

Notes of the Transition Wirksworth Annual Gathering 2017

Meeting held at the Memorial Hall 15/11/17 7.00 to 9.30 PM

Members Present Brian, Keith Cathy [Joint Chairs] Hilary, Peter, Rosemary, Richard, Nick, Jane, Elaine, Mary Ann, Judith, Liz, Evan, John Horak, Shirley, Fran, Bob, Terry, Moira, Ivan, Roger, John Berry, Glennie, Roger Morton, Bob Rhodes, Roger Green and Sue Fay.

Guests Beatrice Jackson, Michele Simms, Pauline Ward, Alastair Clark, Alan Cecil, Peter Lewis and Hattie Kerrs

Apologies Alison Richards

1. Reports from Groups

A review of the highlights of the year were given by:-

Activists Hilary, described how, as well as circulating e-mail petitions on environmental and human rights topics, the activists had been to several marches and rallies to protest about fracking. These included the Derbyshire site at Marsh Lane near Eckington, where Ineos want to drill a test well, Sherwood Forest, where they want to do seismic testing, Preston New Road, near Blackpool, which is the first site to be given permission to frack [despite local refusal of planning permission by Lancashire County Council] since 2011, when minor earthquakes were caused near Blackpool by fracking operations, and a rally in Sheffield.

Energy & Home Peter described the progress made by the group's initiative on developing a Community Land Trust [CLT]. This should become a registered charity by Christmas. The CLT is looking for land, either in partnership, with landowners, contractors or self builders.

The group is also looking again at the possibility of utilising the wind blowing over Middleton Moor to generate power.

Growers Rosemary reported on the seventh successful year of the community garden. The highlights were the growth of the beehives – producing prize winning honey, a willow workshop and a visit of refugees from the Centre in Derby, which finished with a song and dance session. She reminded us that the Community garden is open to all for events, the oven may be used and a gazebo is available.

Waste & Recycling Richard drew attention to the BBC focus on food waste and the initiative in Swadlincote. The District Council's concern is that 36% of black bin content is kitchen waste which should be in the green caddies and recycled. This year the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal is to encourage people to reduce food waste and help combat food poverty in Africa. The Co-op have installed charging points for electric cars, but have declined so far to allow recycling of plastic film. He hoped that next year a repair hub may be developed in Wirksworth.

2. Treasurer's report [John B] reported on the last complete financial year to December 2016. Although the reserves had fallen over the year this was mostly caused by the donation of £500 to facilitate the Go Wirksworth web-site. More than £300 remained in reserves at the end of that year. Reserves have further increased during this financial year, mainly due to donations received at the annual Give or Take event organised by the Waste and Recycling Group.

3. Election of Officers.

Treasurer Brian nominated John Berry as treasurer for another year.

Carried unanimously.

Communications Glennie and Mary Ann are both resigning from this post but both have offered to continue to help train a new communications team. Members are asked to consider volunteering for this by the next open meeting on Friday 19th Jan.

Post meeting note Michele Simms expressed interest in helping, so **one or two more people needed for the team.**

4. Future Events

There will be a bring and share at Hilary and Brian's house [21Pittywood Road] on Thursday 14th December at 7pm.

The next open meeting is Friday 19 Jan 6 pm at the Eco Centre. **A programme is attached.**

5. Links with Town

Keith introduced this and spoke about **shopping locally**. If everyone spends an extra £5 in Wirksworth, this will stimulate the local economy ensuring that local shops remain in business. Members were reminded that voting for refurbishment of the **Parish Rooms closes 21st November**. Votes may be cast to support a grant from the Aviva Community Fund by registering at the Aviva web site here:-

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-3432>

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway are organising a special carol service event on a train on December 9th.

Eco-churches. **Peter Lewis** told us about the eco church movement, which, as well as encouraging churches to switch to a renewable energy supplier and improve the energy efficiency of their buildings involves developing closer links with their communities and greater use of their buildings for community events and land for wildlife.

Ecologie au Quotidien. **Alastair Clark** presented on relationships with our twin town Die and their involvement with this project. **He requested support from transition, as he will be making a video to help describe Transition Wirksworth to folk in Die, and asked that if anyone wanted to go to Die, in January, to contact him.** Further information on the web here:-

<https://www.ecologieauquotidien.fr/>

Town Consultations Tarmac are currently consulting townsfolk on their proposals to develop approximately 150 houses on a site at Middleton Rd and a Further 600 or more at Middleton Quarry; this latter overlaps with plans for schools.

The County Council are consulting on the future of primary education in the town.

John Horak reported that the group that developed the neighbourhood plan has reformed to look at both of these consultations. As a member, he will be presenting a transition view to that group. More information on these consultations here:-

<http://www.tarmac.com/development-in-wirksworth> and

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/consultation_search/Consultation_search_in dex/primary_education_provision_in_wirksworth.asp

6. Following refreshments Cathy introduced Hattie Kerrs.

Hattie presented on Crafting Landscapes;

Hattie is currently finishing her post-graduate research on the interrelationship between a maker of crafts, the materials, in her case knitting, and the landscape from which they are sourced. Her project has involved creating clothing starting with raw wool, through washing, carding, spinning, dyeing with natural locally sourced plant material and designing and knitting the final garments. The whole process involved community support and gave Hattie a huge emotional involvement with the land, the sheep, the community and the garment.

She showed her video and described how detached most of us have become from the natural materials that are used for our daily needs. A lively discussion was facilitated by Hattie who believes that we all need to forge some connection with the land and the local community for our wellbeing.

The whole presentation was very enjoyable.

TRANSITION WIRKSWORTH – FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

www.Transitionwirksworth.org / news
(check website for details)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 15th November 7.00 p.m. Memorial Hall
Transition Wirksworth Annual Gathering

Thursday 14th December 7pm; Solstice Social at a Transitioners' home
(Hilary & Brian Hebron, 21 Pittywood Rd.)

Friday 19th January 6-9 Eco Centre TW Open Meeting
Bring and share food, Planning meeting, and talk on “The Latest in
Battery Storage”

Wed February (venue & date t.b.a.) Public meeting “Local Food Stories”

Friday 16th March 6-9 Eco Centre TW Open Meeting

Mid- April Public Meeting “The Future of Transport”

Friday 18th May Ashleyhay; Meeting and tour of Full Grown (furniture
growing project) t.b.c.

Tues 12 or 26 June Midsummer at the Eco Centre

Sat 21st July Trip to Whistlewood Common, Melbourne

*Programme subject to change- and you may have ideas for other topics we might
focus on....ideas always welcome...come to one of our meetings or contact the
website.....*