

Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth

Business Meeting
Monday 3rd March 2014 7.30pm Marches Energy Agency

Notes

Present	Philip Pool, Tony Green, Judy Coleridge, Mike Richardson, Frank Oldaker, Barbara Phillips, Sarah Charman, John Charman	
	Sarah and John were welcomed to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves and mentioned their particular interests in environmental matters and in the activities of The Group.	
Apologies	Sue Fisher	
Agenda Item	Notes	Action
Notes of meeting on 3.2.14	Agreed.	
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda items included to cover matters arising. 	
Finance	<p>Tony reported that the Coop Bank have requested information before changing signing authorities -- a copy of the constitution, copy of last AGM minutes where committee elections recorded, and some personal information about committee members and signatories. He is collecting this and will send. Also reported he has spoken to John Rice who will resolve Paypal password issue and advise when done.</p> <p>There has been no expenditure in the last month but some subs have been received.</p>	TG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSX. Frank reported that as Denise has now returned he won't be involved on the Steering Group from now on and Denise will be representing SFoE as before and will keep us informed. With the arrival of Rosie Lawrence and her efforts so far, a drive to recruit more members to GSX will happen and then hopefully GSX will look to creating a much more obvious public profile with a view to becoming a powerful and authoritative voice on environmental matters in Shropshire. Planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We had had an email from Mike Street suggesting a public meeting to push for a Shrewsbury green belt. It had been agreed we say that we will attend a public meeting if he calls one. Barbara has emailed him. Mike reported that because of an interest he had in a particular application he had been to a Condover/ Dorrington/Ryton Parish Council meeting. He learned that the lack of an approved local plan, or 5 years of housing land being available, is leading to a flood of applications – 60 in that parish alone. These must be considered under the requirements in the NPPF and will be difficult to refuse. (It seems that if 50 more houses had been in the plan the 5 year requirement would have been met.) This is no doubt happening all over Shropshire and elsewhere. It was agreed we could only comment on applications where we felt the issues were particularly serious. Mike will do letter to the local press to make people aware of the situation and to encourage them to object where detrimental proposals are put forward. This situation will endure until SAMDev is complete and the resulting Plan is approved by The Secretary of State – probably not until autumn. Previously agreed Philip to complete a paper about planning and how we should be addressing issues. He feels we should target our energies on particular developments rather than wider issues. Most planning decisions are now being delegated to officers. Possibly we could set up a joint body 	DT PP MR

	<p>with CPRE, S Town Residents, SWT etc to make representations to SC. Philip not yet contacted them but will find out what other groups are doing and what approach they take. Tony might be able to contribute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling at Shrewsbury events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A planning meeting was held to discuss what we need to raise with Shrewsbury Flower Show. Frank has contacted PG Skips and they have a waste transfer station where waste from the Flower Show will be dealt with and recycling is maximised. The PR issue of the public just seeing a comingled mess in big skips is still an issue. Meeting dates have been proposed to the Flower Show and a date will be fixed imminently. Judy, Frank (and Barbara if available) will attend. Judy Has written to congratulate the Wasteless Society on all their successes. Lightfoot Enterprises continues to deal with renewable energy projects • GG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about reprinting leaflets to keep up the publicity. No other ideas to take over from this entirely. However, Barbara suggested stickers for the windows of shops in the GG – Only a small number needed so Mike will investigate producing on a home printer. Also leaflets could be same design but with a “banner” across saying “updated” “new version” or similar. These could be stickers to avoid <u>any</u> redesign costs. Our stall in The Square on 31st May could be used to relaunch the latest edition. • Proposal that we nominate Judy for the Shropshire Star award as an environmental champion. Barbara and Frank still to submit. • Incinerator. Frank did letter but not published. • Traffic. Barbara sent round to everyone the paper she’s written re town centre traffic/small businesses. Initial step is to meet with Andrew Bannerman. In preparing the paper she has found various papers/ reports that accept action is needed to deal with the town centre traffic. Up to now the local traders have blocked any attempts to hinder flow. Her paper shows things have changed and people want a pleasant experience, not just to shop, so maybe now is the right time to have another go. 	<p>PP TG</p> <p>JC FO BP</p> <p>MR</p> <p>JC MR SF</p> <p>BP FO</p> <p>BP FO</p>
<p>Communications issues</p>	<p>Judy was not able to go to the Zero waste conference</p>	
<p>National Campaigns</p>	<p>Latest version of “Change Your World” details proposed campaign timetable for 2014. Barbara is going to Regional Conference so we will decide later which to do.</p> <p>Make It Better – UK wants to keep a weak law so campaign will continue. We are signed up as a Local Group for this campaign at present.</p> <p>Bees – Draft Pollinator Plan. Still awaited</p> <p>Sunny Schools – now Campaign X – We believe secondary schools have had solar panels fitted where possible but still lots to do on primary schools.</p> <p>Fracking Tony went to meeting in Ludlow. Successful meeting with over 100 people. Meeting covered renewable in general but view on fracking in Shropshire was that this was unlikely. There are more promising areas elsewhere. Frank had letter published in New Civil Engineer raising concerns about gas migrating to the surface. Some feedback but no time to follow up yet. Has also written letter to local press following Council stating they will be open minded in considering any application to frack.</p>	<p>BP ALL</p>
<p>Walks and Talks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Mark Gethin’s farm April 6th 2014, Sunday, 2pm. Judy will put on our website. Mike will remind SOGS at their meeting on 5th March. • Duratrust. Nothing on King’s Lynn’s website. Frank has phoned and emailed Duratrust but no response yet. From websites has found that Eric Pickles Advised on 13th January that he would be unable to make a decision on the Norfolk CC Incinerator – due 14th January and apparently still no decision. The issues around this are bound to be affecting Kings Lynn and west Norfolk actions and holding up the proposed Duratrust project. An independent consultant engaged by KL &WN confirmed that the Duratrust process was 	<p>JC MR</p> <p>FO</p>

	<p>technically sound a year ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film Was discussed but decided to postpone choosing until future meeting. May want to tie in to a talk/current issue. • Talk in the autumn on Zero Carbon • Stall in The Square – 31st May –Will sell bric a brac and run campaign-- choose later when see what best to address. 	ALL
Diary	FoE regional meeting 8 th March Barbara to go.	BP
AOB	Oswestry FoE have reformed. They are keen to take up issues with Owen Patterson as their MP.	
Future dates of business meetings	Next business meeting: 7th April 7.30pm: Marches Energy Agency	