

Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth

Business Meeting
Monday 7 October 7.30pm The Alb, Smithfield Road

Notes

Present	Su Fisher, Barbara Phillips, Sheila Jones, Judy Coleridge, Alan Leaman, Sara Mai, Frank Oldaker	
Apologies	Mike Richardson, Colin Jefferson	
Agenda Item	Notes	Action
Minutes of 2 Sept	These were not considered. They will be addressed next time	
Local Campaigns/ Projects/ Issues	<p>It was decided before the meeting that this should be an extraordinary meeting to discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the group's current position in terms of work load, campaigns etc • the future <p>Frank introduced the issue by making a few points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we have had quite a lot of potential activists through the group over the past year, but only one has stayed; • comments have been made about the meetings being long, long-winded and boring and it has been suggested that we meet less often; • it's possible that the venue in a pub is putting people off coming – and certainly upstairs in The Alb is not great because of the seating & noise; • those of us currently involved are very busy and may not have time to give to new members. <p>Discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFoE has got a good reputation in Shrewsbury. Our opinion tends to be listened to and other groups look to us for support. • We are very active in all the campaigns we currently undertake • XR in some ways is more in the limelight, but their actions are quite different from ours and they are interested in high-level system/policy change. Mostly they are not in a position to argue in detail on issues. So we should try and be complementary. • Meeting monthly keeps the group together socially which is important. • The agendas can be long! We've tried to reduce them recently. Agreed: we should start with a general chat on environmental matters at the start of each meeting and then we can start the formal agenda of about 3 items. • The Alb snug is OK if we don't have many people. Someone in Oswestry has said that they won't come if the meeting's in a pub. But all other meeting places cost money. Bombaz might be possible, but there too you have to walk through the bar to get upstairs. It would be possible to use the University at £10 an evening. We'd prefer not to spend £120 a year on meetings. • There is some pressure from FoE to form a Climate Change Group locally. Colin, Alan and Beth have expressed interest, although they have their own particular interests which differ slightly, from county-wide policies to individual change. Given the current busy-ness of other members of the group, there was some concern that there would not be enough support available. More people probably should be drawn in. Agreed. Frank will speak to Paul Cawthorne about whether he would like to become involved. He'll also send Alan and Colin information about Shropshire Council's activities. • It was felt that the website needed to be altered. The meeting thought it might be best if it was not much more than one main page which looked fresh and interesting and didn't need regular servicing. Agreed. Frank will speak to 	FO

	Mike about how he sees the way forward.	FO
Other issues	<p>Environment Centre donation. We're waiting until Sara has set up the crowd-funding scheme.</p> <p>Bin the Butt. This regular Monday event has stopped. Sara will give Judy details for the GGuide</p> <p>AGM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara will do an email advertising Dave's talk and send it round to everyone so they can forward it to friends etc • Dave is printing leaflets and will leave them at the Environment Centre on Tuesday for other people to collect and distribute around town. • Judy has the list of who is taking fliers where <p>Christmas Drinks 10 December 7.30 at the Three Fishes (? Did we agree the Three Fishes?)</p>	
Next SFoE mtg	Monday 4 November – The Alb.	