

Greening Tetbury
22 October 2019 Open Meeting 19:30-21:30
Christ Church, Tetbury

Notes by Judi Marshall

Noel has list of attendees and new people to add to email list

Apologies from:

Kimberley ?

Maggie Marriott

More – **Mary** has names

25 people in attendance at start of meeting.

1. **Welcome** - Noel
2. **Sub-Group discussions**
 - Energy
 - Food
 - Plastics [Plastics initiative had just received a Tetbury Inspirations Award – Mary]
 - Transport

Some groups are meeting independently, outside Open Meetings.

The Plastics Group would welcome new members.

ACTION: Ceridwen (& Maggie) requested Interest Groups contribute copy for their pages on the website. Would help to have a contact person per group in contact with Ceridwen and Maggie.

3. **Andrew Doherty from Cotswold District Council: Presentation and Q & A on waste management**

Presentation on CDC waste management

(notes checked with Andrew)

Note: Pike Quarry Recycling Centre near Horsley is run by Gloucestershire County Council

Important principles:

1st = REDUCE consumption – to avoid need for recycling

Avoid contamination – vital – keep waste streams separate and clean

If the Reclamation Centre has to separate things out, it becomes more difficult.

Go for high value recycling – plastic bottles and cans (aluminium can be endlessly recycled; aluminium and steel cans can be easily sorted in the waste stream)

If introducing new recycling points in town, have exactly the right size holes for the waste wanted, to reduce contamination risk. Eg a bin with aluminium can and plastic bottle holes.

Paper is the single most valuable recycling stream

Scrunch test for paper – if it unravels it does **not** count as paper (eg xmas wrappings) and cannot be recycled.

Paper and cardboard need to be separated.

Aluminium foil has to be clean.

Clean aluminium foil can be scrunched up and put with the aluminium and steel cans in your white recycling bag.

It needs a reasonable stream of a specific kind of waste to be able to recycle and sell it. Small volumes do not work.

Transport impact

It's important to take into account carbon costs of transport and recycling. For example, if you had 1000 litres of a fizzy drink in 330ml sized containers, then the containers holding the drink would weigh:

36kg using **aluminium cans**

45kg using **plastic bottles**

575kg using **glass bottles**

So while switching across to glass looks good it would significantly increase the emissions from transporting the product and returning empty bottles for recycling. Plastic bottles and cans are very efficient containers that's why they've become so widely used. Think about the whole CO2 impact before you switch. The important message from Blue Planet and similar programmes is that keeping plastic out of the natural environment is the important thing - plastic can be very useful, but it needs to be used with care.

Advice and guidance

Advice will sometimes change, as facilities and technologies change.

We now tell you to squash plastic bottles and then put the tops back on because that's best for the facility that sorts and organises the plastics - we used to tell you to take the tops off.

Similarly our recycling partner can separate plastic and cans from the same load - which is why we've started telling people to put plastic and cans in together a couple of years ago.

Opportunities change – eg recently bottom fallen out of textile market because of Brexit.

Communications: timing, simplicity, **red** stickers work best.

Things are moving towards more producer responsibility – including them paying costs of waste management

New curb side system will operate from March 2020 (not Nov 2019 as previously planned)

New box for cardboard will be all that can be taken in 1 collection. If have more, need to phase it.

Food waste will be separated – go to anaerobic digestion – produce gas

Garden waste will go to simpler composting in a field

Advice about how to go about activities:

Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good – Art of the possible

(eg if want to introduce a water-bottle filling tap in town, go initially for what can be done, not perfect location; get 1, others can follow)

Don't try to do everything all at once

Encouraging volunteers: let people do things that motivate them; ask people for specific things

4. Tetbury Town Council (TTC)

a) Report from meeting with the Town Council's Climate Strategy Working Group – John (Turton) and Ben

Tetbury Town Council have a Climate Strategy document that can be circulated **CHECK**

b) Mayor Nikki Ind on next steps for the Town Council Working Group

TTC, CDC and Gloucestershire are working together. CDC are advertising for a Climate Strategy Manager

Nikki is attending a Gloucestershire Rural event week of 28 Oct to gain more information, then action plans will be developed.

Discussion:

Noel and Mary had met with someone from Highgrove and they are willing to offer advice

Tetbury can aim to become a Bee-friendly town

Wildflower meadow project at Fairford – Andrew Doherty to send link (?)

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have a Wild Towns Project

5. Brief notices

There is a Social Spaces Project at Sir William Romneys

6. Intro to Draft Constitution of Greening Tetbury

Noel: the draft has already been discussed by the Steering Group.

People attending were in general agreement that Greening Tetbury should have a Constitution, especially to help in obtaining funding. They were happy for the Steering Group to take comments from the meeting and redraft.

Comments were made in writing on copies of the Draft Constitution by people at each interest group table (Noel has these) and verbally:

The categories of Greening Tetbury action cited in the Draft might be too restrictive to cover potential activities. Eg where do increasing biodiversity across town and decreasing light pollution fit in?

It might be appropriate to say there will be an annual review of priorities and projects

How will ongoing financing work?

7. Closing comment and what next

Next meeting: early December. Steering Group to consider and let people know.

Could invite other people who are doing related projects to attend and discuss.

Possibly have a stall at Tetbury Christmas market

Have been offered a Notice board at Tesco's (Mary)

