

Greening Tetbury
Minutes
GT Meeting 30.01.25
St Michael's Church, Tetbury

1. Apologies:

Nikki Ind; Sue and David Brown; John Andrews; Liz Farnham; Kevin Farnham; Ben Jackson

Present: Adrian Hill; Annabel Daltry; Anne Cox; Christopher White; Dan Fletcher; Jo Brown; John Turton; Fergus Dignan; Gracie Fickling; Mary Dignan; Peter Martin; Robert Muir-Wood; Liz Loudon; Rosemary Bailey.

2. Approval of Minutes 27.11.24 The minutes were approved by Mary and seconded by Jo.

3. Matters arising: The biggest issue remaining on the Miller Homes development was the flooding in properties adjacent and to the east of William Romney school playing fields and the footpath that runs between. Ian Watson Town and CDC Councillor and Governor at the school had offered to bring the issue to the next governor's meeting and suggest a project to plant trees or hedging along the edge of the playing field adjacent to the properties. We had said Greening Tetbury would be willing to support the project. It was pointed out that it could take a long time for trees /hedging to be big enough to make any difference.

4. Wildlife Corridors Project:

Farm Cluster Collaboration: We had offered volunteers for planting to two farm projects :Ringfield Farm, Nailsworth where some hedging had been planted and more was planned and Park Farm near Tormarton where work is still to take place. Apologies to Jo and Pete who turned up as volunteers to an advertised event and found there was no planting that day. The farmer is planning to get some paid help for the planting and Fergus will put out an e mail when the date is known so we can volunteer.

Action Point: Fergus and Anne to advertise planting event

Chavenage Estate: Fergus will contact the estate manager again in the late summer to check whether his workload has lessened and they can move forward with the project.

5. Trees for Streets: Gracie reported that there had been no real progress on this as we were waiting for Lizzie from the Trees for Streets campaign to process our suggested sites. The deadline was 31st January and Gloucestershire County Council may not continue with the scheme next year.

Action Points: Gracie will contact TFS Lizzie to find out what is happening.

GT can carry on with other planting possibilities apart from street planting. It seems there is scope for replacing the ash die-back trees along the railway, there is also the potential project with SWR and Fergus was meeting Will Cook, Feoffee, tomorrow to discuss a tree beside the access to the railway park below the Royal Oak pub. There is an issue with overhead cables so a small tree, perhaps a wild cherry would be advisable. There may also be possibilities on other council and Feoffee managed land, e.g. the green area at the top the Chipping Steps.

Tree Guards: We discussed the issue of plastic tree guards and the fact that they are not removed when the trees no longer need them. They eventually disintegrate into the soil. It seems the Woodland Trust is still using them. The possibility of Gt funding eco guards for any projects we are involved in. was discussed

Action Points:

Gracie will research eco friendly tree guards.

Fergus will question the Woodland Trust's use of plastic guards.

Jo will check with Sophie at the Library & remove the remaining tree guards on that site that are no longer needed.

Rosemary will contact Westonbirt Arboretum for advice on biodegradable tree guards.

6. CDC Retrofit Engagement Officer: Fergus, John (Turton) and Anne had met with Justine Mallinson in January to discuss the new service offered by CDC.

CDC is working as part of the South West Net Zero Hub and, within Gloucestershire with the Forest of Dean and Cheltenham, to facilitate the retrofitting of energy saving measures within the county by engaging with householders to help them make decisions.

The service is open to people with an income of over £35,000 (who do not have access to the Severn Wye schemes that target low income households) and people with homes with Band D or lower energy efficiency.

What is on offer is: Home visits with free impartial advice of a general nature on where improvements could be made in a particular property (Justine has a 1 year contract to deliver this service to 28 properties); face to face talks; zoom talks; free online training in 8 masterclasses.

The advice will follow PA Standard regulations, which have to be followed if asking for public funding (but, at the moment, not if funding the work privately).

CDC has partnered with *Make My House Green* (£500 discount available to CDC residents) and *Furbnow* as preferred retrofit delivery partners.

CDC Drive and Thrive “plug into the future” event on 6th March in Cirencester Market Place and Corn Hall for test drives, demonstrations and talks on a variety of energy saving electrics, including electric cars, air source heat pumps and solar panels, to answer all your questions. You can register at www.cotswold.gov.uk/driveandthrive

Great Big Green Week: The possibility of Justine working in tandem with John Andrews on the GBGW talk Wednesday 11th June had been mooted. John Turton had run it by John Andrews but it was decided we would ask Justine if she'd like only to take part in the Q&A and perhaps do a display showing what's on offer..

GT Involvement We undertook to advertise the initiative through our newsletter, Tetbury Advertiser, and our social media outlets.

Action Points:

Anne organise promotion of Retrofit Offer

Fergus to talk to Justine about her participation at the talk.

7. Web Manager: Jessica was having to give up this role for a while. Gracie could take it on.

Action Point: Mary to contact Maggie Marriot.

8. Great Big Green Week 7th to 14th June:

St Mary's Church Count on Nature, Saturday 7th June- We'll be taking part.

Fashion Show and Clothes Swap event Sunday 8th at the Goods Shed is being organised in collaboration with WI, Cirencester College Fashion Dept Hairdressing students, a former dresser for the Royal Ballet and local charity shops. 4 men and 6 women have been recruited as models for the fashion show. It would be good to have a pianist for the show. This year we are also encouraging local groups to have their own GBGW themed events. So far Men's Shed, Guides, and playgroups are on board and we are working on the Community Choir. The Refill shop will have their bistro open by June and are offering it for events. Tetbury Town Council will fly a flag and display a banner

Action Points:

- Annabel to see if she can find a pianist.

-Dan to talk to Refill Shop about how they could be involved in GBGW

-Mary to carry on liaising with local groups and Kevin Painter;

...find out if our existing banner could be re-printed and research sustainable options for a re-usable banner if this isn't possible;

...liaise with Yellow Lighted Bookshop on whether they want to bring books.

-Gracie to check back with Emanuelle about possible Foraging event date

-Volunteers e mail greeningtetbury@gmail.com

John Andrews Talk Wednesday evening 11th June at the Goods Shed. John has very kindly agreed as mentioned above to give a talk, subject tbc.

9. Tip of the Month. Idling Rosemary had taken up Idling as requested as the tip of the month. Idling is also featured in our article for Tetbury Advertiser this month.

10. Climate Strategy Group: due to illness the group had not met since the last report so there was no news.

11. A.O.B

a. Annabel had contacted the town council about the possibility of planting a tree in

the middle of the roundabout at the top of Wisteria Road. She is waiting for CEO Tara to get back to her.

b. Fergus has bought wild flower plugs from a local supplier using the remainder of funds donated to GT by Tetbury Town Council.

Action Point: Please volunteer to plant in March so Fergus can contact you.

c. Rosemary had created a **Christmas Nature Tree** with edible decorations like monkey nuts and cranberries, for the porch of St Mary's Church this year. It had been featured in the Church of England national bulletin and now stands in the church grounds to feed wild birds etc. Everybody agreed it was a great idea.

d. John Turton told us about **Sustain Wiltshire** a family firm in Brinkworth planning to use their landfill site to power their business activities and heat greenhouses that will produce food for the local community. John suggested organising a tour to the landfill energy / planned greenhouse facility in the near future, probably as a combined GT / Sustainable Sherston activity. The meeting voiced approval of this.

Action Point: John to take this plan forward and involve Sustainable Sherston.

e. John had also been talking to Sustainable Sherston. They have all but finished with their **thermal camera** and are happy for John to hold it in Tetbury and hire it out at £10 a time, the money would go to Sustainable Sherston.

Action Point Gracie will check our existing promotion of this service and put it out again.

12. Date of Next GT meeting 7:30pm Wednesday 26th March 2025

Christchurch, The Chipping, Tetbury.