

# **SUSWOT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

**7:30PM, 14TH MARCH 2013, MIKE'S HOUSE**

## **PRESENT**

Alex Dunn, Mike Crabbe, Fran Bragg, Jill Kempshall

### Apologies

Myra Jones, Richard Bennett, Tracy Tainton, Steve Tainton, Margaret Bambridge

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### Officers for next year

- Official positions
  - Richard wants to step down as Treasurer so we need to appoint someone new at the AGM.
  - Steve and Tracy are struggling with illness and family responsibilities.
  - Myra and Derek are particularly focussed on the market, but also support other events.
  - Jill is happy.
  - Mike is happy.
  - Fran is happy.
  - Alex is happy.

### Strategy

- How many people need to form the core committee? Does it need to be that many given the model of autonomous projects? We do need to retain contact with our projects and share ideas and momentum.
- How do we input to the overall development of the village? WoT Society, WoTBA. WoT Society is behind having a community plan to advise development in the area. All depends on someone who has enthusiasm for each project. Jill has a connection to these issues via CPRE. There is a meeting on 25th March.
- Approach known keen people personally.
- Lorraine.
  - Ask her we can support her in her continuing involvement in Badock's Wood events.
  - Discuss her/ Matt's involvement and also particularly Debbie's involvement in the supper. Ensure that Matt is more effectively supported.

### Communication

- Email
- Website, social media
- Local publications

How do we engage enthusiasm more effectively?

- Social media platforms are able to cascade ideas to friends of friends and thus grow influence significantly, but we need to be engaging enough to be "liked" for this to happen.
- We have a large mailing list but much lower engagement in doing things? What are people looking for when they sign up? If anything, do they want to see things hapening in their locality rather than attending meetings on a weekday evening?

### Finance

See Richard's report

### Meetings Schedule/ Dates of Next Meetings

#### Steering Groups      Open Meetings

	11 Apr 13
9 May 13	6 Jun 13
11 Jul 13	8 Aug 13
12 Sep 13	3 Oct 13
14 Nov 13	

## **UPCOMING SUSWOT EVENTS**

### Review of Red Maids Event

This event went very well and the pupils seemed very concerned. Can we capitalise on the current momentum?

## AGM

- Darren Jones, local Labour candidate is hoping to visit the AGM.
- Bee speakers. Fran's bee contact cannot make 11th April as there is a national bee-keeping conference starting on Friday morning in Shropshire, but was very happy to come and speak at some time even with the caveat that there might not be a massive turnout.
  - Could have several shorter presentations, like last year: wormeries (Tim), tomatoes, ??
- Emphasise the structure of the group that exists to encourage people's enthusiasms.
  - Mike's fishbone. Make the session highly interactive rather than "talking at people".
  - Poll o website.
  - Whither SusWoT. Ask people to suggest what they would like to see happen.
  - What model and focus for SusWoT. Do you want to come somewhere to find support for your idea.
- Bribe them with wine and cheese..
- Planning meeting at social on 22 March.

## Planning

- Would it be useful to have a plan of regular annual events and their deadlines to help plan ahead? Maybe we could have someone with a specific role to look ahead and keep on top of these things?
- Model of operation:
  - core committee – chair, treasurer, secretary, ..
  - project leaders – stronger connections with similar projects around city/further afield.
  - stronger connections within Westbury.
  - stronger connections with other Sustainable Xs/ Transition Bristol etc. to share ideas and strategies.

## UPDATE ON OTHER LOCAL EVENTS AND ISSUES

### Other Events of Interest

#### Planning

- Chock Lane – council has installed large bins, see email below. Felt to be outside our remit – Alex.
- Interest was revived in idea of a pedestrianised area at last open meeting. <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/communities-grant> . AGM. This would need wider input from around the village.

#### Transport

## PROJECTS STATUS

### Biodiversity

- Badock's Woodland Party. Part of the Big Lottery Funding will pay for another event the Badock's Woodland Party which is being planned for Sunday 9th June from 2-6 p.m
- See also Bioblitz under SusWoT events below.

### Energy

#### Get Growing

Fruit and other tree scheme

#### Local Food

#### Market

#### SusSwap

#### New Ideas

- Pedestrianisation in the village – OK, not exactly new, more revived
- Wildlife site along Trym adjacent to Badock's Wood
- Trees – see tree info below.

## EXTRA INFO

### Chock Lane

Dear SUSWOT,

The Chock Lane Improvement Group needs your help!

The Council has just taken the decision to move two large industrial bins near to the start of our 'Woodland Footpath' on Chock Lane. They are an absolute eye-sore (see photo) on the part of the Chock Lane that local residents have been working hard to improve! The Council has totally undermined our hard work and efforts to improve our local environment!

The Council are refusing to move the bins so I have sent a photo of them to the Evening Post to ask them to print it alongside the story about our improvements to the Lane (the story will go to print Monday). It seems a shame that after raising £2000 to improve the Lane (£1400 through NP Well-being grant), the Council can take such a silly and insensitive decision.

The bins in their currently location are not only an eye-sore but a health and safety risk in relation to the nearby footpath that over 70 families use every day as a route to school, one child who went to take a look at the bins had her foot run over as they are moving about. What is more they are on a slope and out of sight of the flats so will become used as a 'dumping ground' for anyone that wants to dump rubbish without being seen. This is in a conservation area and Chock Lane is an historic Lane which deserves to be kept free of such furniture litter.

The elderly residents of the flats are very unhappy as they now have to walk further to their bins and down dark, un-lit steps.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this problem.

Kind regards, Mel Woodland

## **Trees**

"For info, in case its of interest to any community/parks groups.

The woodland trust is offering community groups, youth groups and schools the chance to apply for packs of free trees for delivery in Autumn 2013. They have 1,250 tree packs to give away, available in three sizes 30 saplings, 105 saplings and 420 saplings in various themes (wildlife, wild harvest, year-round colour, future firewood and wetland). Applications will be open in January 2013. Apply on line at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/communitytrees](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/communitytrees). Groups can also apply for funding from the Big Tree plant to purchase trees to plant in their communities. The next deadline is March 2013. For more information visit [www.defra.gov.uk/bigtreeplant/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/bigtreeplant/) "