

Minutes of SusWot Open Meeting

7:30 pm 6 June 2013 Northcote Scouts Hut, Great Brockeridge

Purpose of Open Meetings

SusWoT's constitution says there will be five open meetings per year to include the AGM. Generally Open meetings have been poorly attended unless linked to a specific project. It was agreed that in future open meetings will principally be about reviewing all projects which may include starting new ones or closing old ones. This would allow SusWoT members to find out how projects were progressing regularly. SusWoT projects are generally successful and it was agreed that SusWoT should be driven by its projects and that success would depend on having projects run by people keen to make the particular project a success. SusWoT is well placed financially to support new projects with initial seed capital, publicity and reprographics.

Treasurer

SusWoT require a treasurer to take over from Richard Bennett. If you are interested in this role please be in touch.

Actions:

Recruit a Treasurer Everybody

Steering Group

Following the stepping down of Margaret, Tracy, Steve and Richard we are in need of some more people on the steering group. If you would like to join please let us know. There are about 6 meetings a year usually on a Thursday evening. It was agreed to approach Sue Lloyd to see if she would like to be involved more. It was also agreed that Hattie Lupton would formally be invited to join the steering group.

Actions:

Approach Sue Lloyd to ask if she would join the steering group. AD. (Already informally asked,)

Formally ask Hattie to join the steering Group.

Review of Existing Projects

Review of established projects and other activities with greater or lesser SusWoT involvement.

For any project to be viable, it needs to be championed by at least one individual who will run with it, preferably two or three who can support one another. We need to be supporting people in the area in projects that they want to see happen.

Get Growing

Get Growing Trail, 9th June

(Update since the meeting): Due to luck with the weather this was again a success, money was raised, SusWoT promoted and many plants and much juice sold. Other organisations have come forward to take plants for sale and we will be running a stall on 29 June at Horfield Primary school. 10:30 to 2:30 including set up and take down time.

We will continue to sell tomato and other plants at the Produce Market. We have learnt that in future we should have more beans, squashes, cucumbers, herbs to sell. These sell very well and are very popular. The sale of seeds has also been a great success. The sale of tomato food has been successful too.

The error this year has not been to involve more people. People are needed to run stalls and grow plants.

We should approach other Get Growing groups to offer our experiences in growing plants in bulk to raise funds and spread the growing of food.

Actions:

Recruit people to grow more plants for sale. AD

Recruit more people run our stalls. AD

Approach Jane Stevenson about contacting other Get Growing groups. AD (Update, Jane aware).

Market

This will not be moving in the foreseeable future. It continues to provide a steady income and publicity to SusWoT through juice and plant sales. About 50 bottles of juice are sold each month raising about £45 and also plant sales in a year will raise around £300.

Myra has a team that delivers leaflets each month to promote the market. But more volunteers are always welcome.

But we do need more people to be involved in running the stall. A couple more regular helpers would take the pressure off the existing people who do it practically every month.

Actions:

Recruit people to help run the Produce Market Stall. AD

Local Food

Eat WoT Grows event was successful in 2012. Look to doing again this year in 2013. This will depend on Lorraine and Matt Hutt being able and willing to be involved. We would look to book the Scout Hut again. The maximum number of diners ought to be 40. Contact Debbie to be involved.

Actions:

Approach Lorraine to ask whether she and Matt are happy to be involved and to approach Debbie. AD

(Update Lorraine approached and is now working on a plan for the event including crucially setting a date.)

Biodiversity

Badock's Wood Day, 16th June. It was agreed to support this.

(Update it was attended on a lovely day and SusWoT's profile and money raised as we ran a full stall offering seeds, plant and juice, all were popular.)

Green Drinks

These are not as popular as we hoped. It was agreed to promote them hard for June (Friday 24th) and July.(Friday 27th). These events are held at the Victoria on Chock Lane from 8pm on the Friday before the Produce Market starting at 8pm. If these are also not successful the future of the activity will be reviewed again.

Actions:

Advertise Green Drinks to the SusWoT email list for the Green Drinks on 24 June and 27 July. (FB)
Update a note has gone out for June.

Target people who might attend individually to remind them about them. All

Energy

We need to find ways to make this area more accessible to people. How do we do this?

Schools Events

Successful participation in Red Maids event. How do we build on this, waiting for the teacher who organised it to return from maternity leave.

Connection with primary school looking at biodiversity in the churchyard. Mike Crabbe owns this, supported by Myra.

Schools are enthusiastic about these connections but we need someone who can be a focus for them.

Village Trail

Parked. Might we act with WoTSoc? We would need somebody to run with this.

Village Show

We have a regular stall and we are sponsoring a trophy this year. We need to understand what we are committed to. Mike Crabbe is pursuing a bowl as our trophy.

Actions:

Establish for the Village Show committee what we are committed to. Start by writing to Robert Chandler. AD

Neighbourhood Plan

Jill in particular takes an active interest in this kind of activity. It would be good for SusWoT to influence these discussions in a sustainable direction.

Actions:

Jill to represent SusWoT with this.

Community Garden

Going well had a successful Get Growing Day.

IDEAS (We did not have time to consider all the following.)

Wormeries

This could be a part of Get Growing. We should involve Tim Bushell. We need a demonstration we need to find a supplier. Can we be a pilot for Bristol?

Surplus Fruit Harvest (Eat what we grow?)

Animal Reserve (No time)

Fishbone Exercise from AGM (no time)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Planning

Create a plan of annual events and preparation deadlines.

Fran? To do this?

Publicity

Website – static and/or interactive

Print media

Leaflets and promotional information