

**In attendance:**

- Kim Boyd (KB)
- Frank Burgess (FB)
- Vicki Carol (VC)
- Irina Charalambous (IC)
- Lynne McNulty (LMcN)
- Josh Waley (JW)
- Terry Brown - Coordinator (TGB)

**Apologies:**

- Katie Phillips
- Joe Olding
- Stuart Oliver
- Jake Spooner

**Welcome:**

TGB welcomed all, including new and returning group attendees.

Note	Action
<p><b>0 Form of meeting note:</b> this note has been pieced together from the meeting, but material has been grouped under agenda headings, rather in the chronological order of the event.</p>	
<p><b>1 WFOE information &amp; communication</b></p>	
<p><b>1 Google Drive</b></p>	
<p>It had been intended to have a demonstration of the Google Drive set up in place for WFOE, but Jake was not in attendance so it needed to be postponed. Some group members had managed to find their way to the Google Drive set up.</p>	
<p>JW said that it is possible to request Google Drive to send you notifications when files are added to particular folders.</p>	
<p><b>2 Review Activities Schedule and develop campaign ideas</b></p>	
<p><b>1 Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy (WESS)</b></p>	
<p>TGB reported that WFOE continued to review the WESS and IC had been looking at it and would report later.</p>	
<p>VC pointed out that there was a Wandsworth Environment Forum meeting fixed for Tuesday March 23 at which Clare O'Connor would be discussing the WESS. The focus would be on transport.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>

	<p>IC has been taking a look at the WESS, and discussed highlights from her report: Not sure over what period of time the budget of £5M stated is spread. Achieved in 2020: four new dedicated staff members to deliver the action plan. (WFOE has contact with some of these through WEF) Target to replace 32 HGVs with electric. Was this met? Carrying out energy audits on council buildings, held a Climate Summit on-line to engage the public; utilised the Green Homes Grant for 75 homes; 61 bike hangers; EV charging points, many requests for lamppost charging sockets. No mention in the strategy of working with local supermarkets to reduce waste.</p>	
	<p>Also encouragement of active travel, especially cycling, though not much detail on delivering. Proposed that WFOE should challenge or test the WESS: does it put forward vaguely stated ambitions or specific proposals that can be monitored.</p>	
	<p>TGB raise the point about a 'route map' and 'milestones'. IC explained that the WESS constantly refers to 'developer plans'. This also relates to the Wandsworth planning Local Plan which has many let-out clauses for the environmental requirements. Developers employ professional teams to argue the environmental case away as with affordable housing and this is usually based on viability.</p>	
	<p>VC: on a positive note it's good to say that there are four full-time staff working on the WESS action plan and this is definitely a move forward.</p>	
	<p>IC: planting of trees, 600 odd planted though not clear how many were replacements.</p>	
	<p>Actions for this year: continue rolling out lower missions fleet vehicles; continuing with biodiversity strategy and planting of trees; setting up drinking fountains to try to cut down on single use plastic. Some things have been put on hold, including looking at planting in public green spaces. Employment of Enable might have something to do with this, but in any case complicates access to council open space activities.</p>	
	<p>FB: referred to the pledge to make Wandsworth the 'greenest borough in London', but very much doubt still that there is any real action in this direction. Specifically mentioned the black poplar tree cut down to allow a cable to be run underground in York Gardens (see <a href="https://www.swlondoner.co.uk/news/09032021-protestor-set-to-spend-12th-night-in-york-gardens-tree-to-stop-its-felling/">https://www.swlondoner.co.uk/news/09032021-protestor-set-to-spend-12th-night-in-york-gardens-tree-to-stop-its-felling/</a>). Plans for the Winstanley estate also result in major tree clearance. Also commented on the uptake of electric cars being more than appreciated because often they don't look any different to the fossil fuel varieties.</p>	
	<p>Monitoring of WESS is our best opportunity to hold the council to account. VC: Jason Andrews is going to be involved in community liaison.</p>	
	<p>TGB undertook to read IC's report and to see if he can make any suggestions as to how to develop this activity stream</p>	<p><b>TGB/IC</b></p>
	<p><b>2 Mayoral Elections 2021: collaboration with Merton FOE</b></p>	
	<p>TGB explained that he had been working with Merton Friends of the Earth coordinator Laura Carter to set up meetings with the principal four candidates for the Wandsworth and Merton London Assembly member. Meetings had been fixed as follows:                  Leonie Cooper (present incumbent): March 25 at 17:00                  Sue Wixley: March 30 at 18:00                  Louise Calland: April 6 at 19:30                  Pippa Maslin April 13 at 19:00                  It was thought that meetings with the mayoral candidates would be difficult to arrange, as they would be busy with other hustings and WFOE group members could go to those.</p>	
	<p><b>3 Wandsworth Borough Council Local Plan</b></p>	

<p>TGB reported that he had submitted comments on two sections of the Wandsworth Borough Council Local Plan and had been in consultation with the Green party who were also making a separate submission. The submission had been acknowledged. A copy of the local plan and the WFOA comments will be uploaded to the Google Drive folders.</p>	<p><b>TGB</b></p>
<p><b>4 Urban Greening</b></p>	
<p>KB: Council web site includes a tree strategy; a useful document to share. No hard numbers (as in WESS), more about overall policy and philosophy. Needs hard commitment. Will upload to Google Drive.</p>	
<p>The <b>Tree walk</b> that Kim proposes, in view of restrictions it is necessary to explore picking a date after May 17, when larger gatherings can take place out of doors. Saturday best. Saturday June 12 proposed. Seven mile route, starting at Barnes, ending at Battersea. Drop in and drop out points should be arranged. Tree writer, Paul Wood, is being consulted. Theme is music history from sixties and seventies.</p>	
<p>KB has not yet succeeded in contacting anybody in the council regarding trees but will continue to try especially to see if they can point out any heritage trees on the walk we propose.</p>	
<p><b>5 Climate Change</b></p>	
<p>In the absence of Stuart, it was felt we couldn't really tackle the climate change stream at the current meeting.</p>	<p><b>SO</b></p>
<p><b>6 Single use plastics and recycling</b></p>	
<p>There are WESS sections on reducing waste. Proposals for food waste collection and distribution of home composters. Nothing about working with retailers on reduction of plastic packaging. Officers were being appointed to deal with waste and recycling, but it is not clear what engagement will occur with the local community or groups.</p>	
<p>More commercial companies are trying to reduce their plastic packaging. Need to demonstrate 'corporate responsibility' to public. Webinar on April 14 on waste &amp; recycling.</p>	
<p>VC did not get convincing answers on the subject of proportion of plastics going to incineration. Will chase up further.</p>	<p><b>VC</b></p>
<p>There is concern that the local authority is not engaging with local groups sufficiently as partners to tap into their knowledge and experience. VC wants to find out who will be active within WBC on engaging with local groups. Being leaders in public consultation?</p>	
<p>JW where does main responsibility lie with respect to the plastic which is going to incineration? VC: Single use plastic can't be recycled and there is a huge quantity of it still being used. Must be down to the commercial providers to reduce its use. JW asked what the focus of any campaigning should be; whether the local authority or commercial interests. Council seems to have lost interest in working with local businesses, so the focus has to be on commercial interests, who need to convince the public that they are operating ethically.</p>	
<p>TGB drew attention to the 'campaign &amp; activity schedule' and the fact that it identifies various kinds of action and suggested that we do need to keep track of our activities through the schedule. Should be converting our concerns into actions and this might become more possible as the lockdown eases.</p>	
<p>TGB mentioned high rise and difficulties with recycling. Both a composting scheme and a trial of food waste collection are proposed by WBC. Waste strategy manager appointed.</p>	

	JW confirmed his interest in the waste and recycling stream but wondered what actions this might suggest. Bring pressure to bear on the new officers within WBC. VC and JW to confer outside the meeting.	VC JW
	TGB mentioned the fact that we were looking at biodegradable alternatives to single use plastics and if we came up with some possibilities there then this would be a good thing to take back to the commercial interests and ask why they weren't using these materials.	VC JW
	VC has noticed that in Balham where there is a large Sainsbury's and Waitrose there is also an open market selling vegetables without packaging and that she has noticed an increased use of this with people taking their own bags. Well used open markets in Tooting as well.	
	VC: 'Packaging in Europe' newsletter has details of developments in packaging.	
<b>3</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<b>1 Group members news &amp; comments</b>	
	LMcN: Trees: Arboricultural Association Webinars, not just about the number of trees but also the species and where they are planted. LMcN has been monitoring what is happening in King Georges Park where the Tideway works are taking place and where 19 shrubs and trees were cut down, though two saved. The legacy of the Tideway site, which is largely a paved area, is categorised as open space "enhancement" by WBC.	
	JW: confirmed that he would be happy to participate with VC on the waste and packaging issues and with Irina on parts of the WESS	JW
	KB: Pat Langley: Dour and difficult character heads up the Council Arboriculturist team.	
	<b>2 Next meeting:</b> discussed changing the meeting to Wednesday, but there was a difficulty with two of the group members present so preference of the meeting was for either Tuesdays or Thursdays and in this case the Tuesday, April 13 was tentatively chosen POST MEETING NOTE: due to conflicting preferences a DoodlePole has been sent out to try and establish the most suitable date for the meeting.	
	<b>The meeting closed at about 20:00</b>	

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