

# **SusWoT MEETING**

**7:30pm, Thursday 28th September, Village Hall**

## **Present**

Alex Dunn, Mike Crabbe, Pat Meek, Keith Yeandel, Fran Bragg, Liz Viggars

## **Apologies**

Judith Sluglett, Stephen Noreiko, Peter Coleman-Smith, Denise Barwell and Mel, Jill Kempshall

**To contact us about any items below, please email [suswot2050@gmail.com](mailto:suswot2050@gmail.com).**

## **Previous Minutes**

[https://www.suswot.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/23-08-31\\_SusWoT\\_Minutes.pdf](https://www.suswot.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/23-08-31_SusWoT_Minutes.pdf)

## **REGULAR ITEMS**

### **Formal Structure of SusWoT**

Mike has completed an initial draft of a charitable constitution based on the Foundation model. There is a template supplied by the Charity Commission which is the basis, with items modified or deleted as seems appropriate for SusWoT. Mike now wants to go through it in detail with one or more of the potential trustees.

There is flexibility over the financial year at the inception of the charity. We should be able to receive money once our documentation has been submitted, even before it is processed.

### **Boiler Upgrade Scheme**

We are now in the 4th week of 5 running drop-in sessions on Monday evening and Friday afternoon. We have generally had one or two interested households per session.

This weekend (30th September) and next (6th October) there are Open Homes sessions for people to visit a home with a heat pump and/or retrofitted insulation and other improvements.

It is hard to engage people in the timescales required. People are reluctant to replace their boiler if it is not a reasonable age. There is also the hesitance over the technology is relatively new to the UK. The government grant has risen in the last month from £5,000 to £7,500. However they have also extended the deadlines for phasing out gas boilers which is likely to lessen people's sense of urgency.

There is some enthusiasm for the Veritherm survey - maybe 26-36.

CSE and the council are looking to push the deadlines back.

### **Library Garden**

Harvesting is complete now. We are thinking of improving the soil before November when the broad beans go in.

- Packhorse garden at bottom of Chock Lane by the Trym - Westbury-on-Trym Society have been asked if they would help look after this and they have enquired if we would also be interested. We suggested they ask the Scouts via Richard Bennett or ask Trout in the Trym.

### **Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam**

Himalayan Balsam is pretty much gone.

Friends of Blaise have agreed to take on the Royals.

We will complete our third pass of the Trym and Hazel Brook taking out further rubbish that has been exposed since the previous time.

Trout, an eel, a kingfisher and an egret have been spotted in the river recently.

We are now planning to have a celebration event for those who have been working on this project.

We have enquired if there are other rivers in the area that could benefit from the expertise we have gained.

We are also seeking to develop our relationship with Wessex Water. The silt traps still remain to be cleaned out and have been identified in a recent environment report as key to improving river quality.

We are very grateful for the support and training we have received from the Parks Department.

We are waiting for Cllr Mark Weston to produce a leaflet for us to print and distribute encouraging people living around Crow Lane Open Space to maintain the area.

### **Get Growing**

We need more people to be involved in producing plants in the early stages. Tomatoes are the principal crop, various kinds of beans are also popular.

The only main outlet now is the Community Fair in May. The church may be less keen to keep running this as it was not well attended this year, although that may have been due to the building work which is now finished.

There is also the Get Growing Trail in June. We used to have the monthly market.

The project used to be primarily a fund-raiser for us, whereas now it is more focused on encouraging people to grow their own food and we have other sources of funds.

Suggest asking people to grow as many plants as they are comfortable with and swapping seeds and/or seedlings.

### **Litter**

#### Mini Police Project - Litter Picking

Liz has spoken to PCSO Azeem who wants to run a litter picking session with junior school children from Elmlea School. There are various issues such as a lack of litter in the area, SusWoT volunteers are not DBS checked and the groups will need to have a teacher per group, so 9 children per group and also there is a safety problem with working along roads and potentially with the kind of litter that may be found. Sue Hayes is happy to help with this if it happens. The PCSO will consider this further.

### **Supper Club/ Meal Nights**

There were 9 of us last time at the Indian Kitchen.

We are planning to go to the Thai again in September.

### **Upcoming Events**

The parish church is selling Christmas trees on 2nd December.

We are keen to support local businesses and events.

### **Publicity**

We are having teething problems with getting website news posts to autopost successfully to Twitter and Facebook. Fran needs to have access to the Buffer account so there are multiple people able to manage each system.

BS9 and the Voice have not had listings in the most recent versions.

### **Phone Apps**

Pat had an issue with WoTPlot. She tried to report some litter outside the Co-op and it did not register on the app. We need to talk to Matthew. Pat and Keith are happy to test it when it is fixed.

We have missed the deadline for the University of Bristol Computer Science department project list.

### **Further Items**

#### Talk for WI

Westbury-on-Trym Women's Institute would like a talk from SusWoT on any 3rd Monday afternoon. October is too soon. November is nearly Christmas. January or February would be good and we could encourage them to grow some seeds and be involved in any other activities. Fran to reply that we would be happy to do a talk from January onwards and enquire about how long a presentation etc. should be and what facilities are available.

#### C.H.E.E.S.E. General Manager

C.H.E.E.S.E. are looking for a general manager. <https://cheeseproject.co.uk/2023/09/25/were-hiring/>

## Traffic Survey

Traffic survey - Alan Morris - will put this in our minutes when the traffic on the main road is back to normal.

## **AOB**

Keith has noticed a lot of weed growth in road gutters recently. One of the litter pickers filled 2 bags with weeds. We think the council has stopped using glyphosate, which is a good thing, but there does not seem to be any alternative policy in place.

Council activities are increasingly sparse. Should we encourage residents to clear the area outside their own house and utilise street networks and the litter picking network to spread the word. We need to make sure they are given adequate guidance and reassurance cf. concern a few years ago that clearing snow could lead to being sued <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

7:30pm, Thursday 26th October.

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