

# SusWoT Monthly Meeting

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm at the Village Hall

## Attendees

Alex Dunn (chair)	Patrick Devane
Rob Benington	Jill Kempshall
Myra Jones	Pat Meek
Mike Crabbe	Liz Viggars

## Apologies

Stephen Noreiko	Judith Sluglett
David McGregor	Hattie Lupton
Mel Ward	Denise Barwell

## Welcome

We welcomed Patrick to his first meeting and Rob to his second. We outlined the projects they might wish to get involved in – Patrick signed up to river cleaning. Rob has recently been working with Blaise and has helped out with the Air Source Heat Pump project

## Air Source Heat Pumps

We are pleased to be a part of the Government's Heat Pump Ready Programme. Bristol Heat Pump Ready is one of four national projects. The engagement element gets under way this week. We are targeting Westbury on Trym residents on specific Electricity Transformers where we may be able to encourage residents to switch to an air source heat pump. We will post letters to the residents on the first transformers tomorrow. This will be followed up with further engagement – which will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

We are due to receive a Memorandum Of Understanding from the Centre for Sustainable Energy this week.

## Library Garden & Community Garden

There was a working session at the Library Garden last Saturday. Broad beans have been removed and summer crops planted. These include tomatoes, courgettes, squash and cucumber. There are two water butts at the Library Garden. Jill will talk to Malcolm about watering.

Some wildflowers have been sown at the front of the library garden – and may be starting to come up.

The Community Garden is looking smart – and was part of the Bristol Get Growing trail.

### Trym Cleaning & Balsam Bashing

We have nearly finished a first deep clean of the entire River System – with some still to finish at the top end of the Crow Lane Open Space. The Avon Wildlife Trust is due to visit a session to understand what we do and how they might encourage other groups to do similar work elsewhere.

There is significantly less Balsam this year. We expect to keep it clear with around 100 hours of effort this year. There are some Sunday sessions but a lot of the work is being done by individuals looking after their patch.

### Phone Apps

We are Beta-testing two Android phone apps – WoTPlot and WoTPic. These will help us to report and deal with various issues such as fly tipping and Himalayan Balsam.

We plan to ask the University to help develop WoTPic further next year.

### Get Growing

This project is now finished for the year. We grew hundreds of tomato plants (and some other vegetables and herbs) which were sold at the Community Fair and Get Growing. These events have not proved as popular for the last couple of years. We have donated 300 plants to schools and some to an Alzheimer's fundraiser.

We should consider scaling down next year.

### Litter picking

There is little litter in the village as all streets are looked after a network of volunteers on an 'as needed' basis.

### Supper Club

Supper Club is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. We have moved from a 'dining in' to a 'dining out' approach supporting local restaurants. For July, we plan to visit the new chip shop at Hunters and eat in the Community Garden if the weather allows.

### Finances

Finances are very healthy. While we have earned less money from Get Growing this year, we have secured funding for several projects – Air Source Heat Pumps, Voles and Otters, Barriers to Fish Migration (the latter two on behalf of the Trout in the Trym group).

This means that we have sufficient funds to support new projects.

However we may need to consider formalising our current structure.

## Village Show

The Village Show is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 11-5. We will have 3 classes:

Class	Description
92	A Plant or Produce grown from SusWoT seeds or plants
93	A Vegetarian Dish (sweet or savoury) where the main ingredient is home-grown
94	'Harvest' – a video. Maximum Duration 1.5 Minutes

We will finalise arrangements in August. We will be sharing our stand with our partners in the Air Source Heat Pump project.

## Communications

We tend to communicate via emails and our websites. We also have active Facebook and Twitter accounts. We are not good at maintaining these and need to look to improve content.

We can increase our profile by inviting others to write articles about our work (as we are doing with Avon Wildlife Trust) . Rob will consider how we might put together press releases.

## Location

The Village Hall is closed for July and August – we will meet on the last Thursday of the month at **Westbury Library**.