

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 30th May 2024, Village Hall

Present

Alex Dunn, Liz Viggars, Mike Crabbe, Julia Schwarz, Richard Bennett, Pat Meek, Keith Yeandel, Fran Bragg

Apologies

Mel Ward, Denise Barwell, David McGregor, Andrew Renshaw, Peter Coleman-Smith, Jill Kempshall

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

Previous Minutes

<https://www.suswot.org.uk/minutes/>

Matters Arising

The April meeting was planned to be the AGM, but was inquorate. We should rearrange the AGM for our June meeting.

REGULAR ITEMS

Formal Structure of SusWoT

Since last November, it is only possible to apply to the Charity Commissioners with a parallel application to HMRC.

There was one item missing from the required documentation. This was a requirement to demonstrate approval from the council to do work on the River Trym. We do have an agreement with Bristol Parks. It is not a formal contract as we are an unconstituted organisation.

Summary of new charitable structure:

- The only people with voting powers are the trustees. Initially this will be the three trustees (the officers: Alex, Liz and Fran) and can be increased up to 7. Trustees are technically known as members. Two thirds of the trustees are required for a meeting to be quorate.
 - We can set up sub-committees to run particular activities. A trustee must be a member of the sub-committee.
 - We need to approve this at the rearranged AGM.
- Current “members” are defined as anyone on the mailing list. This will cease to be the case - there will be an associate or non-voting membership.

Domestic Energy

Retrofit West

- We applied to be part of the WECA/ metro mayor project to encourage people to improve the energy performance of their homes.
 - We have received £2,300 of £5,000 already. We need to have committed to the expenditure of the full £5,000 by October.
 - Abby from Retrofit West came to the May Fair and tried to engage people there, with no success. This is apparently typical of the response of the other 11 projects. We feel there may be more interest in winter.
 - The parish church has surveyed members of an interested group about their energy usage. Keith has all the data available for any analysis we can do. There is currently only a very small sample size, we should ask people from our list to submit their data to increase our sample size.

- Rachel at Bristol Energy Network has offered to support us in obtaining a £5,000 grant to put on 4 Open Homes sessions. We are not sure how we can spend this amount for this activity. We need to know more about what is involved.

Litter

Consumer Intelligence Ltd (new business in village centre) want to help with litter picking on 12 June during a company away day. This may not be very successful for them as there is not a great deal of litter.

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

Keep it Clean

Celebration

Friday 7 June from 12:30 with proceedings starting at 1pm. We invited Darren Jones to attend this event and he accepted. However, he is officially not currently an MP as Parliament has been dissolved for the general election, so cannot attend in that capacity. Peter Coleman-Smith has approached 2 senior people from Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust.

Get Growing

Get Growing Trail

We are not participating in the trail this year as it does not coincide with our tomato production. We sold a lot of tomatoes at the May Fair.

Fund-Raising Training

Bristol Food Network - event on Tuesday 2 July, 9.30 - 12.30, at St Paul's Learning Centre:

- Developing fundraising skills to generate income for your growing space
- An opportunity to share learning from across Bristol's community growing spaces

To register to attend the event please complete the RSVP form by 17 June.

We don't feel this is something we need to participate in.

Library Garden

There are some broad beans and garlic.

Jill reports: "Wild flowers in the Library garden: the ones I put in a tub at the front are blooming well but don't look like wild flowers...I've also put a few seeds in a square in the bare patch at the side but no sign of sprouting yet..."

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

Last month we visited Al Fresco which was a popular venue.

There has been a discussion as to whether there is a demand for other times such as a lunch time?

Investigate Grupo Lounge with Indian Kitchen as a backup.

Upcoming Events

Village Show

Saturday 7th September, 11:00am-5:00pm

Theme: Hooked on Books

Publicity

We need to upgrade the Buffer plugin on the website to allow posting to Instagram.

There is someone from the Civic Society who may be able to help with the website.

Phone Apps

We would like to get these tidied up and available on app stores. We could also add fly-tipping. This is useful for litter picking sessions.

AOB

Network Meeting (email from Gina Eastman)

A reminder that we have a Networking Group meeting fixed for 9am on Tuesday 4th June at the Methodist Church.

Liz attended a previous meeting and the group knows what we do. We should leave it to them to get back to us if they are interested in any of our activities.

Keith is concerned about the number of bins outside 11 College Rd which have multiplied considerably recently. He tried raising it with the previous councillor, with no effect.

Liz has been offered a wheelbarrow - do we want it? It would be useful as they wear out quite regularly.

Date of Next Meeting

7:30pm, Thursday 27th June

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