

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 31st August 2023, Westbury-on-Trym Library

Present

Alex Dunn, Fran Bragg, Keith Yeandel, Mike Crabbe, Liz Viggars, Rob Bennington, Pat Meek, Jill Kempshall

Apologies

Judith Sluglett, Stephen Noreiko, Denise Barwell, Hattie Lupton,

To contact us about any items below, please email suswot2050@gmail.com.

NEW and ONE OFF ITEMS

Formal Structure of SusWoT

We are looking to convert SusWoT into a charity:

- Type
 - Association - this is used by the Scouts for example where large numbers of people have a stake in the charity.
 - Foundation - Mike thinks this type of charity is best suited to SusWoT. The charity is managed by a small number of trustees. Other members are involved in the various activities of the organisation.
- Trustees
 - We need a minimum of 3 trustees. We should look to have 5 in due course in case of unavailability of some trustees at certain meetings.
 - How would we appoint trustees? We could restrict it geographically for example?
 - Mike suggests that he is clerk to the trustees for the first year to ensure we get into the practice of recording decisions properly for the purpose of the Charity Commissioners.
 - A trustee must be over 18. The Charity Commission is keen to encourage younger trustees.
- Timescale
 - We could formalise this at the next AGM in April
 - It takes at least 6 weeks for the approval process. To be completed by Christmas, it would need to be finalised by our October meeting.
- Other issues
 - We can carry forward any clauses already in our constitution
 - What would we do with the money if we were to close?
 - Many of the issues discussed in the supporting materials are not relevant to us.
- Aims and Objectives
 - Define geographical area for environmental charities. Advice is not to be too restrictive. Westbury-on-Trym and surrounding area?? North West Bristol??
- Communication
 - We should think further about communicating with the membership in September

REGULAR ITEMS

Boiler Upgrade Scheme

- We are now in the main engagement phase of the project. We have delivered all the council letters to the target houses and some extras.
- At the Village Show on Saturday we will be promoting the project along with CSE (Centre for Sustainable Energy) and BEN (Bristol Energy Network).
- Next 5 weeks is focussed on 3 areas in 5 blocks, 100ish houses per week. Delivering leaflets alerting people to CSE door knocking in their area (we are invited to join in if we want to). SusWoT will be running Monday evening (Post Office Tavern) and Friday afternoon (Hunter's Fish and Chip Shop) dropin sessions over those 5 weeks. Encourage people to express an interest.
- Open Homes is coming up - people who already have heat pumps and other low carbon installations will show people round.

Library Garden

- The garlic has not done very well.
- There are some onions left - these did well.
- There is a courgette missing!
- Jill is entering some mystery produce in the Village Show.
- We have discovered that the soil is not good enough and we should replace it over the winter. We can get free horse manure from Kingsweston if we have bags to collect it. Need to negotiate with the library to dig the soil out and add in some organic matter - say £500. Need to talk to Megan.
- Jill has some wildflowers growing and they are in a tub in front of the library, which ideally will seed themselves further.

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

Trout in the Trym

- We have been working on the Trym for 5 years and taken out in the region of 200 tonnes of stuff. We are thinking of starting again from the mouth as more rubbish from the river bed may have been exposed as the river now flows more vigorously. We need a programme for maintaining it in the future but the regular cleaning is coming to an end. There are various fish in the river along with kingfishers and egrets, also otters and allegedly voles.
- We have a leaflet about wildlife in the Trym that needs to be updated with the latest species sightings.
- We have a team of around 12 people who will be unemployed and looking for new projects.
- There are problems with the ponds in Blaise that stop fish migrating up.
- The water quality monitoring shows that the river is improving.

Himalayan Balsam

- This was always aimed to be a 3 year project and this is the third year.
- It appeared a few weeks ago that there was almost none left, but the warm and wet summer has allowed a vigorous regrowth.
- It is under control from Sea Mills to Henbury church. 5 people can tackle the whole of Blaise in an afternoon.
- The area around Henbury and the Royals is very bad.
- Combe Dingle area is now clear.
- We should have a celebration event - we could aim to invite Darren Jones to be a guest when we meet him at the Village Show.

Get Growing

- We grew 1200 plants this year and it was hard to sell them all. We should scale back next year. Find out if there are members who want to be part of growing from seed process. If not, we could reduce the plants to 500-600.

Litter

- There is a shortage of litter and competitors have arisen getting in before the litter picking sessions stealing what litter there is.
- Most streets in Westbury have residents assigned to rounds and there are now also many rounds in Henleaze.

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

- We have been getting 10-15 people regularly. We went to the Thai restaurant last month which was good. We are thinking of returning to the curry house this month.

Upcoming Events - Village Show

- We have practised putting up the new gazebo, which is very big.
- We need to judge the video class - we have had 2 entries. We watched both entries and chose a winner. This will be put forward for the Best in Show class which will be judged by Darren Jones at 10:30.
- We have a rota. There could be a problem with the band however when trying to conduct a detailed conversations with people.
- As we will be focussed on the air source heat pump project along with CSE and BEN, we will have limited other information about our other projects other than some overview leaflets and cards.
- What could SusWoT do? Especially now some of our other projects are reducing in intensity. Poster and suggestion box for people.

Publicity

- Does anyone know who has been posting on the SusWoT Facebook page and how to log onto it?

Phone Apps

- Peter is coming up with a project for the Geography department.
- We need one for Computer Science.

AOB

Date of Next Meeting

7:30pm, Thursday 28th September, back at the Village Hall.

Regular meeting time: 7:30pm, last Thursday of the month, Westbury-on-Trym Village Hall