



Melksham Climate Friendly Group

Wednesday 3 June 2009 @ 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: Jo Stoddart, Eddy Watts, Pete McHenry, Scott Aldersley, Shirley McCarthy, Alan Byrne

APOLOGIES: Kathy Iles, Mike Boyce, Marieke Guy, Lorraine Aldersley, Jess Riley, Becky Hatfield, Steve Petty

SPENCERS OPEN DAY

This is at Spencers Club on Saturday 20th June from 3pm to 6pm. Although the event has not been widely advertised, Jo hopes for a good attendance.

- Jade & Jo are doing junk modelling with supplies from the Scrapstore –bring empty yogurt pots etc. Jo will bring PVC glue.
- Try to sell: our bags, cakes, plants. Jo's husband has built bird boxes, planters, trellis etc from which we will get a share of the profit.
- Polar Bear Game.
- Alan will talk to Tony and offer the use of his disco equipment as a PA device to encourage people to go to the various stalls.
- Jo and Kathy will manage the Freecycle stall.
- MCFG display boards, food festival resources, plastic bags display, Wildlife Garden (Alan and Kathy will e-mail photos of the Garden to Eddy) etc.
- Eddy will e-mail Graham to ask if he would like any railway-related items displayed.
- Volunteers: Jo, Eddy, Kathy, Scott, Lorraine, Alan, Jade, Mike, Marieke, Jess, Shirley.

MELKSHAM CARNIVAL *Agenda item for July meeting*

This is on Saturday 18th July. Jo has completed most of the registration form and Eddy will pass it on to Mike to finalise and deliver. Eddy will ask Terry Walsh for the float application form – no problems anticipated as we will be a walking float.

A sub meeting to discuss the carnival will be held on **Saturday 27 June**. This will take a little pressure from the monthly meeting on 1 July. It is hoped that members of the group will meet at the West End in at 10 am to work on the Wildlife Garden and then have the carnival meeting in the pub at noon. If it is wet we will meet at noon.

Jo will discuss with Kathy the provision of a leaflet about the activities of *MCFG* to be available at the Carnival. Eddy will approach Townsend Design and Print for a quotation to print these on recycled paper.

WILDLIFE GARDEN

Scott is very pleased with the progress of the Wildlife Garden and thanked everyone who has helped. Jo reported that her friend Graham will donate and fit some guttering along the garage and the rain will be directed into the butt donated by Duncan. We are grateful for the help given by the Gardening Association and want to keep them involved. Jo will put together a mini presentation on the progress

so far and the future plans then present it at their next meeting. Jo will e-mail Teresa and Simon to inform them of the working party on 27 June. Before the 27th we will have a maintenance working party on **Sunday 14 June**.

CHUFFIN' TRAINS Agenda item for July meeting

Eddy attended the Melksham Railway Development Group Meeting and AGM on 29 March. Graham was unable to attend due to working away and there was no news of the banner – Shirley agreed to e-mail Graham on the subject. A regular train service calling at Melksham seems unlikely at the moment as First Great Western want around £300,000 per year subsidy!

Eddy raised again his concern about the poor public transport serving Melksham and we talked of forming a sub-committee for transport. However, Shirley's suggestion of having the brainstorming session under Mike's guidelines first before committing to any sub groups was agreed.

We briefly discussed problems with bicycle security and the desire for cycle routes around the town.

FUTURE PROJECTS

As several of the regular meeting attendees were unavailable, we agreed to hold the brainstorming session at the July meeting. The list contributed by Mike is repeated for reference:

1. Ideas to improve membership
2. Problem: We have few members so are really stretched at events
3. Solution: Make joining a fun decision. People like interesting activities and projects
4. Examples: Plastic Bag amnesty; Free light Bulbs, Wildlife garden
5. Support projects that create community hands on activity: The garden Land share, Litter pick (adopt a road?)
6. Less support for problematic events: e.g. manning a stall. Good decision to pull out of Food + Drink Fair: more was achieved at West End...
7. Why is manning a stall a problem? We are a specialist org, OK if we are at similar or related venues or discreet venues. Not good if we are competing with beer and burgers and need a lot of labour and kit (manning a day's stall is a challenge, gazebo issues etc...)
8. If we do a stall: 1 or simple clear messages: Cakes and Light bulbs, that's it!
9. Is it worth doing carnival stall?? What did other successful stalls have??
10. How did we stand out or not stand out? Image/Resources, Features etc....
11. Beware of LCD! Mass audience, keep it simple, may have to be gimmicky...
12. Income generation is challenge, but when we have a projects we frequently get support (e.g. Whitehall Garden Centre Donation for Wildlife garden), etc..)
13. OK to be choosy: do a few things well. Push for publicity (as we do already). Tell papers we need volunteers. Market ourselves?
14. Venue will be a challenge if we get bigger, and we need to. Also guest speakers are a big draw

FINANCE

Eddy collected the cheque for £100 donated by ROMAT (Residents of Melksham Against the Tip) from Malcolm Howard and reported that there is now £174 in our account.

WEBSITE

Nothing to report on the website but Scott expressed the Group's thanks to Eddy for the site.

AOB

Jo has received the annual application forms from the Town Council for Grant Aid and suggested that we ask for a grant for plants for the Wildlife Garden. The application has to be in by 31 July so we will discuss it further at the next meeting. **Agenda item for July meeting**.

Jo, referring to links with other groups, suggested we should take a look at Transition Corsham.

Shirley and Pete attended the Euro Meps Question Time on Climate Change at Bradford on Avon.

Pete talked about the Wind Farm near Shrivenham and pointed out that the site was funded by 2,000 people contributing £2,000 each in return for free electricity for life.

DATE OF NEXT MCFG MEETING: Wednesday 1 July 2009