

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Virtual Meeting: Mon 30th November 2020 on Zoom [19:30 –21:15]
Minutes prepared by Judi

Chaired by Fergus

AGENDA

Present: Charlotte Rushton, Chris White, Eleanor Lines, Emanuelle Paulson, Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Jill Peacey, John Turton, Judi Marshall, Kimberley Monahan, Lee Evans, Lily Paulson, Maggie Marriott, Mary Dignan, Nikki Ind, Rosemary Bailey (Trustee)

Apologies: Chris Crookall-Fallon, Gracie Fickling, John Latter, Noel Sharp

1. Minutes of 9th November 2020 meeting – Approved

Proposed: Christopher; Seconded: Kimberley

2. Wild campus/hedgehog-friendly campus (info/discussion) Kim

Kimberley wondered if she could take learning from projects she is involved with at Cirencester College to contribute to developments at St Mary's School, and potentially Sir William Romney's.

The projects are:

A Wild Campus project, based on European Structural Funding.

Joining up fractured habitats around the College's three campuses for bats and local animals including hedgehogs, via tree planting, bat boxes, bat-friendly lighting and more. A project organiser has been funded.

An Environment Club.

Also Kimberley's husband teaches people how to plant trees and would be very glad to be involved. As lecturers, Kimberley and her husband are CRB checked.

Kimberley has already contacted Mrs Pike at St Mary's School re tree planting. At the moment St Mary's is saying 'no' to activities to limit Covid risks.

Current campaigns to align with (as featured on Countryfile) – via Rosemary:

Lobbying to re-instate hedgerows. Hedge-laying is good for local rural skills too.

Plant Britain – a tree for every primary school starter, 2-year project. Log the plantings on a website.

Could also be done for every secondary school starter.

Rosemary is a Governor at St Mary's Primary School, and happy to be involved in promoting developments. She notes Sir William Romney's has extensive playing fields.

Schools get funding for sports areas they leave available. So cannot plant over it all. (Kimberley).

Discussion about joining up local projects. Nikki – the Wild Town project is continuing. Owl hotels and bat boxes in Preston Park. There have been previous tree planting phases. Wildflower planting plans are in place for 4 sites in Spring. (Will ask families to participate.)

Nikki wondered if there is a way to link up with local farmers' organizations given recent announcements about farming subsidies becoming linked to re-wilding. This might encourage hedge laying.

Glos Wildlife Fund as another potential contact.

Hedgehogs are a good initial link into wider environmental protection. Hugh Warwick talk re hedgehogs and big map.

Mary: they will only put hedgehogs back where they were found.

Hedgehog links from Lee:

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-our-hedgehog-street-campaign/who-are-the-hedgehog-champions/>

<https://bighedgehogmap.org/>

Maggie – St Mary's pre-school (not directly linked into the school) do various Forest School activities, including visiting her garden, Preston Park and Ilsom Care Home grounds.

Maggie has lots of saplings.

Kimberley: It would be good to have a map and see how to link up areas of development.

Nikki: John Latter & Will Cook know re local trees. TTC groundsmen have a map of grass etc.

ACTION: Liaise and plan action.

Kimberley and **Rosemary** to follow up contacts with St Mary's, especially re planting a tree for every reception child.

Kimberley and **Nikki** to explore how to get a Tetbury-wide view. Nikki will find out what is available as a base for mapping.

3. Heating project (info/discussion) Rosemary

Rosemary is a Governor at St Mary's Primary School. They might soon be exploring what to do with their boiler and central heating scheme. Rosemary suggested this an opportunity to do something other than replace with another gas boiler, in terms of future-proofing the School. It could be an opportunity for GT to do the first stages of thinking about an energy project. Has already talked to Fergus and Christopher, who are keen to be involved. Could a group meet and come up with the start of a plan?

There was general agreement that this is an idea to explore, and could develop transferable learning.

It is assumed that the School would have to apply for a capital project grant. The Diocese would be involved as it is a church School. It will be interesting to learn about their climate approach.

Could look for synergies with other local initiatives.

Discussion about how to contact Ecovision. Chris had tried, as an individual and a GT member, but not yet been successful. Eleanor is in contact with them. Recommended phoning followed by email. She offered to help people make contact.

Nikki noted Severn Wye as a potential resource. They support businesses, charities and others to achieve innovative energy solutions.

www.severnwye.org.uk

ACTION: Rosemary to send out an invitation and convene a meeting of interested people to explore how to take these ideas forward.

4. Earth Protector Communities Campaign update (info) Charlotte

Fergus apologised about the lateness of the poster going onto GT Facebook.

Charlotte reported that she has 22 names of supporters for Tetbury becoming an Earth Protector Town.

Charlotte will place the poster on her FB page. Will approach TTC in the New Year.

Charlotte had contacted George in Stroud about their Earth Protector action, and how Tetbury might learn from this. In Stroud there was already a lot of goodwill in the community inspired by Polly Higgins. This is not so much the case in Tetbury at the moment, but Charlotte hopes activities can stimulate that. Potential activities for the future (as currently limited by social distancing): a stall at the Market, involvement of schools and local businesses. Stroud experience showed it is good to engage directly with the public, to raise awareness and encourage community involvement.

Mary: Pre Covid we were planning to have GT stand at the weekly Market and at other events. Will be good to do in future.

Fergus and Ben had met via video-conferencing with Jojo Mehta, the co-founder of the Earth Protector Campaign on the 10th November. The Campaign have seven lawyers working on a definition of ecocide. It could take 3 or 4 years before they can get The Hague to recognise Ecocide. Whatever we can do in Tetbury will contribute.

Article in Guardian 30th Nov:

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2020/nov/30/international-lawyers-draft-plan-to-criminalise-ecosystem-destruction>

ACTION: Maggie will put the Guardian article link on the GT website and FB page

5. Climate Change Strategy Group (info) Ben and John

Nikki: have not had another meeting since last GT meeting. Are fine-tuning plans to present to a full Tetbury Town Council meeting on Mon 14 Dec. At the start of the meeting, members of the public can speak for up to 3 minutes. Need to contact Tara at TTC office to gain access. GT could select someone to speak on its behalf.

ACTION: Would **someone(s)** like to speak at the TTC meeting on 14th Dec, 7pm?

Nikki and John: Discussions about Green Tourism in Tetbury are in their infancy.
Do others agree this is a way to promote GT and Tetbury?

Mary – would help to have water refill taps and recycle bins in the town centre.

Nikki – Covid deferred taps for now. Will persist re these. New bins have been ordered, but there are issues re how the contents are collected to consider as well as placing the bins.

Nikki: Have met with Chris Crookall-Fallon, Action Manager for Cotswold District Council, about Green Tourism and talked about innovative ideas about how to become carbon negative. Plans for talking to businesses.

Have discussed with Steven Hirst, County Councillor, about getting cycle/ foot pathing thru to Kemble. Tho complicated because there are several land-owners. Also exploring if there is a way to get a safe passage to Westonbirt Arboretum. These developments would benefit local residents as visitors.

Maggie: a while ago she and Ben tried to map the local lanes, but this proved difficult.

Nikki: Highways have list of bridle ways, a County Council matter. Worth asking Steven Hirst. If not, try Nikki again.

Rosemary: If Green tourism it is important to define your term. Eg identify big priorities and what they mean for Tetbury, and publicise these.

John: Would include vacationing in the Cotswolds, rather than travelling abroad. If come via train, would be good to have an environmental conserving way of reaching Tetbury.

Rosemary: then need to develop green transport.

Could also emphasise well-being

Chris: What do people do when they get here?

Answers: Lot of cycling; Wild Carrot; People being environmentally committed

6. Tip of Month (info/discussion) Rosemary

Last tip In Tetbury Advertiser was about Christmas trees.

Nikki: Green bins will take cut up Christmas trees.

Longfield Hospice will take away real trees as part of their fund raising.

The Tip is now going into more places – including School Newsletter.

Next one will be Feb: Plant Tetbury. Will be end of good season for bare rooted planting. Cheaper than buying young plants in a pot.

Kimberley: please keep away from cultivar plants that do not produce nectar.

ACTION: Kimberley to provide helpful article on wildlife friendly planting to go on website.

Maggie: Please provide the Tip as a picture rather than as a pdf

7. Updates from sub-groups: Energy, Food, Plastics, Transport (info)

a. Energy

Green Homes Grant Scheme

Regarding the problems with the Trustmark requirement, Fergus wrote to the Business, Energy and Industry Secretary, Alok Sharma, and the shadow secretary, Ed Miliband, but has as yet not had a reply from either.

He copied in Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown who did reply. He summarised a response that he'd received from Lord Callanan, Under-sec. of State at Department of Business, Energy and Industry: they are

engaging with installers to get greater insight into the issues they're facing; a £6.9m grant has been made for training organisations to help get tradespeople trained to deliver the initiative.

Eleanor: the GHG scheme has been extended for a year from March 2021.

b. Plastics

Mary and Emanuelle put up the GT Christmas tree in St Saviours tree display

ACTION: Emanuelle to send a picture of the tree to **Maggie** for the website

c. Food

Emanuelle and Lily have brainstormed ideas for taking the Food group forward. They met Fred and discussed a potential community growing space. Possibilities are currently limited because of Covid. They will develop proposals.

Emanuelle and Lily are working on a mini magazine on food waste for the coming month. Will share online or via printed copies.

They would like to involve schools with growing in some ways. And the Youth Group in Tetbury. Info given: Sir William Romneys have an allotment. St Mary's do some growing.

They suggest taking over unused spaces in town to grow food for anyone to eat. Get the spaces adopted. As in the Incredible Edible movement.

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

Nikki: they could talk to Tetbury in Bloom to see if they have any spaces and capacity to plant in town.

Rosemary: potential link with Tetbury Men in Sheds?

Nikki: if wishing to plant on new housing estates, need to engage with their Residents' Committees.

Chris keen to become involved given his garden experience.

ACTION:

Lily and Emanuelle to send a 12 Days of Christmas suggestion from the Food group to **Gracie**

d. Transport

John: not been a lot of activity

Nikki: TTC are working on cycling routes – Kemble, Westonbirt

8. Giveasyoulive.com (info) Fergus

Reminder to ask people to sign up, particularly as we're close to Xmas, and many retailers are with the Giveasyoulive.com scheme.

9. Any Other Business

a. Are there volunteers to share in rota of doing the Minutes?

Lily and Kimberley volunteered. Thank you

b. Thanks to:

Eleanor for the GT piece in Tetbury Advertiser

Rosemary for Tips of the Month

Maggie for her continuing work on the website

c. Lockdown1 Survey – Maggie

The results from the Survey have now been placed on GT website and FB

It is up to members to see what they would like to do with them

Possibly useable by Eleanor for Advertiser

Volunteers to discuss what to do with the material: Eleanor, Chris, Kimberley, Mary [potentially Ben and Noel from previous meeting notes]

ACTION: Eleanor to coordinate a meeting in January

d. GT Facebook page

Mary had received a message from someone concerned that the FB page sometimes promotes one side of an issue and alternative views are not given. Eg local responsible farmers might want to say something about assuming vegan is best. Eleanor: important balance need to strike

GT FB is not being used much. It would be good if people would contribute.

Kimberley is administrator on the FB page. Gracie has recently become an administrator too. Kimberley asked if administrators need to approve posts more, or manage pages? Eg sometimes there are extensive repetitions of points. Chris has recently looked at the FB page and not found it very user friendly.

Kimberley: most young people are not on FB now

ACTION: Fergus. For Agenda at next meeting. What is the FB page for? Can then publish those principles on the page. Perhaps **some people involved** could consider issues and options and help prime the discussion.

10. Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th Jan 2021 19:30

Tetbury Advertiser copy deadline: Thurs 14th Jan 2021