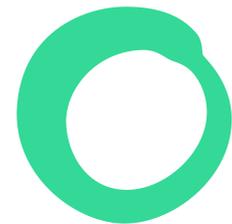


WFOE Meeting: January 8, 2020

In attendance:

Vicki Carrol (VC)
 Mike Grahn (MG)
 Susie Morrow (SM)
 Chelsea Purvis (CP)
 Terry Brown-Coordinator (TGB)



**Friends of
the Earth
Wandsworth**

Apologies:

Apologies received:
 Kim Boyd
 Paul Dinsdale
 Stuart Oliver

Note	Action
1 Welcome	
The group Welcomed Chelsea Purvis and TGB said he hoped the meeting would be interesting enough to persuade her to come to the next one as well.	
2 Previous Minutes	
Plan-eat Earth: Regarding the 'Plan-eat Earth' picnic, TGB suggested that we should repeat the event this year. We hope that James might be interested in organising again	JB
WBC Local Plan Review: VC asked if anyone had been invited to the WBC Local Plan Workshop on January 17. SM and MG were registered as well as VC. WFOE had not been invited, but TGB resolved to apply to attend.	TGB
St Georges Hospital: MG explained that there would be a recruitment day on Saturday January 25, but focussed on recruitment and not otherwise public, so not appropriate for a WFOE stall. The main public open day will be held in late September/early October and there would be a good chance of having a stall. MG agreed to track this for final date.	MG
Restart: A successful restart event had been held and the next ones will be on February 1 and March 28. Fixing broken things is carried out with the person who brings the item in and there is follow up, if parts are required for instance. Children bring their broken toys along. MG said that they need more fixers, so if anyone can offer help they should get in touch with him.	All
WLS Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Meeting: For the benefit of CP, SM explained Wandsworth Living Streets is a group concerned with pedestrian and cycling environment in streets and the quality of the street environment for people on foot. It relates also to London Living Streets and the National organisation as well.	
Finances and Fundraising: MG reported that we have funds in hand which would support room hire charges to the end of the year and nothing else. Regarding the need to renew the group's licence with National FOE, TGB believed that the annual licence fee had been dropped, but agreed to check. POST MEETING NOTE: FOE confirmed that there is no longer an annual licence fee.	TGB

WFOE Meeting: January 8, 2020

<p>TGB reported that he was in touch with Fiona Whyte, one of the main office friends of the Earth people who are there to help local groups. He will report more about progress at the next meeting. SM asked if we should invite someone from central FOE to one of our meetings. VC queried whether the central organisation had any material which they could give out to local groups to help with campaigning. TGB mentioned the FOE Climate Action Plan for Local Councils and agreed to distribute it to WFOE members.</p>	<p>TGB</p>
<p>POST MEETING NOTE: TGB has had further discussions with Fiona Whyte of the central FOE and will be going to a meeting of group coordinators at the print works on February 18.</p>	<p>TGB</p>
<p>TGB commented that we are not yet positively actively fundraising at the moment but that we need to start thinking about it and possibly introducing fundraising into whatever our next public engagement might be</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>The contribution from the Wandsworth Quakers was discussed in the light of Kim Boyd's comment that the more passionate the case made the more generous friends were likely to be. It was to be hoped that by the time of the collection WFOE would have embarked on an interesting and convincing campaign.</p>	
<p>MG and SM thought that national friends of the Earth would contact their members and supporters in the Wandsworth area to make them aware of Wandsworth Friends of the Earth group.</p>	
<p>Schools Recycling Facilities: VC explained that she had not yet had the opportunity to check whether schools can use domestic recycling facilities. She undertook to do this and get in contact with Malcolm Grimston. Also VC to check whether she had emailed Mike Singham of WRWA on the subject.</p>	<p>VC</p>
<p>General Election: While other priorities had meant that TGB hadn't made any contact with the prospective candidates prior to the general election before Christmas they remained the opportunity to contact the successful Wandsworth candidates to see what their policies were with regard to environmental issues.</p>	
<p>MG suggested that, with regard to contacting the new MPs, somebody should draw up a list of points to be raised. MG turned up a FOE template letter for MP contact with MPs at the meeting. MG and SM agreed to draft a list of queries or a draft letter.</p>	<p>SM, MG</p>
<p>Putney Environment Commission: SM pointed out that Fleur Anderson was setting up a Putney Environment Commission and that local groups were being asked to attend and initiating meeting. POST MEETING NOTE: the first meeting of the Putney environment commission took place on Saturday, February 8 and TGB, SM and MG were in attendance with a range of Wandsworth amenity and campaigning groups.</p>	
<p>WFOE Christmas Celebration: It was mentioned in passing that few people attended the WFOE Christmas get-together and so while it was an enjoyable occasion it was disappointing that so few turned up.</p>	
<p>3 Possible Future Events and Campaigns</p>	
<p>MG pointed out that he personally was dealing with various voluntary groups and so were others around the table and this makes it difficult to take onboard new commitments. TGB pointed out that this didn't mean that he couldn't suggest campaigning topics.</p>	
<p>Pollution from surface water run-off: A recent report has highlighted the problem of local run-off from roads polluting rivers. We have the Wandle River and the Beverley Brook. MG pointed out that this harks back to a campaign of Wandsworth</p>	<p>SM</p>

WFOE Meeting: January 8, 2020

<p>Friends of the Earth in 1985 about the pollution of the river Wandle, which had some impact. It seems that it is time to take up this action again as it appears nobody else is doing so at this time. VC pointed out that the Wandle Valley Forum is supposed to be campaigning on aspects related to the river and they could be a good ally in the campaign. If WFOE produced anything then VC offered to pass it on to Tony Burton at the Wandsworth Valley Forum. Central London has separate sewer systems whereas in Wandsworth it is a combined system, outer London style of drainage. Steffi Sutters is the Councillor in charge of 'green infrastructure'. The two issues are (a) less traffic on the streets and (b) less run-off of surface water therefore permeable paving and SUDS plus more green infrastructure. SM said she would forward the link to the report.</p>	<p>SM</p>
<p>There was a discussion about the nature of "green infrastructure" and urban wilding.</p>	
<p>TGB reminded the group that we had embarked on a campaign related to open space and urban infrastructure/greening last year, but it turned out to be a mammoth task that we had not managed to deliver anything tangible.</p>	
<p>The group discussed 'pollinator paths' as well.</p>	
<p>VC considered it important that groups work together and so if anything was to be done on run-off we should coordinate with the Wandle Valley forum.</p>	<p>Group</p>
<p>A green infrastructure project would seem to be a good campaign to embark on and TGB asked if the group thought this was a good idea. SM reluctantly suggested that we do not have the resources to embark on such a campaign at the moment, bearing in mind the other commitments of group members, but that we could keep it on the table as a possible campaign should resources improve.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Recruitment: In the light of this the group was firmly agreed that recruitment was the headline issue.</p>	
<p>Collaboration with other groups: CP asked if it was possible for WFOE to join up with another group. She wondered if for instance we could join up with the Cycling Campaign's climate focus. The WFOE group is small at the moment, but might be able to contribute in other areas by linking up with another group. TGB added the thought that maybe link up with other Friends of the Earth groups would be possible. There are FOE groups in both Southwark and Richmond. In response to SM's question as to whether there is a FOE group in Merton, VC pointed out the very strong 'Sustainable Merton' group. SM also pointed out that we have a joint Wandsworth and Merton assembly member.</p>	
<p>As regards working with other groups, MG asked whether, if Restart wanted to expand into Wandsworth with a second venue, it would be possible to use St Thomas a Becket Church Hall. TGB was cautious about an open public meeting in the hall, but would check out if that was a possibility. MG pointed out that this would be a collaboration between WFOE and Restart could be a sort of joint meeting. It was suggested that TGB should go along to one of the restart meetings and he agreed. MG also pointed out that there may be some funding for starting a new Restart venue.</p>	<p>TGB</p>
<p>Regarding liability, MG explained that the Restart group carried personal and public liability insurance.</p>	
<p>TGB asked CP if there was a particular concern that she was concerned about. She explained that she had been a FOE donor for some time, but with the recent galvanising of attention on the climate crisis she had considered approaching a local group. She also explained that with children and a house, she was now less transient in where she lived and this prompted her to consider being part of a local community group.</p>	

WFOE Meeting: January 8, 2020

<p>Regarding the climate crisis, there was a sense that extinction rebellion (XR) had moved centre stage and are building a big following including quite a few local groups. There is a Wandsworth XR Group of which TGB is a rather inactive member. VC pointed out that Diana McCann is a local XR campaigner and David Smith is as well. TGB said there was also an 'XR elders' group to general amusement</p>	
<p>Waste and Recycling: VC suggested that the issue of waste is something that WFOE could take up. While this had been looked at in the past by WFOE, VC thought that there was again a renewed movement particularly with regard to plastic packaging. Could be quite a "visible" thing that WFOE could embark on. It is likely that FOE has a support package for this kind of campaign, whether it be addressed towards shops or in other areas.</p>	<p>TGB</p>
<p>Composting: CP raised the issue of composting. WBC do provide a garden composting service, but they do not collect; you have to take it to the local recycling point. Martin Cobley, who used to come to the WEF meetings, had started a hot composting project but it hasn't gone too well. He has now left the area.</p>	
<p>TGB also recalled that there had been discussion of a community composting scheme at one of the earlier WEF meetings but neither he nor VC knew what had happened to this.</p>	
<p>It was agreed that waste and recycling should also be put on the list of possible campaigns</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Progress with the 10,000 petition and the Wandsworth Environmental and Sustainability Strategy: SM said that the action plan is due for review by the Council at the end of the month. The revised action plan was anticipated in a week to 10 days time. It would be going forward to the Finance and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on January 23, 2020 POST MEETING NOTE: see appendix 1 below.</p>	
<p>Clair O'Connor is the officer who has produced the strategy and she and John Evans are really committed to addressing the climate issues. Jason Andrews is delivering the local aspect of the WESS, focussing on air quality. It was good to hear that there is actual progress with the WESS, but it would be interesting to see what is emerging in the updated document. SM made the point that what is important now is to move from a strategy into action and she says that some of the Councillors were putting up barriers to actual action. VC believes that Councillor Ellis is much more proactive on the climate front than was Councillor Cooke. SM pointed out that the WESS comes under the remit of counsellor Rory O'Broin.</p>	
<p>SM said that it has been pointed out to Claire O'Connor that not all Councillors are fully on-message with regard to the climate crisis. TGB said that he sensed that Ravi Govindia's short speech at the Council meeting which accepted the declaration of the climate crisis was a bit circumspect and maybe tempered by his knowledge that a number of Councillors were lukewarm. TGB was concerned that the response to the officers should be to educate the Counsellors rather than water down the strategy.</p>	
<p>SM explained that TfL's annual report "Transport in London" which came out at the end of last year included a bar chart showing the percentage of street space taken over by car parking and Wandsworth was the highest. She interpreted this as the public storage of private property.</p>	
<p>In response to TGB's musing about what would happen with the Government's declaration of a climate emergency as well, SM pointed out that it was Parliament not the Government that declared the climate emergency. We have yet to see any evidence of the Governments environmental focus</p>	

WFOE Meeting: January 8, 2020

<p>4 AOB</p>	
<p>MG: Pedestrian Crossings: As part of the work that is being done to make pedestrian crossings better for pedestrians, a group is looking for annual nominations for ‘bad crossings’; in other words crossings which don't offer easy use by pedestrians, for instance where you have to wait a long time to cross or you don't have enough time to cross. You can nominate a crossing by describing it in an email saying what the problems are, that should be sent to londoncrossings@gmail.com. The crossing can be anywhere in Wandsworth (or London as a whole) wether on Council roads or TfL roads. MG pointed out that the wait time is in the gift of the engineers who designed the crossing whereas the time allowed to cross is set down in government guidelines and has to be adhered to. This guidance has, however, been revised in favour of allowing more time for pedestrians to cross and so there is the possibility of campaigning for existing crossings to adhere to the new guidelines. MG assured us that if you send your nominations to the above email address they will get fed into the system and will be looked at. There are 6,000 crossings in London!</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Wandsworth Cycling Campaign: The next two meetings will be Tuesday January 21 and Tuesday February 18, third Tuesday of the month in the upstairs space at the Cat's Back pub, Point Pleasant.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>SM: Wandsworth Society Talk on ‘Guerrilla Gardening’: A talk about Southfields’ “Greening the Grid” promoted by Nina Kowalska will be held on the evening after the WFOE meeting. TGB explained that he had tried to contact the Greening the Grid group on a number occasions, but they didn't seem to want to give him any material to put up on the ‘Bring Fronts Back’ website. The BFB URL is www.bringfrontsback.wordpress.com. SM said she would try to give Bring Fronts Back a plug and ask Nina to provide some material to include on the website. It was acknowledged that the RHS has also had a campaign for de-paving front gardens. Front gardens are all part of the greening of the city and reducing run-off as discussed earlier.</p>	<p>SM</p>
<p>VC: Wandsworth Environmental Forum: The next WEF meeting is on Tuesday, January 28 at 7:30 in room 145 at the Town Hall. The Wandsworth Environment Forum has been around for about 20 years and the question arises as to whether it should continue. This would be debated at the next meeting. VC explained that the WEF had been rather concentrating on air quality recently and it might be appropriate to broaden the discussion into other areas, for instance to plastic packaging and recycling. The agenda will be issued shortly.</p>	<p>VC</p>
<p>Wandsworth Air Quality Action Plan: The next meeting of the Council Air Quality Group will be at Southside Shopping Centre on Saturday, February 1 from 12:00 PM until 5:00 PM. The group is looking for volunteers to help them interview people within Southside to see what awareness they have about the air quality within the borough. VC would send out details by email.</p>	
<p>CP: nothing further to raise</p>	
<p>TGB: nothing further to raise</p>	
<p>The group were thanked for all the news and points they raised and it was proposed that the campaigning ideas discussed above should be developed.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>5 Next Meeting</p>	
<p>The next meeting will be on Wednesday March 11</p>	

The meeting ended at about 21:00 hours

WFOE Meeting: January 8, 2020

TGB02020/01080210

Appendix 1

The Council's documents describing the Wandsworth Environmental and sustainability Strategy as presented to the Council are:

Report by the Chief Executive on the Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy (WESS) Action Plan

Wandsworth's Borough-wide Carbon Emissions Analysis

WESS Action Schedule:

SECTION ONE - Getting our own house in order: Becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030

SECTION TWO - Reducing the borough's emissions and preparing for climate change

WFOE's email to Councillors text:

Dear Councillor

A short email to say that Wandsworth Friends of the Earth is very pleased that WBC is proposing to extend its approach to the Climate Emergency declared last year with a further development of the WESS.

In the short time available to view it so far the WESS seems to be moving forward with an ambitious and accountable agenda. The developing WESS is quite a formidable document for Wandsworth residents to understand and the formatting might be helpfully revised to guide the reader to the various targets for environmental improvement and Mitigation/adaptation for climate change and GHGs. Also, it would be important to see relevant WESS ambitions incorporated into the currently being revised Local Plan.

Hoping that these comments will be received in the positive light and collaborative attitude intended.

WFOE would be delighted to participate in any further consultations on the WESS.

Kind regards
Terence Brown
Coordinator
WFOE

WFOE Meeting: January 8, 2020

Appendix 2

Text of Councillor O'Broin's response to the WFOE email:

Dear Terence

Thank you for your e-mail of support for the WESS and feedback for how we can develop further. We will take these on board and look forward to speaking with you as our plans progress.

Kind regards

Cllr Rory O'Broin

Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources
Wandsworth Borough Council