

# **SUSWOT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**7:30pm, 30 April 2015, Scout Hut, Great Brockeridge**

## **PRESENT**

Alex Dunn, Mike Crabbe, Fran Bragg, Myra Jones

David Moore, Alf Cutts, Keith Yeandel, Richard Bennett

### Apologies

Jill Kempshall, Steve Tainton, Hattie Lupton, Mary Cutts, Kate Harvey, Philippa Crabbe, Derek Jones

## **FORMAL BIT**

### **Accounts**

We are still hoping to find an accountant or volunteer book-keeper.

- All transactions go through Co-op account to maintain a record
- Proceeds:
  - Selling juice
  - Selling plants and seeds
- Expenditure
  - Buying seeds, bark
  - Bowls for Village Show prize
  - Avon Wildlife
  - We owe £20 for Community Garden rent
  - We have settled accounts with local produce market
- Assets
  - Seeds, bird boxes, 18 wormeries
- Now have £2,206.52

The meeting accepted the statement of accounts unanimously.

### **Election of Officers**

#### Chair

Alex Dunn was proposed and seconded to continue as Chair and returned unanimously.

#### Treasurer

Myra Jones volunteered to take on the role of treasurer.

David Moore is still seeking a volunteer book-keeper from his group which promotes this kind of voluntary activity as good experience.

#### Secretary

Fran Bragg was proposed and seconded to continue as Secretary and returned unanimously.

#### Website Management

David knows of a professional website manager who would be prepared to manage the site for £200/year, or less if we were happy to promote his business as the manager of the site.

The website is not technically difficult to manage, the difficulty is finding time to produce material, which would need to be forwarded to him and would be as easy to do ourselves if we succeeded in getting that far.

Poll of the month

- growing
- energy

Draw up a plan for promoting events and activities so that it can happen more automatically.

## **EVENTS COMING UP**

We have a strategy to focus SusWoT on cycle of events throughout year

### **SusWoT Events**

SusWoT-run events currently planned.

## Eat WoT Grows

Scout Hut.

Date to be finalised. Depends on Matt. Either 20 September or 4 October.

## **Other Local Events**

Other local events that SusWoT may participate in.

### Community Fair

9 May

Stall is booked.

- 200 tomato plants available for sale. 50p
- Seeds. 50p
- 80 bottles of juice
- Wormery display.

Alex can take his plants down

GP car park

Timing: setup 10:00

Helpers

- Steve and Tracy
- Jill
- 1- 4David
- Mike
- 10:45- 1 Fran
- 4- Myra could help clear up at the end (4pm)

### Get Growing Trail

Saturday 6 June

### Village Show

5 September

3 prizes. Wording has been sorted this year.

### Other Potential Events

The general election debates have both been very popular and successful events. We could investigate the possibility of events around other elections, such as the mayoral election next year.

Alf pointed out that the poor quality of the village hall microphones detracted a bit from the meeting, He was also surprised at the lack of engagement of the audience and the lack of differentiation between the candidates on many issues.

## **OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PROJECTS**

### **Food and Cultivation**

#### Get Growing

- Plants grown
- Opportunities to sell
  - New Eastfield market on 2nd Saturday of month
  - Another new market in Southmead. Would the clientele in Southmead be interested in such things as premium priced juice? Or growing their own vegetables?
- Village Show competition
- At the trail, promote growing. Enquire of visitors to trail. Would they like a to grow fruit? Which fruit? They should be planted in autumn, so this is a good time to plant the idea in their minds. Fruit is generally a lot easier than veg. We could supply fruit bushes to encourage them:
  - Source in bulk
  - People need hand holding rthrough growing process.
- Grow food in public locations to attract attention? Are there any suitable locations.

#### Local Food

Community meal – see Eat WoT Grows above.

## Wormeries

Should be waking up now

Alf has had a lot of problems with his. No compost has been produced and the wormery has had trouble with water-logging.

Must let it drain.

Need stick-like material

Need worm doctor to support those with problems.

## Local Produce Market

Has ceased to be.

## **Resource Use Reduction**

### Energy

Electricity sub-station. Owners have decided that they need to keep the sub-station plain and utilitarian. Are there any other potential location? We have our own noticeboards. One in car park by church lane. There is a public one in Stoke Lane.

### SusSwap

Tried to get people to bring excess produce to our market stall in autumn.

Tracy tried to run a general SusSwap event, took up a lot of space and didn't work well. There are good alternatives such as Recycle Bristol (formerly Freecycle).

Streetbank.

## **Biodiversity**

### Biodiversity (FOBW)

Bluebell deadheading on 9 May.

## **MAIN DISCUSSION: IMPACT OF LIBRARY PLANS ON SUSTAINABILITY**

### **What We Know**

A consultation has been running for some time.

Opportunity to discuss libraries and their future in the city, Libraries team have responded with their proposals – 3 groups of libraries:

Group 1. Libraries already delivering to the level of quality which meets our new offer

Group 2. Libraries needing development

Group 3. Libraries that do not fit into either of these groups i.e. potential closures – 7 libraries across the city.

Meeting at Coombe Dingle. Kate Murray (head of library services) was present. Redland, Westbury, Clifton and Sea Mills to close. 90% staff, 10% building, £100,000 pa. If they could somehow fund this, they may be open to suggestions.

The library is very well used. the council logic is that everyone can travel 1.5 miles to a library. Users cover the whole demographic except teenagers. There is a high level of book loans but also a lot of use of the computers with significant support from the staff, especially for elderly.

### **Some Suggestions and Responses**

- As the bulk of the expenditure is staff wages, investigate the possibility of using voluntary staff
  - 40 staff will be made redundant in the whole of Bristol under these proposals. Is this a slippery slope to removing professional status of other roles. Fails to value skills of librarians. Volunteers do not tend to stay long term. Hard to get committed volunteers.
- Open it one day a week – save on staff which is the biggest cost.
- Redistribution of wealth across city. Council want to invest in deprived areas of city.
  - Investment in Southmead library has not resulted in increase in loans.
- Increased travel to Henleaze library.
  - Although there is a bus route, this is not a simple option for many elderly people or those with small children.
  - Cost analysis of e.g. air quality, congestion, loss of services, coherent community. Have they done an Environmental Impact Statement. What is the impact of losing it? The statement below is a) vague and b) seems to mainly consider issues around buildings rather than travel:
- From [https://www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2014/ua/ua000/1104\\_5.pdf](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2014/ua/ua000/1104_5.pdf): "14. Eco impact assessment It is likely that there will be environmental impacts which will arise as a result of this proposal to redesign the future of Bristol's library service. Until more detailed plans are developed however, it is not possible to comment on the scale of impacts,

or propose appropriate mitigation. The report authors will work with the Environment Officer to assess and mitigate impacts arising, particularly in relation to any changes to the Council's library buildings portfolio. It is noted that any changes to buildings will be subject to BCC planning policy."

- Westbury will cease to be a self sustaining community.
  - Used to be everything you needed in Westbury, all being eroded. Issue is sustainable communities as a whole, rather than specific issue of libraries.
- What about mobile libraries.?
- Places such as libraries can be regarded as public assets under Stephen Williams current legislation.
  - We have a village hall that is expensive and has rubbish acoustics and is used some of the time. Would there be a demand for another hall in the area? Some feeling was there are enough.

### **What Should SusWoT Respond?**

The meeting was unsure how to progress with this issue.

- It was felt that many aspects of sustainability would be discussed in an Environmental Impact Assessment. If we had access to such an assessment, we could form an opinion on the validity or otherwise of its conclusions.
- Considering the broader issue of what constitutes a sustainable community is a broader question that would provide context for the library issue.

### **MEETING IN MAY**

- Worms
- Get Growing Trail activities.
- Post Office Tavern open meetings, last Thursday of even months.
  - 25 Jun 15
  - 27 Aug 15
  - 29 Oct 15
  - (31 Dec 15)
- Steering Group, last Thursday of odd months.
  - 28 May 15 – committee and wormery meeting
  - 30 Jul 15
  - 24 Sep 15
  - 26 Nov 15