

Meeting, Wednesday January 16, 2019

	Discussion	Action	Agent
1	Welcome, attendees and apologies		
	Present: James Banks (JB), Vicki Carol (VC), Mike Gran – Treasurer (MG), Susie Morrow (SM), Yelena Richie (YR), Terry Brown – Coordinator (TGB)		
	Apologies: Cathy Schade, Peter McLoughlan		
	Welcome: TGB welcomed the new attendee, Yelena Richie, who had first joined us at our Christmas celebration and said that he hoped she would find the meeting interesting and that she would come to future meetings. All around the table introduced themselves. He also expressed thanks to those who helped man the WFOE stall at the PSAD Christmas Fair and who came to our Christmas celebration at the Jolly Gardiners.		
2	Previous Meeting Notes		
	TGB proposed to start by going through some of the points raised in the notes of the last meeting, November 7, 2018:		
	WFOE Leaflet: Now complete and used at the PSAD event and also now, hopefully, on display in Putney and Earlsfield libraries. Susie agreed to check if they were available at Earlsfield library.	SM to check leaflets in Earlsfield library	SM
	Leaflets are also available for WFOE group members. TGB explained that the idea was that the leaflet would be used as a basis for conversations and also that the headings in the leaflet could be backed up by further explanations on the website. He asked if group members could provide some text for this.	Group members requested to provide words for website pages related to the WFOE leaflet.	All
	VC commented that she thought the leaflet was very clear and direct and wondered if a poster version could be available for libraries. her experience was that anything larger than A4 is not really acceptable. TGB thought the text might be too small at A4 size if the two sides the leaflet were incorporated.		
	Leaflets were available for group members to take away		
	Ideas for campaigning: Possible Petitions. The idea of raising points to a petition, probably for local government or central government, had been raised by Piera at the last meeting and it was considered best to discuss this subject next time we see her.	Possible petitions, develop ideas.	PS
	PSAD Stall, December 1 and 2: It was generally felt that the stall was successful and allowed us to practice campaigning and engaging with the public. The Art Fair was a convivial location to do this. We had boards for post-it notes, a sign-up form to request further information and of course the leaflets. Questions asked for post-it notes related to “Is there a synergy between art and the Environment?” and “Single use plastics: do we need them?” It was confirmed that Steffi setters did visit the store and we had a brief conversation. See https://wfoe.co.uk/2018/12/06/wfoe-has-a-successful-day-at-psad/ for pictures and a brief report of the event.		

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

<p>Restart Sessions: MG reported that the recent restart session had been a great success with about 40 people in attendance. These sessions offer the opportunity for people to bring in broken electrical and household goods for repair. There are number of experienced repairers who work with those bringing the items in to repair them. Details at www.therestartproject.org . MG said about half the items brought along were actually fixed at the meeting. SM also mentioned the SewStart programme. Local sessions may be found on the Transition Town Tooting website. VC mentioned the "Work and Play" venue on Blackshaw Road, which could be a good venue for restart sessions.</p>		
<p>SM pointed out that the diagnostic aspect of the Restart sessions was as important as successfully fixing a given item. People are concerned that they don't get good advice about whether their household items can be fixed and fear they are often persuaded to buy a new one when maybe it's not necessary.</p>		
<p>Recycling issues: TGB thought that some good ideas that come out of the preparation for the PSAD stall and he didn't want to lose these. One had been raised by VC to do with recycling which at one time people were very keen to do, but had subsequently become less enthusiastic due to concerns about what happens to the stuff we recycle. VC thought it would be good to have an update from the WRWA about what plastics are recyclable because there are still concerns, confusions and cynicism about where our recycling goes. YR thought that it would be a good idea to be able to show the "journey" of recycled material, so that they can be reassured that it was being dealt with effectively. TGB mentioned that there had been a proposal to do a video about recycling, which WFOE and worked on a few years ago, but unfortunately it had not come to anything. A number of group members visited the WRWA recycling plant and a visit is to be recommended, because it helps you to understand the mechanical and hand sorting processes which determine what can and can't be done regarding recycling. YR was advised that the best way to see if a visit is possible is to go on the WRWA website (https://wrwa.gov.uk). YR thought that we should also show the downside of recycling, for example the resources used to process it.</p>	<p>Check current recycling options with WBC and WRWA. Consider how we might 'publicise' recycling requirements. Also research the recycled materials' 'journey'.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>There was a general opinion that recycling was only a partial answer to the problem of waste and that really we should be addressing the overuse of plastic in packaging, particularly vegetables. There was a discussion about cellophane (Cellulose Acetate) and whether this is a non-degradable plastic. See Appendix A 00:20:55:15</p>		
<p>There was a general discussion about avoiding single use plastic packaging and JB mentioned that millennial's are using batch cooking techniques and maybe could be persuaded to avoid packaging, also mentioning that it is still possible to buy loose vegetables in Sainsbury's. Other retailers selling unpackaged produce were mentioned including a number of Budgens stores and other non-chain retailers. VC mention that in North America a high proportion of vegetables are sold loose.</p>		
<p>Public drinking fountains: in the light of the news that Wandsworth Borough intended to reintroduce public drinking fountains, TGB had mentioned the Victorian water fountain at the junction of Buckhold Road and Merton Road and had undertaken to contact the Council to see if it could be reinstated to use. Still to be done.</p>	<p>Write to WBC about the possibility of reinstating the Merton Road drinking fountain</p>	<p>TGB</p>

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

	<p>Posing challenging questions to Borough councillors: SM had raised this at the previous meeting. She was engaged in asking Mayoral questions and also posing questions to Borough Councillors with the aim of getting points discussed by the Council. She thought there was room for the group to embark on such activity.</p>	Group members to consider subjects to raise with Councillors	All
	<p>Complexity of Council departments: It is becoming more difficult to understand the structure of responsibilities in WBC, especially with the employment of Enable to take over certain responsibilities, who the group thought covered Wandsworth, Richmond and Hammersmith. (POST MEETING NOTE: it emerged at a subsequent WEF meeting that certain <i>Council</i> departments (Transport and Public Health) are now sharing their activities/resourcing with two other Boroughs, namely Richmond and Merton. The upside of this is that there will be more manpower available in areas previously under resourced.) It was thought that WFOE might be able to provide some kind of a simplified guide to Council services and responsibilities.</p>	Group to consider a simplified guide to Council departments and officers and Council members with specifically environmental responsibilities	All
	<p>Events for WFOE participation: the previous notes mention the lack of time to prepare for the PSAD stall and TGB suggested that we might keep an eye on possible future events at which WFOE might participate with a stall or other presence. This might include the Tooting Foodival in September. VC mentioned Wandle Fortnight in late September for which various activities were arranged and suggested that WFOE might participate. VC also mentioned the Councils proposal to have a big event built around air-quality and thought that WFOE might contribute to that.</p>	Group to track forthcoming events as possibilities for WFOE participation and possibly keep a schedule of annual events	All
	<p>WEF: VC explained that the upcoming Wandsworth environment forum meeting was primarily intended for a discussion of the WBC air quality action programme and specifically the communications and community engagement work stream. Jason Andrews and other Council Officers will be at the meeting. VC was keen to get as many community groups as possible to attend the meeting. WFOE Group members are welcome.</p>	Attend WEF meeting on Tuesday February 5	All
	<p>WFOE Website: TGB explained that he had done some work on the website and hoped that he had made it easier to navigate. This was prompted by a critique of the website by a National FOE person. One upshot was that the Wandsworth pages on the national FOE website would be simplified right down to just pointing towards our WordPress website which is at: https://wfoe.co.uk</p>	Visit website and let TGB have comments	All
3	PSAD Christmas Fair Stall		
	<p>The stall at the Putney School of Art and design Christmas fair has been mentioned above, but it was confirmed that we generally felt that we had had a good day with a good exposure for our group and quite a few people visiting the stall. There was a sign-up clipboard on the stall and a number of people had signed and have been added to the email list, but to date, there has been no further contact. VC asked if we had anything specifically aimed at younger people and TGB thought that the post it notes might have been attractive to youngsters, but there didn't seem to be many younger people at the fair. JB recalled that there had been some young people with their parents who had contributed to the post-it notes and enjoyed the biscuit prizes!</p>		

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

	VC said she had met someone from national friends of the Earth who had said that FOE is intending to start up an activity stream directed specifically at younger people . TGB. agreed to try to find out what is happening.	Contact National FOE regarding their progress with a Young People's initiative.	TGB
4	Activities and Campaigning in 2019		
	TGB commented that though WFOE had done some campaigning in 2018, FOE is above all a campaigning group and though WFOE is small it should consider carefully what to do this year. He thought that, as well as campaigning, we ought to be trying to get new members into the group, so recruitment was also an important topic. He asked what Group members thought about the scope of the group's campaigning topics. He responded to YR's question as to what we had focused on previously by saying we had three topics: "Eat well", " Help nature" and "Use less stuff".		
	YR thought that we should do some kind of workshop, particularly based on food and possibly fermented food. She had a project of her own based on "earth's well-being equals our well-being". The Workshop could be about how to make good food for yourself. Fermented food includes things such as kombucha. JB thought that the food idea and fermented food could be a good hook to get people to come along to an open public meeting. And then there could be a wider discussion and leaflets at the event. YR had ideas about how the subject matter could be expanded especially in terms of supporting local retailers and cutting down food waste. MG asked whether YR felt confident enough to run such a workshop and the discussion went on to consider other experts who might do it, but who may want to be paid. MG thought it was a great idea to have such a meeting as a way of getting people to come and talk about various issues that relate to the core workshop, but wondered if we know anybody who could head up the workshop for us. Maybe there was another topic where we could get an informed speaker. JB wondered if it would be possible to have a slightly broader look at sustainable and healthy food as the basis for a public meeting.	Group to develop the food even and consider other possibilities.	All
	TGB also raised the issue of a venue for such a public meeting and a there was a discussion about the Alma pub where WLS hold some of their events. SM confirmed that it was not that not easy to get this venue. YL said she would prefer not to have a pub the venue(!) and the possibility of the event being held in the St Thomas a Beckett Hall was raised, so TGB agreed to see what the response would be to such an event.	Consider possible venues for a WFOE Food event. Find out if St Thomas's hall would be available as a venue for a public FOE meeting.	All TGB
	VC mentioned a church in tooting near Mitcham Road and Tooting Broadway. She explained that it was a big venue with a kitchen and, though possibly a Baptist chapel, was not currently used as such. TGB thought we should research possible venues, charges etc and might have to consider a nominal charge or contribution from people who attended the event. He also mentioned that the Church that the Wandsworth Society use for their meetings, which is located at the corner of Allfarthing Lane and Melody Road, might be a possibility.	Group to continue researching venues for a possible public meeting and draw up a schedule of possibilities.	All

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

	<p>It was agreed that there could be a public event, possibly food based. JB suggested something quite simple like "come and join friends of the Earth to enjoy sustainable food!" TGB asked YR to develop her thoughts and let us have an email to trigger an online discussion.</p>	<p>YR to initiate a discussion online developing a possible food based event for a WFOE public event. Others to join in the discussion</p>	<p>YR All</p>
	<p>TGB thought we should not just focus entirely on that the food event and not lose sight of our other themes, "help nature" and "use less stuff", though perhaps these might woven into the food event as well. He just thought that, in spite of being a very small group, we should have more than one iron in the fire.</p> <p>VC thought that the LSX 'pollinator paths' idea was a good one, and referred to a project in Holland where people were encouraged to have bee houses on quite small sites. It was thought that this might be woven into the focus themes. The discussion of these and pollinator paths developed into a discussion about the FOE bee friendly program and their bee friendly seed packets and went on to consider public open spaces and the possibility of parklets. JB thought that the idea of parklets was very attractive and that maybe this is one thing that we could take up for lobbying Councillors acknowledging that we couldn't have too many topics for our small group.</p>	<p>Group to follow up on campaigns such as 'pollinator paths', 'The bee-cause' and campaigning Councillors for 'parklets'</p>	<p>All JB</p>
	<p>Regarding parklets, SM explained that she thought that the Council had to agree to them, but mentioned the lady in Hackney who had taken out a parking space in the street for a pop up parklet, even offering to pay the parking charge for this space. This parklet was moved around and formed the basis of an installation at the Transport Museum, which eventually persuaded Hackney to allow parklets in streets and anyone can now apply to have a parklet in their street provided that they maintain it. A typical parklet at might include a planter or two and a seat and maybe even some bike parking. JB was quite keen on the idea of parklets and TGB thought that WFOE could possibly take up the parklets idea but with a nature angle rather than the living streets approach. MG suggested that the idea might be extended into guerrilla gardening in the Borough.</p>	<p>Develop the idea of parklets and explore possibilities in Wandsworth.</p>	<p>JB MG</p>
	<p>JB said he was willing to spend an hour or so outside his local station on a Saturday morning promoting some WFOE cause, but wondered what he should do. The first suggestion was to give out leaflets. It was also suggested that he might have to develop a focus and theme for what he campaigned about, whether it be avoiding packaging or something else. Another possibility was to stand outside a supermarket and ask people to give you the packaging off their purchases and see how much accumulates in an hour. The brave thing to do would then be to give this packaging back to the supermarket!</p>	<p>Develop the idea of Street campaigning on a topic for further development and, possibly including more than one person sharing the event.</p>	<p>JB All</p>
	<p>Recruitment: YR referred to the website and acknowledged that it had been updated, but I thought that it still seems impersonal. It needed a bit more human interest. She thought that a picture of the group coordinator and maybe the group could add human interest. She thought that if one didn't want a picture of oneself, then an avatar might be the alternative. An avatar is often little cartoon drawing and TGB confessed that he could draw a bit and that maybe there is a possibility (given time!) that cartoons of Group members could be produced! MG then went on to take a group photograph for future use and reference.</p>	<p>Try to improve the friendliness of the website possibly with some cartoons of group members</p>	<p>TGB</p>

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

4	AOB		
	MG nothing to raise		
	SM reported that there is a vegan restaurant on the Garratt Lane, just north of Earlsfield station and south of the Henry Prince estate called Amrutha Lounge producing “vegan soul food”. MG pointed out that it was essentially Indian and Tye based food. SM fully recommends this restaurant. it appears to operate on a very personal level and SM anticipated possibly being able to supply them with produce from her allotment. In answer to YL’s suggestion that we put a details of recommended restaurants on the website, TGB had to advise that this would be advertising, which is not allowed by FOE.		
	SM also mentioned a Mayoral Question that Leone Cooper had asked (2018-5261) asking, that as there was no cycling provision through the new Ram Brewery development will the Mayor now embark on the provision of a cycle way along Armoury Way in order to maintain continuity of the Wandle Trail in Wandsworth town centre? Answer: TfL is mindful of the Wandle Trail and will ensure that it will continue to be clearly signed, linking in at the existing locations at the north and the south of the town centre. It is also working with the developers of the Ram Brewery site to determine the extent that cycling can be allowed along the side of the river Wandle and currently does not have any proposals to provide a cycle lane along Armoury Way. TfL and the Borough continue to work on the proposals to reduce traffic in the town centre. This was generally thought to be an inadequate response and to demonstrate just how little was being done to improve Wandsworth for cycling in the pedestrian. VC mentioned that there were cycleways and low-energy proposals included in the original Ram Brewery site proposals, but these all seemed to fall away.		
	VC nothing to add		
	JB recommend that we listen to the ‘new years resolution’ pod casts which can be found on the ‘BBC sounds’ App. He was particularly interested in the one about the extent to which we should be developing ‘greenfield’ land and another one which was about consumption of water.		
	YL , coming back to thoughts about an event, wasn't sure what WFOE would be prepared to do about a venue and TGB said that basically if there was a charge for the venue we would have to pass it on to the people who came, because WFOE has very small funds. If, for instance, the room cost £100 and the speaker £200, we would have to recoup that money probably charging about £5 a head(needing 60 attendees to break even!) and this might put off the people we were trying to encourage. TGB suggested that perhaps the beginning of any thought process was to think of the form and content of an event and then the group could try to work out how to do it at least cost. He was keen that YL develop some thoughts about the food event. JB suggested that it should be the WFOE group who were themselves the speakers and provided the material. He thought that the idea of a workshop was a loose one and that it might be a sort of participator event where people, for instance, brought food and talked about it in an environmental context.	Develop some core ideas about a possible food based event.	YL All

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

	YL also referred to the website, coming back to her point about it being rather impersonal and encouraging us to build it around the group. TGB agreed to give this some thought.	Look at humanising the WFOE website to make it more user-friendly	TGB All
5	Next meeting		
	It was provisionally agreed that the next meeting would it be March 13 -----		All
	The meeting concluded at approximately 9:15 PM		
	TGB-02019-0208		

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

Appendix A: Cellophane (source Wikipedia):

Cellophane is a thin, transparent sheet made of regenerated cellulose. Its low permeability to air, oils, greases, bacteria, and water makes it useful for food packaging.

"Cellophane" is a generic term in some countries, while in other countries it is a registered trademark.

Cellulose from wood, cotton, hemp, or other sources is dissolved in alkali and carbon disulfide to make a solution called viscose, which is then extruded through a slit into a bath of dilute sulfuric acid and sodium sulfate to reconvert the viscose into cellulose. The film is then passed through several more baths, one to remove sulfur, one to bleach the film, and one to add softening materials such as glycerin to prevent the film from becoming brittle.

A similar process, using a hole (a spinneret) instead of a slit, is used to make a fibre called rayon. Chemically, cellophane, rayon and cellulose are polymers of glucose; they differ structurally rather than chemically.

Cellophane is biodegradable, but highly toxic carbon disulfide is used in most cellophane production. Viscose factories vary widely in the amount of CS₂ they expose their workers to, and most give no information about their quantitative safety limits or how well they keep to them.

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

Appendix B: WEF Air Quality Meeting

From: VICTORIA CAROL vickigoat@hotmail.com

Subject: Wandsworth Environment Forum key Air Quality meeting

Date: 17 January 2019 at 08:23

Hello,

I hope you will be able to attend this very relevant meeting on Tuesday, 5th of February, Wandsworth Town Hall, Room 145, 7pm. Wandsworth Council has launched its Air Quality Programme and a crucial strand of this is the 'Communications and Community Engagement Work-stream'.

The attached 'briefing note' prepared for the Council, is an outline of potential projects and initiatives. We need to help ensure that everyone has an opportunity to voice their opinions on this Community Engagement: to reinforce to the Council the importance of working with local organisations on what can most proactively be done to inform people and to encourage involvement in positive-change actions on poor air quality.

Two of the team overseeing this will be attending the meeting: Melissa Watson (Voluntary Sector Partnerships Manager) and Sophie Brimson (Community Engagement Manager). Also attending will be Jason Andrews (Environmental Health Pollution Manager) who was at our last meeting.

I realise that not all WEF members have their specific focus on Air Quality. However, I think what is discussed at the meeting could also help define community involvement/engagement in a wider context.

I have been reaching out to some education and youth contacts about possible attendance. If you know others who are concerned about/want to be involved in actions on air quality in their area, please do invite them to this meeting. I would appreciate knowing if you are able to attend. If you are not able to, please do ask an alternative person from your organisation.

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

<p>Suggested Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction of all around the table2. Presentation of the Communications and Community Engagement Work stream briefing note3. Questions and any needed clarification of the overall aim of the briefing note and/or specific initiatives4. Discussion on the proposed 'Engage', 'Involve' and 'Inform' initiatives of the attached briefing note.5. Follow-up mechanism suggestions <p>Please send any additional agenda suggestions. I look forward to seeing you. Cheers, Vicki Carroll</p>		