

## **GT meeting at Christ Church on Thursday 30th March 2023@7.30pm**

### **Members present:**

Dan fletcher

Judi Marshall

Fergus & Mary Dignan,

Ben Jackson

Adrian Hill

Anne Cox

Jill Peacey

Gracie Fickling

**Apologies for absence:** Robert Muir-Wood, Annabel, Nikki Ind, Jess, Chris, Rosemary and Michael

- **Tetbury Library Greening project**

Last weekend planting was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Fergus to confirm if it will be going ahead this weekend as planned.

- **Seed Swap**

Gracie Confirmed that the Seed Swap is up and running and has been advertised initially. Gracie to check the seed swap box to see if it is being utilised.

It was suggested that we remind people regularly that it is there as residents of Tetbury have commented that the regular reminders are helpful. Gracie to re-share on socials.

- **Clothes swap**

Mary reported back on the GT Clothes Swap event in February. Mary felt the event was poorly attended and money raised didn't quite cover the cost of the hall (Hall cost £30 and £27 was raised).

Comments from those who did attend were that we if we hosted one regularly then attendance would likely pick up. And it was agreed we would continue doing clothes swap events about once every six months.

Mary shared that we would probably run one in June with the support of Kasia again. This will be in Highgrove along with another activity such as a creative workshop.

Ben thought whether it might be better in a different venue to try and attract more people. Such as the Snooty Fox or one of the boutique/high street shops rather than the church hall.

- **Wild towns project**

This is being run by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT). They have produced a summary of all the things around Tetbury that could benefit from ecological improvements.

Fergus plans to contact the Feoffees/Council with the report and try and get their permissions to make the improvements that fall on their land. It was suggested that it was best to approach the council after the May elections. Fergus will also send out the summary to GT members.

This topic sparked discussion about land ownership and whether it would be possible to get a map of land and its owners. Ben thought we might have tried to do something like this previously but hadn't got very far with it. It was suggested that we could try and get a map from the Land Registry Office but there would be a cost to GT per search. It was agreed that we would in future try and get the Town Council and Feoffees together in a meeting and ask them to confirm their land ownership on a map.

- **Wacky Races – 1 May**

GT will have a stall at Wacky Races for free. GT members will be helping to steward the event as well. There will be GT stickers on the go karts.

On the stall we plan to have:

- Post cards with suggestions to make a climate pledge.
- Display some of the themes we focused on.
- Potentially a map of the actions we have taken around Tetbury.
- Post-it notes asking people what they want to see change to make Tetbury more sustainable/environmentally friendly.
- Potentially info to encourage people to re-wild their gardens.

- **Traffic pollution/idling**

Conversation turned to idling and traffic pollution in Tetbury. Judith Taylor is planning to write an article in the Tetbury Advertiser about the topic to try and tackle the issue.

It was suggested that we should try and get someone to measure the levels of pollution, for instance the Council or Friends of the Earth. It was also suggested that the Physics teacher at Sir William Romney School might be able to do this.

As well as the high street, the Chipping Car Park was also identified as an idling hotspot during picking up time for Guides/Brownies and Youth Centre. It was suggested that we try and engage with groups to prevent this and maybe even run a session on climate change/pollution with the groups to help raise awareness. This might work well after/in tandem with the idling article being published in Tetbury Advertiser.

- **Volunteering day for King's Coronation – 8 May**

Mary updated that GT is planning to run a litter picking event on this day. We will encourage people to litter pick in their own areas and invite people down for a plastic-free picnic afterwards.

Litter pick: The Town Council has agreed that people can use the bins at the back of the Town Council offices to dispose of litter they collect if they cannot take it home.

None of the roads in Tetbury can be closed for the litter picking event due to Badminton being held on that weekend.

Plastic-free picnic: Will be held afterwards in the picnic area by Tetbury Goods Shed. It was thought that the Recreational Grounds might be a better location but as the Tetbury Mayor will be at the Goods Shed offering free drinks, it was thought best if we worked with the Council/Mayor to promote good relations and collaboration. Time of picnic TBC. It was commented that we should make sure these drinks are not in single-use plastic. Mary asked for thoughts on whether we should judge the best plastic-free picnic. There were mixed opinions as some thought people might be put off by this. Prize could potentially be a veg box from the local farm (Roz).

- **Paint The Town Green (PTTG) – June 2023**

Mary shared plans for PTTG 2023. She has decided not to go around the shops this year asking them to dress their windows as it is labour intensive, and we haven't seen very positive results from doing this. We will however continue to do activities around Tetbury during June.

On the first and last Saturday of the month, we will have a stall in the Market Square as per previous years.

On 11 June, Tetbury Playgroup and Nursery will record an "eco song".

There will be writing competitions for St Mary's and Avening Schools (primary schools) and another for Sir William Romney (secondary school). The winners of the competitions will read their entry at different PTTG events (see below). Mary asked the group what we should give as prizes, and it was agreed that book vouchers would be appropriate due to the nature of the competition and in keeping with GT's values.

Eco-cide will be putting on a puppet show at the Goods Shed and the winner of the primary school competition will read their entry out at this event.

Dave Waltham will be giving a talk on 14 June at the Goods Shed and the winner of the secondary school competition will read their entry out at this event.

Mary thought it would be nice to arrange a foraging walk with Emmanuelle Paulson and the group agreed. This is tbc.

It was highlighted that Big Green Week falls in June this year during PTTG (10-18 June).

Mary asked the group if we should change the name to be more reflective of the event but after some discussion, it was agreed to keep PTTG as the name, as people will recognise it and we should keep it for continuity.

- **10-year vision workshop**

Anne shared the 10-year vision that had been produced in the workshop on 26 March by GT members and invited comments and thoughts from those who had not attended the session.

It was suggested that we could get the public to prioritise the areas that have been identified in the workshop as our areas of focus at the Wacky Races.

Judi commented that before we start sharing the document we should ensure that the 10-year vision resonates with everyone in GT and everyone agrees it reflects our ambitions and the actions we are taking. Also that we should include a statement to describe the purpose of the document.

Adrian suggested that we take two or three topics from the vision to focus on.

Anne suggested that we meet once per month to move the vision forward in addition to the regular GT meetings.

Adrian feels that we need to share the vision document so other decision makers in the town know what is important to us as a group.

Dan said that he was surprised to see no mention of meat reduction on the vision. It was agreed that as a farming area this is a sensitive topic so perhaps shouldn't be a focus. Although we have acknowledged the complexities of farming through some of the talks we run.

Judi added that she wasn't sure if any of the items on the list could wait for 10 years for action and suggested renaming the document as our priorities.

Gracie raised whether we should approach other organisations such as Town Council/Feofees first with our ideas and ask them to identify some that we could work together on or pick topics and say this is what we're focusing on, are you able to help/support.

Anne suggested that we look at areas that we can control and let people know how they can help.

It was agreed that the vision document should be circulated with its purpose to GT members again with a clear action for members to feed back on the document by a set deadline. If there were no further comments after this, it should be taken forward as our basis for the group. Another meeting would be arranged in April to take this forward. Judi to do a poll of suitable dates.

Dan shared how a Sustainable St Albans, another group he had previously been a member on, had operated successfully. They had asked residents to sign a petition for the District Council to declare a climate emergency which helped move things along. They also supported and advised other organisations with their green initiatives.

Ben commented that Cotswold District Council had already announced a climate emergency and that the revised climate plan proposed by current Town Council is very 'green' and that we needed to ensure this is taken forward whoever is elected in May.

Ben used the '20 is plenty' campaign that is ongoing as a good model we could look to follow for our engagement. They used personal contacts to engage people in the specific areas to gain traction.

It was also discussed that we should look at collaborating with other eco/sustainable groups nearby.

- **Decarbonising transport survey GCC** was not discussed as it had now closed. **Tip of the month** was also skipped as Rosemary was not in attendance.
- **Climate strategy group**

Anne provided the following information:

Cotswold District Council update – Nikki Ind, independent member for Tetbury on CDC gave the update. The following Monday would be the last Cabinet meeting of this, Lib Dem led,

administration. Much progress had been made and press releases had gone out with details of this:

- tenders had been invited for solar panels on CDC buildings;
- air source heat pumps had been installed on public buildings in the district;
- energy saving equipment was being installed;
- battery storage systems were under consideration (to store excess energy from the solar panels);
- the council would gather up bags from the Great British Spring Clean litter campaign on 17th March and 2nd April.
- The council had also created a Zero Carbon Toolkit advice pack for older buildings
- 28 factory-built zero carbon homes had been installed in Moreton in Marsh.

Anne also shared that the Town Council has created a climate and environmental health checklist and has to be completed for any event held in Tetbury.

Anne had urged the council to send a letter to government in support of the Climate and ecology bill, which they did.

The quality of water in Long Newton is being monitored following reports of pollution near the Millennial Green.

- **Dawn chorus event – 7 May**

Fergus gave an update on the Dawn Chorus event for 2023. It will take place on 7 May. Time tbc but likely to start before 5am for best outcome. It was suggested that participants bring torches as it's better to start walking before dawn begins. We could also put a poster/information about this event on our stall at the Wacky Races.

Dan agreed to take over the organisation of the event going forward.

- **Date of next meeting: Thursday 25 May**

- **NB** Very shortly after the end of the meeting it was realised that approval of the previous minutes dated 30.01.2023 had been omitted. At this point Adrian proposed approval of those minutes and Mary seconded that. An email was circulated the following day to explain this and no objections were raised.