

SUSWOT AGM

THURSDAY 19TH APRIL, 2012

PRESENT

Alex Dunn, Mike Crabbe, Margaret Bambridge, Jill Kempshall, Sarah Hothersall, Lorraine Hobbs, Judith Sluggett, Sue Lloyd, Ross Harley, Debbie Firth, Ian Shepherd, Cllr Mahmudur Khan, Derek Jones, Myra Jones, Keith Yeandel, Jeannie Meyer, Conrad Meyer, Richard Bennett, Fran Bragg.

Alex Dunn chaired the meeting.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes from 2011 AGM were accepted by meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

SusWoT runs activities as autonomous projects

- Produce market 4th Saturday of month
- Biodiversity project
- Recovering brown field site for use as community garden
- Friday before produce market, green drinks at Victoria in Chock Lane at 8pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Turnover is increasing, accounting is now more detailed than in the past.
- 2 grants for community garden
- 1 grant for stationery
- £800 available for any project. This means projects can be initiated with publicity etc. before fund-raising needs to start.
- Query – why are we returning money for a sign? The treasurer (Richard) will be available later to answer queries.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Mike Crabbe

Andy O'Brien produced a constitution c. 4 years ago.

- Tidying of language e.g. steering group vs committee
- Organisation is growing significantly financially. More financial accountability and robust procedures are needed to give confidence to donors and members, specifically the following changes:
 - clause 4.3 Treasurer to give financial reports to members
 - clause 5.3 One member of steering group to be member of each project group
 - clause 5.4 Steering group to have authority over affiliation to other groups.
 - clause 7.1 Treasurer to maintain responsibility and control of financial procedures.
- Question re. membership, section 3. Does membership need to be defined more formally? Members are currently anyone who has been on the email list for one month. Are we excluding those with no email address? This has not been a problem in practice. The term used is actually mailing list in constitution, not email list.
- 2 Aims and Objectives – these need to be revisited too
- How do you spell SusWoT? Is it a capital T????? Yes.
- **Action: refer questions to steering committee.**

Amendments accepted unanimously by meeting

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There are 3 officers and any member can be seconded to the steering group.

Chairperson – Alex Dunn. No other candidates, re-elected unopposed.

Treasurer – Richard Bennett. No other candidates, re-elected unopposed.

Secretary – Tracy Tainton. Tracy has resigned this role due to increased work commitments. The meeting records its gratitude to Tracy.

Fran Bragg standing. Myra Jones proposed. No other candidates, re-elected unopposed.

AOB

Tracy would like to propose SusWoT has quarterly open meetings and monthly steering group meetings.

Steering Group

Officers + Mike (publicity, newsletter), Myra (produce market), Lorraine (biodiversity), Steve Tainton (energy), Richard Peddler (pedestrianisation scheme), Margaret (recycling), Jill (planning). Meet once every 2 months.

Always keen to encourage new projects which run on a more autonomous basis.

Judith Sluggett. Community farm in Lawrence Weston has had a fire in their community orchard. **Action: Alex to communicate our condolences and enquire if there is any practical support we can give.**

Projects

Tomato project – get growing.

Community garden. Derelict triangular plot off Stoke Lane.

Produce market – Myra. 4th Saturday each month in Health Centre car park. 8-10 stalls. New fish seller, vegetable seller, pudding stall. SusWoT does apple juice. Lawrence Weston City Farm has had a stall on occasion. Some craft stalls. Need SusWoT volunteers to help staff the organisation.

Biodiversity. Baddock's Wood. There is a walk for exploring nature activities.

Other ideas – pedestrianising WoT centre. Eco-festival 2 years ago, needs a lot of time and energy to run.

Westbury Park community association – Judith. Design group turfed some parking spaces and decorated it (art installation type thing).

Community fair run in church (see chair's report).

PRESENTATIONS

Renewable Energy Incentive Schemes

Jeanie and Conrad Meyer, installing PV panels.

Incentive scheme for feed-in tariffs. Introduced in April 2010. Designed to encourage micro-generation. Solar PV. Also wind, hydro-electric, CHP, aerobic digestion. Initial rate was fairly generous and succeeded in kick-starting industry. Tariffs have now been reduced.

- Domestic installations from April 1. 21p/ unit. 2.3p for feed-in.
 - Price of installation has also halved in last few years.
 - Must have energy efficiency measures in place before installation, D-rating or above certificate. ~85% of homes meet this with fairly basic measures in place.
- Green Deal. Improve energy efficiency of all homes at no upfront cost to home owner. Will be repaid through energy bills. Savings must be higher than repaying loan.
 - New boilers and heating control
 - Insulation
 - Low energy lighting
 - Water efficient taps and showers
 - Micro-generation
 - Loan is attached to property not owner.
 - Scheduled to start in October??
 - No marketing budget from govt.! Hoping installation contractors will do this??
- Currently lump sum grant for installation of heat generation systems.
 - Will become generation related rather than installation. Will be retrospective when it happens.

See Energy Saving Trust website: <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>.

Bristol Green Doors event

Frances Robertson – a personal experience of participating in Bristol Green Doors <http://www.bristolgreendoors.org/>.

- 1920s house with solid walls, very cold, including 3 exterior walls in one room.
- Insulated under floors using various methods
- No experience at time in external solid wall insulation, so used internal.
- C-rating (1 point from being B!). Started at E.
- Reduced gas use to 50%. Gas is major CO₂ source and energy consumption.

- Green Doors experience encouraged visitors to think very positively about modifying their own homes due to experience of seeing a real home with real householders, not salesmen.
- See Bristol Green Doors website for details.

Sustainable City group

Alex Minschull. European Green Capital.

Scheme of EU to find example city to share best practice for cities across Europe. This is increasingly relevant with new Eastern European members. Previous winners, Stockholm, Hamburg, Nantes.

12 categories.

Bristol is in final 3, 2nd on technical evaluation behind Copenhagen. No other city in UK has made it into final before. See council press release:

Final submission at start of June.

<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/press/business-bristol/experts-praise-city%E2%80%99s-strong-green-performance>

- Council has insulated 32,000 homes
- Lots of cycle lanes and hoops.
- New white street lighting 40% more efficient.
- Businesses produce 40% more value/tonne C, many green jobs.
- Journeys 5-6% faster.
- Bristol residents are least wasteful city dwellers in Britain. 20% less C, 20% less waste, 60% less waste to landfill.
- Solar PV on 30+ schools, £100m investment in energy efficiency in council buildings and houses. Wind turbines.

Encourage local businesses to be able to supply green services e.g. solid wall insulation.

<http://bristolgreencapital.org/>

Website allows people to nominate people who inspire you.

Want to include a focus on community activity as part of final submission.

It was noted that the Transition towns movement was started in Bristol.

Please use the "Support" button to support the Bristol bid. Pass on to any other sustainability groups whose members may be interested. **Action: pass on support request to mailing list.**

If we win, we get a programme of dissemination of best practice across Europe, good for promotion of Bristol businesses. Green technology businesses locating here to benefit from engineering skills.

Looking to develop city-based Green Deal to encourage local businesses etc.