

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 27th July 2023, Westbury Library

Present

Alex Dunn, Liz Viggars, Mike Crabbe, Fran Bragg, Richard Bennett, Pat Meek, Keith Yeandel, Jill Kempshall, David McGregor

Apologies

Judith Sluglett, Stephen Noreiko

To contact us about any items below, please email suswot2050@gmail.com.

Previous Minutes

NEW and ONE OFF ITEMS

Formal Structure of SusWoT

SusWoT's turnover is increasing and we need to consider adopting a more formal structure. Annual turnover over £5,000 requires this.

We are suggesting that the most appropriate and simplest structure to adopt is a charity. There are business structures that could be options, but these tend to assume a more regular cashflow.

If we pursue this route, we need to define charitable objectives. The Charity Commission provides sample objects in allowable categories that we would need to adopt 3 of.

A Foundation model allows us to appoint at least 3, preferably 4 trustees to act as a core, allowing the many members who only want to participate in their activities of interest without having to worry about the organisation as a whole. We should have an Extraordinary General Meeting to formally agree this, in September after the holiday season. 21 days notice will need to be given for this.

An Association model is like the Scouts for example and involves more close participation from the membership.

Questions

- Who can be a Trustee? Anyone mostly.
- What happens if we receive money before this is set up? We should defer receiving money and CSE would want to wait until we have a suitable structure.
- How are the Trustees appointed? We need to define this process in our constitution. A 3 year tenure is common.
- Do we need a formal committee?
- Are there alternative structures? We could become a Community Interest Company (CIC) - this would require demonstration of money being spent regularly. A limited company is another option. As a charity, the main formal oversight is from the Charities Commission. HMRC and Companies House have a less interest.
- Are the Trustees and Committee the same people? Some organisations keep these separate to maintain oversight.

Mike will move onto drafting a proposed constitution for further consideration.

REGULAR ITEMS

Boiler Upgrade Scheme

We have been directed to focus on the 11 transformers that we were first given. We have been given data on which houses are attached to each. We need to reach 25% of each. We have contacted the first 3 transformers and received 3 expressions of interest so far.

We will provide drop-in sessions and focus on this at the Village Show. We will support CSE with door knocking. We will make 2 promotional videos - David and Alan Aburrow will do a myth-busting video.

CSE have a strategy in 5 blocks. We will deliver leaflets, they will door-knock and there will be follow up. We have August to prepare, then this will start on w/c 4 September and last for 5 weeks. Leaflets will be delivered promoting the Village Show as well beforehand.

We attended the first BEN workshop last night. Once they got over the teething problems, the presentation was interesting. There are 6 more workshops leading people through the “renewables journey”.

Library Garden

The onions are growing well in the garden. Other plants are not thriving so well. There is only a thin layer of poor quality soil which could be improved in the autumn.

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

There is a small amount of balsam remaining, about 30 plants that are widely distributed, making a concerted session awkward to organise. Some are located in areas where residents object to its removal.

River cleaning has progressed beyond Blaise into Crow Lane Open Space. There is a small area left. The plan is to return to the mouth at Sea Mills at Trym Cross Road and work up again. We could invest in a metal detector or magnet fisher as there are metal items well buried in the bottom of the river.

Get Growing

Litter

Litter picking will focus on the Village centre ahead of the Village Show.

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

The last meal night was held at Hunters’, the new fish and chip shop in Stoke Lane. There were around 12 people and people ate inside as it was a bit cold. They are keen for us to use their back room for 2 hours whenever we need and offered a free bottle of wine per 4 people on this occasion. We will use this for some drop-in sessions for clusters in that area and to provide a variety of types of venue.

We will go to the Thai restaurant for the August meal.

Village Show

The Village Show is on Saturday 2nd Saturday.

3 classes

- Best vegetable grown from Suswot seed or plant
- Vegetarian dish

- Up to 90 second video on subject of Harvest

We only have one table currently although we are first on the waiting list for a second. We will focus on air source heat pumps and a fish bucket which was popular last year. We will have CSE and BEN supporting this. Should we have a drop-in session at The Mouse for people who want to pursue a longer conversation - the band playing makes conversation impossible?

We need to practice putting up the new gazebo.

The videos for our show class will be on display on an iPad.

Publicity

Alex continues to produce articles for BS9 and the Henleaze and Westbury Voice.

Phone Apps

The University have approached us again to be part of their 2nd year programme. The GPS resolution in Westbury is poor, especially in woodland. If this could be improved, that would be our priority.

WoTPic - university app.

WotPlot. We could offer to install this at the Village Show.

AOB

Date of Next Meeting

The Village Hall is closed for July and August. The August meeting will be at Westbury Library at 7:30pm on 31st August.

Regular meeting time: 7:30pm, last Thursday of the month, Westbury-on-Trym Village Hall