

Meeting, Wednesday November 7, 2018

	Discussion	Action	Agent
1	Welcome, attendees and apologies		
	Present: James Banks (JB), Vicki Carol (VC), Mike Gran – Treasurer (MG), Peter McLoughlin PMcL), Susie Morrow (SM), Pierangela Sabbattini (PS), Terry Brown – Coordinator (TGB)		
	Apologies: Cathy Schade		
	Welcome: TGB welcomed the new attendees, James Banks and Pierangela Sabbattini, and said that he hoped they would find the meeting interesting and that they would come to future meetings. All around the table introduced themselves.		
	TGB explained that WFOE is quite small group and that one of our main areas of focus is recruitment.		
2	New WFOE leaflet and campaigning		
	TGB explained that the new leaflet was intended to be used as a general introduction to WFOE and was in trifold form with the ‘problems’ on one side and some possible ‘solutions’ on the other. A PDF of the leaflet had been circulated by email and there was a mockup of the leaflet at the meeting. TGB explained that the leaflet was proposed as a sort of ‘universal’ handout that could be used whenever we had spoken to somebody and wanted to leave something with them, were present at an event or otherwise campaigning. The leaflet was agreed by the group and printing will be arranged by TGB.	Leaflet to be printed	TGB
3	Additional ideas for campaigning		
	TGB also explained that he had provisionally booked a table at the Putney School of Art and Design (PSAD) Christmas Fair on Sunday December 2 from 10 AM to 5 PM, and was hoping that members of the group could help man the stall and, beforehand, help with what the material to be used would be and the way it would be presented. He explained that he hoped to have the leaflets available for this event.	Confirm availability to spend some time on stall. Confirm booking of stall.	All TGB
	It was agreed that one of the most important things we wanted to do at the event was try to recruit, so that we should have some kind of sign-up list for people to express an interest, even if only being kept up to date with WFOE email postings.		
	In the past when participating in public events, WFOE had also had a board highlighting some major issues which it would be good to have again for the PSAD event.	Prepare content and Headline board for stall	TGB

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<p>TGB also explained that some years ago WFOE had taken a stall at the Tooting Foodival when they had asked the question “What do you think the local environmental issues are?” and using post-it notes had asked the public to participate, offering the incentive of a vegan chocolate muffin for a post! This had proved popular and helped to draw attention to the group and engage people with WFOE thoughts and issues.</p>		
<p>VC, referred to a Low Carbon event in Tooting where there was lots of information, hand-outs etc., said that people wanted to be asked questions, reinforcing the idea that people want to be engaged personally rather than just being bombarded with handouts. “This is the issue that we're talking about, but how do you see this and how does it affect your particular area?”</p>		
<p>TGB returned to the issue of "Headlines" for the stall and asked what the group might consider to be top of the list.</p>		
<p>MG explained that he had recently come across an event where people voted on an issue and the votes were counted by a popping table tennis balls into Perspex tubes, making it a very visual experience. TGB thought this a good idea, however wondered where the necessary kit would come from?</p>		
<p>PS Took up this theme, but suggested that we might have a headline issue that could develop into a petition. We could have a Headline set out with some explanation and then people could sign up to the petition on sign-up sheets on the stall. This allows WFOE to act as facilitator, helping people to fulfil their role as citizens.</p>	<p>Possible headline/ stall activity. Develop proposal and incorporate.</p>	<p>PS TGB</p>
<p>MG thought the petition might be to "Make Putney a low traffic neighbourhood"! TGB thought this more the province of Wandsworth living Streets (WLS). SM said, in passing, that an elderly gentleman had been run over in Werter Road in Putney and that WLS had been campaigning for a long time for more pedestrian-friendly streets, avoiding the hazards of rat-running. PS thought the Mayor was proposing electric buses in Putney High Street and the discussion rounded on the fact that currently there are hybrid buses in the high-street and that consequently there has been some improvement in the air quality. VC suggested that while things might be improving in Putney High Street, things were far from good in Tooting High Street and consequently locals were concerned that one area gets precedence over another. SM said that proposals to improve Tooting High Street would be going before Wandsworth Council next week and that WLS had been a party to these proposals that, in the event, are still quite cautious.</p>		

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<p>SM said more about the same theme, pointing out that another area under consideration for improvements was Southfields/Replingham Road, where proposals had been drawn up but were still to be implemented. Having drawn a number of blanks trying to find out what's happening, SM concludes that due to financial cuts most departments within the local authority offices are under extreme pressure because of lack of staff time. The essential problem is the financial cuts being made by Central Government which means that the borough councils have to cut back on expenditure quite severely. (This is obviously a big and politically charged debate).</p>		
<p>VC posed a question as to whether WFOE would you want to be controversial in the way subjects were addressed by the stand we are proposing at PSAD, possibly for instance "Wandsworth says that this is happening, but we know that actually it's not etc." TGB thought that this would be OK, but we would have to do the research to make sure of our facts. He thought that whatever we did should be challenging. He asked that people email him with challenging headline ideas that might be used for the stand. JB thought that people are primarily interested in local issues but he thought that, in particular, young people would be concerned about and drawn in by the National headline issues such as plastic waste that he saw as "gateway" issues. He wondered if there was a particular eyesore in wandsworth that was caused by plastic pollution. MG's idea was to just go out before the day at the stall and pick up plastic litter from around the local streets and present this on the stall; saying this is what it's like out there. "this is what we found!"</p>	<p>Plastic pollution: Provide container for and collect plastic refuse from the streets. Develop headline material on this topic</p>	<p>MG - TGB</p>
<p>PS thought that we might exercise our rights as citizens with our councillors, but that there was another route here and that was to tackle major retailers to challenge them to find new ways of distributing goods without so much plastic packaging. VC wondered if National FOE had anything relating to plastics and packaging and TGB said he thought there was a campaign but would have to check out the details of how it was me developed.</p>	<p>The theme of alternatives to plastic and reducing packaging to be developed. Check out National FOE material relating to plastic pollution</p>	<p>All - - TGB</p>
<p>TGB suggested that we could probably handle between three and five headline subjects on the stall.</p>		
<p>VC raised the point that we had just heard that China was rejecting our recycling and that it would be worth trying to find out through WLWA just what is happening to our recycling now. TGB felt that it was pretty shocking that our recycling has to go halfway around the world to be dealt with. Isn't this an area to look into as well? This led to a broader discussion</p>		

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<p>about what can and can't be recycled and people's confusion on this because it's changed over time. There is also the thought that it would be better not to have to recycle and that that is another area for consideration. Furthermore, there is still a suspicion that while the public sort out their recycling, the waste authorities are not following through.</p>	<p>Develop a theme related to recycling problems and create headline issues.</p>	<p>All - TGB</p>
<p>JB thought it would be good to develop the idea of alternatives to products that needed recycling.</p>	<p>Possibly develop this theme too?</p>	<p>JB</p>
<p>MG explained his involvement in "Restart" sessions. These were events at which people were invited to bring broken appliances in to be mended. At the meeting, the 'techy' team work with people who brought in their appliances to repair them together, though obviously sometimes parts were needed and they had come back to another session. Pretty well anything has been tackled excepting microwaves and things that have CFCs in them e.g. fridges. The next session will be in Tooting on December 8, between 12 and 3 PM. The venue is 222 Tooting High Street.</p>		
<p>PS explained that in Switzerland you pay for rubbish collection by the kilo which is an incentive not to produce rubbish and see either recyclable byproducts which don't require disposal. Continental systems usually require that recycled materials are segregated and they are checked to make sure they are not contaminated. PS thought that because our recycling is mixed it was a weak system inherently.</p>	<p>Develop these thoughts to Bring into the recycling headline theme.</p>	<p>PS TGB</p>
<p>VC raised the point that people used to feel good about recycling because it was visual and clear. WBC had published leaflets indicating what could and couldn't be recycled, but with time this became confused and of this reduces the incentive to recycle in the first place. TGB thought that there was still a lot of confusion about what can and can't be recycled and, in his experience particularly, at catering events people have no idea which disposable items can be recycled.</p>		
<p>VC thought a the possibility for the stand could be to show what can and can't be recycled. TGB was also concerned that knowing what happened to various kinds of refuse and recycling would be good as it currently seems very unclear where all this stuff goes to in the end anyway.</p>	<p>Develop these thoughts to Bring into the recycling headline theme.</p>	<p>VC TGB</p>
<p>SM mentioned a Mayor of London initiative to provide drinking fountains so that people could refill their own (hopefully not plastic) water bottles rather than use disposable. TGB mentioned that the Victorian structure in the</p>		

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

	<p>triangle of land where Merton Road departs from Buckhold Road write to the Council and ask them when it was going to be reinstated. VC mention another example on tooting common where a drinking fountain had been refurbished. She wasn't sure that it was working too well.</p>	<p>Write to WBC enquiring as to whether the Merton Road Victorian structure would be reinstated as drinking fountain.</p>	<p>TGB</p>
	<p>TGB said that he thought that the ideas discussed have been very useful for the stand and he suggested that if group members had other thoughts they email him. Also if they had snippets of information and in particular any visuals it would be good if they could forward them as well. VC thought the idea of having actual refuse on the stand was a good one because it was very visible.</p>	<p>Develop ideas, collect reference material and email to coordinator.</p>	<p>All</p>
	<p>SM had been developing some ideas about asking questions. She had been putting some questions to her Ward Councillor, which then got raised at the Council Meeting. She thought that asking questions is a very powerful thing that we can do, provided we can find the answers, which are likely to be inadequate. She also had the idea of "auditing" the activities of local major retailers such as Sainsbury's.</p>	<p>Possibility of developing "Asking questions" and "auditing" as headline themes.</p>	<p>SM TGB</p>
	<p>TGB raised the question as to whether people know how the Council works and who is responsible for what and to whom questions can be addressed. What should you take to your MP; what should you take to your Local Authority Ward Councillor and what should you take to the London assembly?</p>		
	<p>There was general agreement that, with the introduction of Enable and the link up with Richmond Borough Council, the way the Council works and who is responsible for what is becoming less and less transparent and more difficult to understand. It would be a good thing if we could give information to the public about how the Council deals with issues and which departments do what. SM made the point that you have to be quite tenacious to get answers to many questions. It can be very tedious.</p>	<p>It seems that there are many different departments within the Council and it isn't getting any simpler to find whom to take problems to. Can we offer some clear advice?</p>	<p>All</p>
	<p>TGB thanked everyone for all the ideas that had been bounced about and undertook to try and pull something together for the stall which took up the points made. Obviously it would be good to have some headline issues that could be the bases of the stall while the leaflet tried to cover much broader ground.</p>	<p>Developed head line this is for the stall in collaboration with the WFOE group as a whole</p>	<p>All TGB</p>
	<p>4 WFOE Christmas Dinner</p>		
	<p>TGB asked if the group would be interested in having an informal Christmas supper at a local pub as we wouldn't be meeting in December. This seemed to be a popular idea and</p>		

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

	<p>it was agreed that TGB would try to book a table at the Jolly Gardeners for December 12. Some of the group members had a dinner at the Jolly Gardner's last year and the food was very good, so hence the choice. TGB undertook to book a table nominally for six people initially, but once we had this fixed it would be good if people could confirm soonest if they want to come and obviously if they want to bring partners or friends that would be fine. POST MEETING NOTE: due to a function in the restaurant on December 12, other options that were explored.</p>	<p>Confirm interest in joining the dinner. Arrange Christmas dinner</p>	<p>All - TGB</p>
5 Meetings in 2019			
	<p>It was confirmed and agreed that the meetings next year would continue to be held bimonthly, aiming at the second Wednesday of the month, in January, March, May, July, September and November.</p>	<p>Pencil meetings and in diaries.</p>	<p>All</p>
6 Venu for future meetings			
	<p>TGB raised the subject of future venues for WFOE meetings, remarking that it had been quite difficult in the past to find suitable venues and we had had some difficult meetings in noisy pubs. It seemed generally agreed that the St Thomas a Becket Church Hall provided convenient and quiet space to have meetings. MG asked if there was a charge for the room and TGB said that the church asked for a "contribution". After quite a lot of discussion and consideration of the quality of the space in its availability, MG proposed that we make a contribution of £15 for each evening we use the room and that at some stage in the future we need to work out how to supplement the available WFOE funds.</p>	<p>Secure venue for future meeting on the basis of a £15 contribution.</p>	<p>TGB</p>
7 AOB			
Round the table:			
	<p>MG reminded us that the Restart session is on 8 December at Mushka Assam, 222 Tooting High Street next to Nando's. He confirmed that there would be a team of 'geeks' there to help with the repair of items that the public brings in. This is a kind of 'empowerment café and the philosophy is to involve the owner in the repair of the item brought in. MG urged us to come along and bring something if possible. Most small appliances are tackled and other things including Mobile phones, computers, Christmas lights(!), children's toys etc..</p>	<p>Try to attend the restart session on December 8</p>	<p>All</p>
	<p>VC informed us that the next Wandsworth Environment Forum Will take place on Tuesday December 4 in the Town Hall, Room 147, starting at 7:00 PM.</p>		

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

<p>She explained that WEF is an overarching group that brings in a number of environment and amenity societies and has recognition from Wandsworth Borough Council; hence the venue for the meetings being the town Hall. VC. Referred to the Wandsworth Clean Air Action Policy and explained that Alistair Brown from the Wandsworth public health department will be joining the meeting to explain further work being done by WBC. Alistair had turned out to be an approachable and well-informed representative of the Council. At the next meeting, it was hoped to discuss how to involve local people in the Air Quality Delivery Plan. VC said that members of the WFOE group would be welcome to come.</p>	<p>WFOE group members invited to WEF meeting</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>PMcL asked if the leaflet was available for distribution. TGB explained that what was on the table was just a mockup and that he still needed to arrange to have the leaflets printed. When they were printed they would be available for individual WFOE Group members to use and distributor as they think fit, but the idea is that they are handed out in face-to-face situations rather than just posted through letter boxes. The thought is that the leaflet can trigger a conversation or offer someone who is interested an idea of what the local group is concerned with. SM said she had got some quotes for trifold leaflets and would let TGB have contact details. MG raised the issue of glossy paper-stock being not so environmentally friendly and TGB responded that he had found it necessary, to use glossy to get the quality of print, bearing in mind the background and a readable text. The result on a matt paper had been disappointing. It was suggested that TGB try to get the most environmentally friendly type of printing for the leaflet. Some small typos were discussed. JB had shown the leaflet to someone else and thought it worked well in that it wasn't haranguing, but got points across. PS asked if there were links to the website from the various points made in the leaflet and TGB pointed out that this was an ambition, but it was quite a lot more work and may take some time. He asked if people had any good material in support of the points, whether written or graphic, if they could let him have electronic copies to be used when he came to update the website.</p>	<p>When available the WFOE leaflet to be used in support of face-to-face conversations and live events. Research and send to are coordinator material in support of the leaflet headlines. Develop and upload supporting information to website.</p>	<p>All - - TGB</p>
<p>PS did not have any further points to raise.</p>		
<p>JB explained that he had found it difficult to establish the date and venue for the meeting from the WFOE website. It appears that he had got on to the WordPress website (which TGB suggested is the one to follow) rather than the WFOE page on the National FOE website.</p>		

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

<p>TGB acknowledged that the websites may not be absolutely up-to-date, especially as there had been some switching about of both venues and days for the meetings recently. JB also explained that he tried to find out about our local group through the main website, but when he put his postcode in, it didn't seem to work. JB agreed to try this again and let TGB know if it doesn't work, so that it can be raised with National FOE. PS said that she had managed to make contact through the website.</p>	<p>Test national friends of the Earth website again to see if it identifies Wandsworth FOE group. Review the information on www.wfoe.com to make sure it's up-to-date.</p>	<p>JB - - - TGB</p>
<p>TGB also acknowledged that he ought to tweet news about forthcoming meetings and often omitted to do that. SM suggested that tweeting on behalf of WFOE might be a volunteering activity and shared with other group members.</p>	<p>Let coordinator know if you would like to tweet on behalf of WFOE. Be sure to tweet on forthcoming WFOE meetings</p>	<p>All - - TGB</p>
<p>SM raise some points about electric vehicles. She explained that there had been a conference jointly staged by the Urban Design Group and London Living Streets that looked at the impact of electric vehicles and the necessary infrastructure on streets and in particular footpaths/pavements. Electric vehicles have been seen by WBC as a panacea for our pollution and global warming ills, with the result that walking, a zero impact method of moving in itself, is being impacted. The charging points that are popping up everywhere are encroaching on pedestrian space. TfL had provided funding for the infrastructure, but unfortunately have not imposed standards for the location of charging points to prevent obstruction on pavements etc.. Jonathan Cook, responsible for transport in Wandsworth, is fixated on electric vehicles. SM explained that LLS Vice Chair, Emma Griffiths, had produced a very good report on the conference which can be found at https://londonlivingstreets.com/2018/10/19/are-electric-vehicles-a-threat-to-cities-conference-report/</p>	<p>Suggest that Group members to take a look at the LLS report on the conference on electric vehicles</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>SM also drew attention to a public exhibition that she and MG had recently been to regarding the Pimlico to Nine Elms pedestrian and cycling bridge. London does not have a single active travel bridge and this would go some way to address this need. Explained that there is a good transport case for locating a pedestrian/cycling bridge between Vauxhall Bridge and Chelsea Bridge. There have been a number of consultations on the bridge with the one that SM and MG having attended being about where exactly the bridge should be located. Susie also mentioned that there had been a considerable are backlash against the bridge mainly from people in Pimlico who don't want people from south of the river invading their territory! This is being rather odd, as the Grosvenor Road is effectively a motorway along the edge of the river in Pimlico. There are two more drop in consultation</p>		

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

<p>sessions one on Friday November 9 and one Saturday November 10. There is also website that has all the information http://nineelmspimlicobridge.co.uk. Wandsworth is willing to fund the bridge in conjunction with developer input. There are many reasons for the bridge including youth unemployment in Pimlico which would benefit from the new employment centre in Nine Elms that is developing, but the objections are coming from wealthy retired residents in Pimlico.</p>	<p>Suggest that the group members either try to go to Drop in sessions or visit the bridge website</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>TGB didn't have much to add but just wanted to mention his dismay at the huge eliminated electronic advertising signs that are popping up around the borough. For many years we have had a planning system which saved us from the spoiling of our environment which with advertising but this seems so fallen away in our borough. VC recorded that Wandsworth was one of the first Boroughs to put in giant adverts with the structure on the Wandsworth bridge roundabout which horrified many residents.</p>		
<p>TGB Drew the meeting to close and thanked everyone for a good meeting and in particular hoped that the new attendees found it sufficiently interesting to come along to further meetings.</p>		
<p>The meeting concluded at approximately 9:05 PM</p>		
<p>TGB-02018-1109</p>		