

# **SusWoT MEETING**

**7:30pm, 26th October 2023, Village Hall**

## **Present**

Alex Dunn, Pat Meek, Rob Benington, Jill Kempshall, Bob Murphy, Fran Bragg, Mike Crabbe, Liz Viggars

## **Apologies**

Hattie Lupton, David McGregor, Judith Sluglett, Stephen Noreiko

**To contact us about any items below, please email [suswot2050@gmail.com](mailto:suswot2050@gmail.com).**

## **Previous Minutes**

<https://www.suswot.org.uk/minutes/>

# **REGULAR ITEMS**

## **Formal Structure of SusWoT**

Document to go to the Charity Commissioners is virtually ready. We still need to finalise the objects.

Mike is understanding more about the process. The Trustees are responsible for the financial and legal decisions, but more general decisions are made by the wider membership. The document to the Charity Commission will become the constitution. As we already have a constitution, Mike could harmonise these together or keep them separate as a formal constitution and a members constitution.

It is suggested that we should use our Friday afternoon time to go through this process in detail now that the Heat Pump programme is less demanding (starting from 10th November).

There is nothing in the current constitution that conflicts with the new charity trust document.

We will need an Extraordinary General Meeting in order to change the constitution.

We will circulate a separate document to the mailing list explaining this process in more detail.

## **Boiler Upgrade Scheme**

We have attempted to engage with 800 homes on specific transformers. We have delivered leaflets and run drop-in sessions and open homes events. The homes have been door knocked by CSE. There have been 35 expressions of interest, which is not close to the 25% of the homes that was the target for the project.

We have learnt that people are not ready to consider this unless they are at the point of needing to replace a boiler and are very eco-conscious. There also seemed to be very little of the downstream infrastructure ready to support those who are interested.

SusWoT has fulfilled its part of the process and received our payment for this.

## **Retrofit West**

We have been approached by Retrofit West which is a 2 year project of the Metro Mayor (WECA). This is what we feel should have been the first stage of the heat pump project - assess a house for its needs and potential solutions.

David McGregor has attempted to engage with their process and already hit problems and he will be meeting with someone next week to discuss this.

They have some funding available. We need to decide if we want to be involved in some way with this project.

We could for example run some workshops, buy heat detection equipment or do promotion of the project.

There is a lot more freedom in this project to define our own activity whereas the heat pump project was already defined and looking for a partner.

There are two aspects of this project currently aimed at homeowners available at the link below: advice on retrofitting that is specific to their home and a voucher offer for an assessment of the property using one of a selection of survey types:

<https://www.retrofitwestadvice.co.uk/>

We want to check the responsiveness of the providers is good before promoting it to local residents and that there is a functional downstream process.

Bristol Energy Networks

BEN are interested in running more workshops similar to the ones they have just done. We could be interested in this in future if they could help people use the Retrofit West scheme appropriately.

### **Library Garden**

Work is going to be done on Saturdays through November to improve the soil quality. There is coffee available in the library this coming Saturday from 12:15-1:15.

### **Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam**

We are aiming to build a network of 20 people around the Trym to maintain it now that it has been cleaned out. We are applying for a grant to support this. Cllr Mark Weston wants to leaflet the area.

As this cleaning is nearly finished, we are seeking another river. The Pigeonhouse Stream around Hartcliffe Way has been suggested. This is 8 miles away.

Peter Coleman-Smith and Alex have been in contact with Parks about silt in Blaise.

### **Get Growing**

Should we consider having a seed exchange?

### **Litter**

We ran a litter picking activity for some Elmlea School pupils.

People continue to come forward to join the litter picking group.

Problems have been observed now with weeds along the roadsides since the council stopped spraying with glyphosate. This will ultimately block the drains and cause flooding. This is something the group could tackle if they would like to take this on. We should ensure there are no hazards etc.

### **Supper Club/ Meal Nights**

Last month we went to the Thai with 15 people. We will go to Hunters next month.

### **Upcoming Events**

Thursday 28th December would be our December meeting. 14th will be the meal night at the Indian Kitchen.

### **Publicity**

We have a regular column in the Henleaze and Westbury Voice. Rob is keen to include CHEESE in the next submission.

### **Phone Apps**

Pat thinks WotPlot is working again.

### **AOB**

### **Date of Next Meeting**

7:30pm, Thursday 30th November.

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