



**Melksham Climate Friendly Group**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 @ 8.00pm**

**Spencer's Sports & Social Club, Beanacre Road, Melksham**

**The MCFG Meet at the same venue at the same time on the first Wednesday of every month**

**NOTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

Shirley McCarthy, Eddy Watts, Kathy Iles, Marieke Guy, Mike Boyce, Pete McHenry, Scott Aldersley, Duncan Hames, Steve Petty, George

**APOLOGIES:**

Jo Stoddart

**TRANSWILTS COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP**

The Group welcomed Graham Ellis.

Graham met with Wiltshire Council last week looking to set up a Community Rail Partnership. They are looking for help from people in the community. Got DFT backing and Council backing. There is a launch planned for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March at Bridge House, Trowbridge at 7.30pm – support from our group would be greatly appreciated.

Cost benefit analysis 2009: Score 3, Pivot point 2.9

Local transport plan going through LTP. 60% radical, 10% conventional, 30% in the middle. Conventional approach was largely popular when it should have been unpopular.

There is a meeting at County Hall with Councillor Tong on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Eddy said he would go along to this and Graham will give him the full details.

Eddy will add all the info to our website and add a link to [www.transwiltts.org.uk](http://www.transwiltts.org.uk)

**MATTERS ARISING FROM NOTES OF LAST MEETING**

- **Planning For The Future Of Melksham:** Shirley apologised for not circulating the notes she wrote up following her attendance at this event but her comments made on the day will have been submitted with all the others.
- **Fairtrade Coffee Morning** is this Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March at the Arthouse Café in the Market Place from 10am-1pm. Please try to go along – there will be free chocolate!
- **Love Your Planet Day** – we ran out of time to arrange anything for this year. **Agenda item for December.**
- **Empty local shops** – we are interested in having our boards on display in empty shop windows. **Agenda item for May.**
- **Energy monitors** – these are apparently being made available to borrow in all libraries.
- **Earth Hour 2010-** this was advertised recently in the Melksham Independent News and everyone is encouraged to advertise it as widely as possible. Mike is going to see if he can find out what the electricity usage in Melksham is over a 24 hour period and see how this

measures against the usage on the night of the event. **Earth Hour is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March @ 8.30pm** register your support here: [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) . See if we can get the MIN to do a large piece on this in their next edition.

**WILDLIFE GARDEN** – Scott showed the plan for the garden that Mike had drawn up and Eddy displayed it on the screen. The hedgerow plants arrived and have all been planted by Mike, Penny & Scott. There is also a sign board up with info on it made up by Mike from materials supplied by the West End Inn. The broken fence has been replaced with a piece donated by the West End Inn. Scott is collecting some bark at the weekend donated by Hills Recycling Centre. Next gardening session is this Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 10am – all welcome.

### **MELKSHAM COMMUNITY AREA BOARD / CYCLING PROJECT**

This seems to be getting closer to looking at the cycle paths issue. They need to get young people's ideas of where they think the paths should be. Shirley had a suggestion to contact Colin Goodhind – he is coming to our April meeting with Rolf Brindle.

For the April meeting, please bring any maps of Melksham and surrounding areas with you. We will also try to get an electronic map that can be projected onto the screen. Most of the April meeting will be on this subject.

We need to improve our relationship with the Community Area Partnership and the Area Board as other towns climate groups (CFBOA and Corsham's TransCoCo) have done. CAVE came out of the Community Area Partnership and are now independent. Doing this may help us to draw in new membership for our own group from surrounding villages as well as the town. Look at CAVE website [www.cavechap.webs.com](http://www.cavechap.webs.com) or [www.chap-partnership.co.uk](http://www.chap-partnership.co.uk)

The Canal project is starting at the end of the year with Camilla Parker-Bowles cutting the first sod.

The next stage of the Melksham Town Centre renewal project will be starting in the summer on Lowbourn when the gas board will be digging up the pipes before new paving is laid. Melksham will become a one way system for most of the summer!

### **ELECTION**

The handout from CAVE "Ask the Climate Question" was discussed at length. We need to get environmental issues flagged up. How can we get our resources together to exploit the fact that we are a marginal constituency. The environmentally concerned will have a very hard choice to make on polling day! The 'Greens' appear to be viewing the 'Lib Dems' as the 'best party'.

As soon as we have a date for the Melksham Hustings we will advertise it. There will be one in Melksham organised by the Family of Churches (Churches Together, Melksham) – keep an eye out for this. Can we get a page in the MIN about asking the climate question – Shirley will draft a press release and ask Marieke to add some graphics. Eddy will add all info to the website. Lots of other groups are also asking their members to 'Ask the Climate Question', such as WWT, WWF, RSPB etc. We need to agree a list of questions for us to submit for the Hustings.

### **CF BOA NETWORKING**

Shirley went along to the last CFBOA meeting and there were over 70 people there. The Chair welcomed everyone individually at the door. They had all heard about Scott. Duncan, Mark & Sam were also there. Their meeting started with a Q&A session about they should function in the future. They had 2 of their members speak about reducing their electricity usage in their own home and another who spoke about holidays by train.

Next CAVE meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at the Rose & Crown in Chippenham at 7.30pm – we are invited to go along.

Shirley had a conversation with Nick Keyworth from TransCoCo – they run a cycle repair project and are closely linked with their CAP.

## FINANCE

Balance stands at £171. Mike to be paid £50 towards the cost of the plants for the Wildlife Garden. The plants cost 389 but Mike insists the rest is a donation to the group, for which everyone thanks him and Penny very much. We should try to get more grants to top up the account. We need to buy a pop-up gazebo in time for the Party-in-the-Park in July.

Terry Welch is now the co-ordinator for the PITP – [Agenda item for May](#).

We will write to the town Council thanking them for the money and telling them that it has now been spent on planting a hedge – plus that the amount was matched by a donation from a MCFG member. **Action KI**

## WEBSITE

- A Google Calendar has now been added to our website and if you sign up to Google Calendars you can synchronise it to your own.
- Eddy to add Earth Hour info – Scott to supply this
- Eddy will update the Wildlife Garden page

**NEWSLETTER** – Jess working on next edition – please email all contributions to Jo.

## AOB

- **Our April meeting** clashes with the Spencer's Club AGM. We suggest all our members and visitors come to our meeting a little early and via the back door. Committee will meet and greet members in the carpark to direct them.
- Duncan met with the Green Alliance Academy on Monday – all part of making sure he is suitably educated to answer the climate questions.
- Pete spoke to Melksham Library about them lending energy monitors and was told that Melksham are not included in this scheme. We will continue to advertise ours for loan from the tourist Information Centre.
- The WWT CFC banner is currently displayed on Spencer's fence.
- **The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Greener Living Roadshow** is coming to Melksham on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at The Manor C of E Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Melksham SN12 7NG. The event will start at 2.45 with an entertaining performance by the pupils of the Climate Change drama, 'The Ark in the Garage'. This will be followed by a ten minute performance by award-winning local singer-song writer/musician Talis Kimberley. The roadshow will then take place until 5.30, with a whole host of interesting features, activities and free Fairtrade refreshments to enjoy!. Marieke, Scott and Jade are representing the MCFG at this event and will take the display boards and some bags to sell.
- **Spencer's Open Day is Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June**. MCFG will have a display of their boards again and also a Freecycle table.
- Kathy said she would work on setting up a library database as lots of us have interesting media we'd like to share. Please let Kathy have a list of anything you would like added to the MCFG Lending Library.
- **Fairtrade Coffee Morning** at the Arthouse Café is this Saturday morning.
- Shirley has been invited by Jacky Thomas to be a judge on the 2030 Comprtition.
- Invitation to Mayor's Reception. Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Shirley & Kathy to go. Kathy will go to the Assembly Hall in the afternoon to set up the display boards.
- **Plastics** (meat trays & yoghurt pots – but not black trays) are now accepted at the Bath Recycling Centre. All plastic bags can go in the plastic bag bin at Sainsbury's.
- Shirley went to a talk by the Institute of Electronics and Technology and has a copy of the report. Mike will scan it and share with the group.
- Kathy to update contacts list and indicate active members for a separate email distribution list.
- Signatures on the Bank Account need to be updated – Kathy and Shirley to meet Eddy in town to do this one lunchtime.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

Invited guests:

- Sarah Allen – Wiltshire Council Home Energy Efficiency Officer
- Sarah Cosentino – Wiltshire Council Community Climate Change Officer
- Rolf Brindle – to discuss cycle paths

**SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Cycling Project
- Wildlife Garden
- Community Area Board
- CAVE and CF BOA networking
- Local Bus Routes
- Party in the Park