

# Chair's report for SusWot AGM 2012

## Introduction

**Using less and living more** is our strap line. I think that this year we can say that we are living a little more and using a bit less.

Last year's report contained information about SusWot's various activities. This year there are separate reports for the ongoing project work. This reflects that SusWot has changed to operating at a project level. SusWot now endeavors to support separate projects which are normally managed by somebody on the committee. There is also a detailed Treasurer's report.

## Officers

I would like to express my grateful thanks to Tracy Tainton for her work as Secretary of SusWot whilst I have been Chair. If you would like to have a go at being Secretary of SusWot you would be extremely welcome. Richard has agreed to continue as Treasurer for another year. With the number of grants SusWot has obtained over the last year it has become more important to keep more detailed accounts. Thanks too to Mike, Lorraine, Margaret, Jill, Steve, Myra and Richard on the steering committee for making SusWot run smoothly.

## Projects

There are a number of prospering projects which are involving many people. Reports on these are provided elsewhere. Particular thanks must be offered to Mary Rivers who has worked very hard getting grants and involving many local people in getting the Stoke Lane Community Garden up and running. Other projects are Biodiversity, TomatWot, SwapWot and 'Energy'.

Village centre pedestrianisation: Although many meetings have been held with councilors and other it seems that the cost of even experimenting with a closure of part of the village for a trial of the Produce Market in the High Street is beyond the resources of SusWot. Money for this type of change from the council is now very restricted. So currently this project waits for more favorable circumstances.

The Eco Fiesta that has been held in the past was not held in 2011, whether we hold it in future is under review.

Former chair Andy O'Brien put together an application for about £50k through Local Energy Assessment Fund but was unfortunately unsuccessful.

## SusWot at the Produce Market

SusWot now has a more vibrant presence at the Monthly Produce Market. As well as trying to interest visitors to the market in SusWot's activities we have been having a SusSwap stall and been selling local apple juice and sometimes tomato plants and honey. This has raised a little money and helped attract people to the stall.

SusWot does what it can to help Myra, Derek and John run the Market.

## Other Activities

SusWot has been working with the Victoria on Chock Lane. There is now a Green Drinks on the Friday evening before Produce Market days. There have been two successful quizzes to raise a little money for SusWot there too. It is hoped to do more when the opportunity arises.

## Equipment

As Suswot has a little more disposable money it has been able to purchase a gazebo and two folding tables. These make it possible to have a presence at events without having to cobble together whatever we can. We have also bought the equipment that allows us to produce A3

laminated posters. We now have a banner. SusWot maintains its notice board in the wildlife area behind the Doctors' surgery.

## **Links with Other Sustainable Groups**

Sustainable Henleaze has regrettably folded. They very kindly donated their funds to us. We have added the details of Sustainable Henleazers to our mailing list and made them aware that they are very welcome to our meetings and join in our activities.

A Group in Westbury Park expressed an interest in doing a TomatWot like activity but currently they are not ready for such an undertaking.

There is no Sustainable Stoke Bishop yet but people have come from Stoke Bishop to meetings.

The TomatWot project is investigating working more closely with the Flower Show and Lawrence Weston Farm.

## **Communications**

This is a big challenge. We have a notice board, Facebook page, an email list and a website. We have put on displays in the library. We have a presence at the Produce Market where we give out our quarterly newsletter. We are normally in Bristol 9. But any ideas as to how we spread our message would be welcome. I am taking on the job of setting up a central point to feed out information.

## **Significant Dates in 2012**

The Produce Market is on the fourth Saturday of every month and the preceding Friday evening is Green Drinks at the Victoria.

Dates of SusWot open meetings and Steering Group meetings are not given here as they are subject to change. They are available on the website. <http://suswot.wordpress.com/calendar/>.

12 May	Community Fair Holy Trinity Church Westbury. There will be a SusWot stall
9 June	Get Growing. There will be two activities in the village at the Stoke Lane Garden and TomatWot at 47 Abbey Road,
Summer	Biodiversity activity
10 September	Westbury on Trym Flower Show, theme Upcycling. SusWot will have a stall.
Autumn	Energy activity

## **A Challenge to You**

SusWot is always looking for new projects that involve living more and using less. So if you have an idea for a project please let us know. We now have money that allows us to organize things and do things without having to raise initial funding. Or if you want to join the committee and help run SusWot you would be welcome too.