

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 29th February 2024, Village Hall

Present

Alex Dunn, Richard Bennett, David McGregor, Malcolm Lewis, Fran Bragg, Liz Viggars

Apologies

Pat Meek, Mike Crabbe

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

Previous Minutes

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

REGULAR ITEMS

Formal Structure of SusWoT

Mike has now completed all the necessary paperwork and we are now waiting on the Charity Commission to progress the process.

Domestic Energy

Last week some members of Boiler Upgrade Scheme/ Heat Pump Ready spoke to Ipsos who were conducting a survey about the project. We told them the project was completely ill-conceived. People were not willing to replace working gas systems before it's necessary and in any case needed a significant amount of time to do preparatory work on their homes before they would have been ready. We were also very limited by the restriction on which sub-stations and transformers were deemed suitable.

There is another new project from WECA called Retrofit West that is offering funding to accelerate moving homes to reduce their energy requirements and carbon consumption. We have been offered £5,000 to run a project in WoT. We need to decide if we want to take this up. The £5,000 is for actual expenses incurred. We would want to approach this from the starting point of asking people what they want and need to move them along their journey. We would be working primarily as process consultants - facilitating connection between home owners and experts in fields appropriate to their needs. There are many existing resources that we should be using. We are all happy to go ahead with this.

Litter

Litter is still going well. There are a group of 4 in the village centre who are finding plenty of litter but also keeping up with it well. Malcolm is new to his round on Westbury Hill and Waters Lane. Strong winds rearrange a lot of litter.

Malcolm will ask Henbury Golf Club to put a notice out to encourage new pickers. There are 650 members who are largely local and the club is wanting to connect with community activities. This could be a good way to recruit people for Keep It Clean. The Trym also goes through a couple of the holes on the course, which suffer from extreme wetness at times as a result. The club has groundskeeping equipment which may be of use to river cleaners and on the other hand is also a source of runoff that can cause problems in the river. Developing a relationship with the groundskeepers could be of benefit to all.

There are still a few litter routes that need to be filled. One picker has retired around The Dell. We could also start looking to assign various footpaths. We are starting to expand into parts of Henleaze and Stoke Bishop, this could be expanded.

7th March at 6:30pm - Liz and Alex are going to City Hall for a presentation.

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

A project by Bristol University found at least 50 pieces of microplastic per ml in the river.

The next task is to clean the silt trap below the edge of the structure. It is also planned to do the ponds, but mechanical help will be needed for that and a grant has been applied for to do this.

We are producing a folded A4 leaflet for Keep It Clean which is a project to encourage people living in streets neighbouring the rivers to maintain them. This work is in conjunction with Cllr Mark Weston. There are some people already signed up in Brentry and Henbury. Alex is managing the process of distributing equipment.

We will start looking for Himalayan Balsam in April and need to catch it early, especially in the Royals.

Get Growing

Alex has sown 240 tomatoes, 120 Alicante, 120 Sungold. We will have a potting up event in April. We also grow squash, cucumbers etc. This raises some money and encourages people to grow their own.

The Growing Trail is 15-16 June.

Library Garden

Quite tidy, just needs a little weeding.

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

The next meal night will be 7:30pm Thursday 14th March. This month will be at the Indian Kitchen (<https://indiankitchenbristol.com/>).

Upcoming Events

WI Talk

Monday 15th April 2024, 2:00pm. 30-40 minutes including questions. There are projector and microphone facilities. We can get in at 1:00pm to set up and work out how stuff works.

Holy Trinity Talk

TBC Sometime between May and September. **David** will remind the organiser to give us a date.

May Fair

Saturday 11th May

Focus is likely to be Retrofit West and seedling sales. We should promote all of our activities.

Village Show

Saturday 7th September.

Similar to May Fair.

We have 3 classes in the Show, 2 standard ones each year, a plant grown from a SusWoT plant or seed, a vegetarian dish where the main ingredient is home grown and a third class which is often related to the theme, which is "Books" this year. **Please let us know if you have an idea for the third class.**

Alex to contact Mike about getting some more yellow vests.

Publicity

Amy Wood at Harold Stephens Financial Services publicity officer may be able to help us.

Could we have a slide on the Golf Club marketing screens?

Phone Apps

Need to make more use of the app.

AOB

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 28th March 2024 at the Village Hall.

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