead on this. She will continue to support others in the reduction in use of single-use plastics in Tetbury.

Perhaps Tetbury Town Council thought that Mary was advocating Tetbury being totally plastic free – and thus were hesitant to engage?

Mary has written to TTC for their next meeting. It would be good to have Council on side to help persuade businesses

TTC do not have a formal mechanism for communicating with businesses.

More chance of getting businesses on board than of getting TTC. There are a few supporters but when they return to the Council other members speak against it. (Ben)

Can ask TTC for a public declaration of support for GT and reduction of plastics. (John)

Ben and John to follow up at TTC meeting Thurs 10th Sept.

Tetbury Chamber of commerce is operating again. Kevin Painter is in charge of it. (Ben)

Is it worth fielding some green councillors in the next election? There will be two vacancies. (Kimberley)
Great idea (Maggie)

INFORMATION: Tesco Tetbury have now resumed plastic film recycling. It seems to go into the big metal cage that was previously only plastic bags.

10f. Survey results from reviewing GT during lockdown

Maggie: Judi has volunteered to do this with her. Would anyone else like to join in?

Noel, Ben and Mary volunteered. Could have a zoom meeting – **Maggie** to organize.

Could present outcomes at next meeting.

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday 15th October 2020 7.30pm via Zoom

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