

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Notes from the meeting of the 22nd of January 2020

20 people attended, there were 6 new attendees

Apologies: Maggie Marriott

1. Noel Sharp as Chair, opened the meeting and gave a background history so that all the new people would understand where GT had come from. He also reflected on the progress that we have made over a short period.
 - The Facebook page now has 533 members and thanks to Sharon Butler for setting it up and keeping an eye on it;
 - the website is up and running thanks to Maggie Marriott.
 - There are 40 people on the GT email list, so far.

Feedback from the groups:

2. **Energy Group**, Rosemary Bailey explained that their group have been doing a lot of reading. They went to the Town Council and have been endorsed by them. They also have agreed to put slogans from GT on their website monthly. All groups asked to contribute catchy slogans.
3. The Council is appointing a Climate Strategist. John Andrews said We need to be 'doing' something.
4. **Minimal Plastic**, Mary Dignan. Now registered with Surfers Against Sewage and lead for Tetbury becoming a Single-use Plastic Free Town. The Town Council have been approached and they will (hopefully) pass a resolution on the 27th of January to sign up to this initiative. Ben Jackson, who attended the council Climate Change meeting said they were very positive about the resolution, he felt they would pass it. He also said they are thinking about having recycling bins and exploring the idea of a refill tap in the town. Mary has started to approach businesses in the town with the aim of getting them to also sign up to the Plastic Free Town initiative. St Mary's school, Sir William Romney Academy and the Youth, Guides and Scouts are all interested and doing great things.
5. **Food Group** – may have stalled for now. They were planning a meal in January but all has gone quiet. Ben will follow up with his contacts. Fred and Ros had agreed to supply the food. Fred willing to encourage people to restart. The Council have a volunteers event in June and have invited GT to have a stall.
6. **Climate Change Town Council Group** Ben Jackson and John Turton are representatives on this group from GT.
7. Feedback from Ben Jackson. He said the meeting with the Town Council was very positive. Strategies around Climate Emergency are not yet worked out, not at TTC or CDC nor GCC! Rachel Coxcoon is a Councillor who has been advising CDC. She works for the Centre for Sustainable Energy in Bristol and is very knowledgeable. She provides practical advice around the area of Bristol.
8. **Transport Group** Michael Bailey - not progressing very well at present. Have had some good ideas and talk. Their suggestion is to approach all local people and encourage practical hints and tips e.g. Try to reduce at least one journey per week.

Promote walking to school. Ben advised that the Head of St Mary's is keen to recommend this and will do so in the near future.

The Transport group aim to survey the town roads, alleyways and walkways for safety etc. and to draw up a map.

9. Valerie enquired as to whether we are addressing affordable housing under the GT remit as she feels this is an important issue especially for young people.

10. **Charity Incorporated Organisation.** Fergus Dignan spoke about the organisation we may become. He has done a lot of research on different organisations and recommends that we become a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

He explained the advantages of becoming a CIO and encouraged people to ask questions. He also said that 60% of charities recently registered are becoming CIOs as they are less cumbersome in terms of administration. It does not have to register with Companies House for instance.

People asked what are we hoping to put money towards?

Rosemary explained that there would have to be consultation re any projects and we need to wait on the GCC, CDC and TTC strategies around the Climate Emergency regarding big projects but in the meantime we need seed funding for consultation and miscellaneous costs. We have no money at present and anything that is happening is by the goodwill of volunteers.

Eleanor asked would we be an action group or a pressure group? It was generally agreed that we would be an action group.

Then all present were asked whether we should become a CIO now? The large majority approved so we moved on to the particulars of becoming a CIO.

Stated aims: Will require 3 names of Trustees, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. These will ensure financial probity, governance, and set the objectives of the organisation.

Objectives: Can they be changed? Adrian Hill (previous experience of running charitable organisations) advised that we could call an extraordinary meeting to change them at a later stage. The objective could be an overarching statement.

Noel read out the aims and objectives from the draft constitution then.

Eleanor asks for clarification as to whether we were enabling the Council to take action.

Answer; This would evolve over time.

Adrian Hill gave examples of how charities can work collaboratively to achieve aims.

Trustees appointed Fergus Dignan, Rosemary Bailey and Ben Jackson (for now, these can change in a year if necessary) Fergus has agreed to complete the application for becoming a CIO.

11. Next meeting: Wed. 4th March 2020 at Christ Church Tetbury at 7.30pm