

SUSWOT OPEN MEETING

7:30PM, 25TH OCTOBER 2012

PRESENT

Alex Dunn, Richard Bennett, Mike Crabbe, Myra Jones, Jill Kempshall, Keith Yeandel, Brian Clay

Apologies

Richard Pedlar, Debbie Firth, Mary Cutts, Tracy Tainton, Steve Tainton, Judith Sluggett, Margaret Bambridge

PROJECTS STATUS

Biodiversity

Last July's event was a great success and we hope to be able to do something along those lines next year, possibly jointly with the Friends of Badock's Wood and/or at a different time of year.

Relationship with Friends of Badock's Wood. **Ask Lorraine to expand on her thoughts for next Steering Group meeting.**

Community Garden

- The garden is going very well and seems to be keeping up well with ongoing maintenance.
- We are still not sure why they have their own bank account.

Energy

Energy Neighbourhoods launch event in November – see below.

Get Growing

- Done this for the last 2 years. Been successful. Should we do it again and if so, should we expand the range of vegetables?
- The process for tomatoes
 - Oct/Nov buy seeds in bulk – e.g. Sungold.
 - Grow from seed. Seed tray stage is easy.
 - Potted on in April – make a day of it. Pots are easy to come by. Used council compost first year, bad. This year, home garden compost, this was much better. Problem is greenhouse space for growing on.
 - Then sell them at various events.
 - Last year also did runner beans which went quite well.
 - Also sold squash, pumpkin and sunflower seeds. Also herbs.
- Suggestions
 - Bees – grow some bee-friendly flowers or sell seed.
 - Can we diversify into things that thrive in a variety of conditions to hedge against the weather?
 - Growing tips, container growing etc. Knowle West media centre [Edible Landscapes Movement](#) is a scheme allowing people to share their growing progress, tips and news online.
 - Village show cup – best collection of SusWoT-supplied produce. Promote this when selling plants, ahead of the show's own publicity. Design a cup.

Local Food

Review of Eat WoT Grows event on 7th October.

- The event went very well, food was very good.
- Took about £200. Probably roughly broke even. £60 hall. £63 for Kate (food). Spent £231 in total.
- Event depended heavily on Matt putting in a lot of time and effort. Suggest a Kitchens voucher for Matt. To what extent can more help be given to support him e.g. picking blackberries? Write to Matt discussing possibility of next year, more guests, more help for him, increase price – **Alex to write to Matt.**

Other ideas from June open meeting

- Using unproductive gardens.
 - Problems of vetting with matching people up. Ask council for allotment waiting list.
 - Stapleton, instead of personal plots all half managed, make land communal. Could create another community garden.
 - Land-share - <http://www.landshare.net/>.
 - Search for working model/ scheme we could join.. One trial garden? Advertise on gmail list. Any e.g. care homes or flats.
- Harvesting stuff – [Abundance](#) model.
- Give away/sell cheaply fruit trees e.g. crab apples – Sustainable Redland did this.
- **Fran to research**

Market

John Dennis will be overseeing the market this month.

- September – took more money than ever
- October
 - Patchwork quilt lady to share SusWoT gazebo.
 - Andy from Old Sodbury (lamb) won't be there this month..
 - Mike has made a thousand general fliers, also some including energy event. Deliver to local area, say once/3 months for each household.
 - Is Mahmadur coming with his samosas?
- Christmas market is a normal Saturday this year. Any Christmas extras.
 - Hot apple punch. How to keep hot?
- Carlton Court. Still a possibility, but owners are still insistent on maximum of 6 stalls in court. Council considering possibility of some stalls on footpath.
- Market traders are happy, this is a major factor in the viability.

UPCOMING SUSWOT EVENTS

Energy Neighbourhoods launch event, November

UPDATE ON OTHER LOCAL EVENTS AND ISSUES

Planning

Westbury-on-Trym Village Plan. Under the government's Localism Bill, communities have the opportunity to have more say in local development. There are various possible levels. A Neighbourhood Plan is a big scheme that the council is obliged to work with and has a formal procedure for adoption, not felt to be appropriate for WoT. WoT Society are promoting a Community Plan, similar to village system in rural areas, and are consulting locally. It is a statement of current state of the community and vision for the future. Zone is quite small. Includes amenities e.g. playgrounds. WoT Business Association had a lot of enthusiasm and they have more influence.

Can we inject sustainability into this plan. There is another meeting in early December.

- We are keen to be involved via Jill. Also Brian.
- Strapline – “living more using less”.
- Make village more self-sufficient in amenities. Less need for travel.
- Transport. Apparently WoT is a transport hub, that is to say, there is a bus stop.

Other planning issues

- Costa have put in a retrospective planning application since they have succeeded in doing this in the other two branches.

Transport

Westbury Rd bus lane – this is an emotive subject! There is a [petition](#) with about 3,000 signatures already – they want 3,500. The bus lane has been modified so it doesn't extend all the way to the roundabout to allow 2 lanes of traffic onto the roundabout itself.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Communication

- Email
- Website, social media
 - Andy O'Brien needs to stop hosting the website, James Bragg is happy to host it – **Fran to arrange.**
 - Develop website with more details of projects etc. – **Fran**
 - We have a system up and running (Hootsuite) for posting to Facebook, Twitter and Wordpress, but for this to be effective, we need to find ways of building communities in these media (generating likes, followers).
- Local publications
 - BS9 – not certain of publication if an article is sent

Finance

We have some money.

- £1311 – general unrestricted fund, apple juice sale.
- £518 for community garden.
- £840 for market. £4.50 per stall goes to Dr surgery as rent and they spend it on something sustainable.

Meetings Schedule/ Dates of Next Meetings

Move this meeting to 2nd or 3rd Thursday of month from January. Not 4th. 1st good for some people. SG always on 2nd.

Christmas social

Friday 14th December. Mucky duck. 8pm+.

Jane Stevenson

[Bristol Independents](#) Christmas campaign.

Chock Lane

Keith has £1400 to plant up new verge in Chock Lane.

Sat 15th December, Christmas tree sale at 2008 prices +£1.

MAIN TOPIC

Energy Neighbourhoods launch event

Energy Neighbourhoods launch event in November – see below. Mike and Jeannie working together.

Tuesday 13th November, 7:30pm, Westbury-on-Trym C of E academy.

Topics: Green deal and competition.

Competition: A Europe-wide project is seeking to engage small groups of people (6-8 households) to enter a competition to attempt to reduce their energy consumption by 10% relative to last winter. Each team will have an energy master to manage the team. Need to read meters weekly. 1 or 2 teams is our aim. This competition is aimed at residential properties, there is another initiative aimed at businesses. 1 Dec – 31 March.

<http://www.energyneighbourhoods.eu/en/how-does-it-work>

Recruitment

- Ask the various churches in Westbury.
- Keith would like to enter.
- Alex.
- School newsletter.
- Market leaflets.
- Mike's blurb for email circulation.

Tips

- The competition will supply tips for reducing consumption.