

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Virtual Meeting: Wednesday 8th March 2022 on Zoom [19:30 –21.25]

Chaired by Fergus

Minutes prepared by Mary Dignan

Present: Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Adrian Hill, Ben Jackson (Trustee), Judi Marshall, Lily Paulson, Mary Dignan,) Emmanuelle Paulson, John Turton, Noel Sharp and Anne Cox (Trustee)

Apologies:), Annabel Daldry, Chris White, Maggie Marriott, Rosemary Bailey (Trustee) and Kim Monahan

1. Minutes of 19th January 2022 meeting

The Minutes were approved. Proposed: Mary; Seconded: Fergus

2. Matters Arising from the 19th January 2022 Minutes

a) Tetbury Library hedge and wildflower project

This Library-initiated project has been progressing really well. Sophie Tallis is the project lead. She has managed to get gifts of bug hotels, bat houses, and bird boxes; hedges from the Woodland Trust, Melcourt Farm have given compost.

Advice from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) is to leave the back area of grass to grow this season and just see what emerges.

Hedge planting planned (60) for Saturday 12th March. Only 30 delivered so far.

Advertising is on GT and FB page

Adrian suggested we advertise all those involved in the project. Nice collaborative piece of work.

Fergus explained there had been one complaint from a local person regarding the plans for the library surrounds which has been comprehensively responded to, with input from GWT and Sophie. The complainant has also been offered a meeting.

b) Window Wanderland

The Window Wanderland was a great success. There were at least 50 windows around Tetbury that took part. A map was issued on line so that people could go round and view the work. Rosemary saw most, it was a long walk around town! Mary also saw quite a few, there was a lot of work involved. Christine Berry did really well.

c) Paint the Town Green

There have been two meetings so far and members have been busy on the plans. Mary has contacted the schools for their involvement. Also applied to a speaker and a famous person for the 'opening'.

Discussed proposed 'green cycling event'. We thought it might be possible for people to cycle to Westonbirt and back, dressed in green and make a fuss of the arrival in town or by the Goods Shed? Also a suggestion we ask the Wild Carrot if they would be interested in organising it?

Action: Ben

Anne has been in touch with the Goods Shed who are keen to collaborate with us for July. They are happy to have a poster exhibition (posters by children in town) Also happy

to host a 'talk'. Anne is keen for a speaker from Wessex Water as she recently had a meeting with them, which was very informative. She learnt that 100% of Tetbury waste sludge is recycled for gas/electricity. **Action: Anne**

Carol Paton will speak to the café re paper cups. They have explained that as the business is primarily 'takeaway' they have to use takeaway cups. They will discuss whether they are happy to allow 'keep cups'.

We are also planning a 'music' feature. Too early to discuss at present.

Mary proposed that we demonstrate 'composting' during the month in July. Lily and Ben suggested we talk to the groundsman for TTC. They are buying a hot bin at present for the disposal of food waste. **Action: Mary**

Anne suggested we have a May Day Dawn walk for nature and bird song. Fergus can help with identifying bird song but would welcome any other 'birders' also. Need to advertise and also maybe suggest flexibility if the weather is inclement. **Action: Anne**

d)Cookspool

This is another collaborative project with GWT. They have obtained a grant from the European Regional Development Fund for this and are collaborating with a private environmental company, Ecosulis. Large pool for site development, the water originates from a spring. The bank on one side nearest the local housing has been falling away, and remedial work has been carried out. The site needs clearance around the pond. They need volunteers for the 8th of April, just from GT.

Fergus and Ben keen that children will be able to use it for educational purposes, e.g. pond dipping. Judi is anxious that the clearing will disturb this peaceful, wild habitat.

Incidentally, there is **Training on offer** for Woodland Management in Millenium Wood. Organised by GWT, to be run by Ecosulis, for the Feoffees, who are happy for us to take part too. **Please pass names to Fergus.** Dates either 30th March or 13th April.

e)Blue Token Scheme

It was agreed that we would not apply to this scheme until we had a particular project in mind. Anne suggested we could have a reserve of money through the scheme to help people buy plants who cannot afford them. She will consider this at some future occasion.

f)Magdalen Mead Well

This is based in Tesco car park. Kim is happy to inspect and Fergus wrote to the Tesco manager a month ago, but there has been no reply. He will drop in a copy of his letter to the reception there. **Action: Fergus**

g)Anaerobic Digesters

The Energy group have been meeting to discuss Green Gas Mills. A project being initiated in Reading by Dale Vince from Ecotricity. The energy group had a meeting with the Ops Director, Steve Ellis, who was very informative and helpful. 3000 mills across the country would in theory supply all the households in the UK that are connected to the national gas grid.

Considerations:

3000 acres are needed for each gas mill (would supply 4000 homes). Equates to 30,000 tonnes of Feedstock per annum.

It should not be in an ANOB.

Should be sited within c.500m of a medium pressure gas pipe.
Ideally transportation of the feedstock to the mill should all take place on-site.
5MW sized-plant minimum.
Land quality should be grade 3 and below.
Website: <https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/green-gas-mills-fact-sheet>

Another discussion was related to much smaller bio-digestors. Charlton Park has one, trying to get a visit.

A visit has been planned to a smaller one in Andover. System Design person will be there.
The Biogas can be converted into electricity, or the gas used to power boilers and/or tractors.
Also heat is produced from the anaerobic digestion process. Fertiliser and compost production are other benefits.

John wondered where all of the food waste in the county gets recycled. He also wondered whether garden waste could be collected and used in a bio-digester.

It was suggested that we get a further discussion with Andrew Doherty at CHC Waste and Recycling. He had previously given a presentation a couple of years ago. John suggested that we arrange a meeting with him and collect questions in advance.

Mary also suggested Kathryn Turner from Gloucestershire waste and recycling service.

There may be tours to the Incinerator in Gloucester.

Action: Fergus

Judi asked 'can we not move towards the notion of a circular economy and try to deescalate the demand for energy? What are the principles to judge it?'

h) Community Fridge

Launched today. Lots of volunteers, training is being provided. The food is there now. It is food which has reached its sell by date and is free to whoever comes to get it.

3. Tip of the Month. No information as Rosemary not here.

4. Seed Swop. There had been some discussion re changing the venue for this either to the Tourist office or the Library.

Action: Emmanuelle

5. Climate Change Strategy Group. Ben

Ground Staff presented to TTC re composting. They are not using pesticides?

Using water butt to water flower beds. They are developing the wildflower areas. Green waste is being composted at the Goods Shed.

They are getting a 'Hot Composter'

Ben is trying to organise a litter pick on the 26th of March. Has contacted Glos. Highways Dept. From Tetbury to Long Newton. There will be a risk assessment.

Recently the Climate Action 'strategies' were reviewed across councils and Cotswold did not do very well. This has been raised with Chris Crookall-Fallon.

There is a pesticides action group meeting this Thursday. Richard Norris is the councillor at CDC re herbicides/pesticides. There is a consultation running to the end of March.

GT response to: <https://issuesandoptions.commonplace.is>

Ben/Lily may do a GT response but encourage individuals to do them also. Lily will see whether she can create a template that will allow a rep from each Action Group to complete their own relevant section and then the completed questionnaire can be sent under 'Greening Tetbury'

Action: Lily and Action Group reps.

Fergus expressed his thanks to those who send in relevant news and information for the Advertiser and Newsletter. It would be very helpful to Mary and Maggie, if items sent in could be precised and a link given to the particular item as it would cut down on the volume of information that they have to read and it also helps with the editing process.

Judi added that it is very useful to the minute taker for people to send in notes before the meeting re their agenda item and thanks to Anne for hers at this meeting.

Date of next meeting: 25/04/2022 at 7.30pm on Zoom.