

SusWoT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30pm, 27th June 2024, Village Hall

Present

Alex Dunn (Chair), Fran Bragg (Secretary), Pat Meek, Steve Tainton, Tracy Tainton, Andrew Renshaw, Vanessa Simpson, Bob Murphy, Andy Renshaw, Lorna Renshaw, Hilary Keevil, Liz Viggars, Julia Schwarz, Richard Bennett

Apologies

Mike Crabbe, Hattie Lupton, Keith Yeandel, Richard Bennett, David Swithinbank, Jill Kempshall

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

Welcome and Introduction

Formalities of the Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Last AGM

- Q: is the phone app still available? Yes, it currently needs to be loaded manually on a phone and is not on any app stores.

Chair's Report

- Litter - the whole of WoT is now covered by around 30 street-based litter rounds. There are 2 group activities on Fridays and Sundays. There are rarely any communal litter picks currently as there is insufficient litter to occupy a group. We receive grants for litter picking equipment and currently have 80 sets, most of which are looked after by people with rounds.
 - Q: How often do the council work on Canford Park? People tend to dump litter in the overgrown bushes around the edge.
- Trout in the Trym: river cleaning - we have been cleaning the Trym and Hazel Brook every Friday for the last 6 years. Last week there was a celebration event at The Mouse for river cleaners. The catchment has been cleaned at least once, in some places two or three times. More rubbish is revealed as the water uncovers it. There are various species of fish.
 - Himalayan balsam has been cleared for the last 4 years. The approach is to remove all the balsam that can be located each year.
 - The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership have given us a grant of £1,000 for Keep It Clean, a project to recruit residents in Southmead, Crow Lane Open Space and Sea Mills Open Space to keep the area clear. This should also help keep rubbish out of the rivers.
- Get Growing - we have various growing activities including sponsoring prizes at the Village Show, growing produce in the library garden.
 - Library garden - there is a small garden in the library grounds where a small group are growing various produce.
 - There is also a well established community garden at the junction of Stoke Lane and Reedley Road overseen by Jim and Lesley Scarborough.
- Meal nights - each month on the second Thursday we visit one of the local restaurants in the village to support our local businesses.

- We have received £26,000 in grants related to energy projects including promoting the uptake of air source heat pumps and retrofitting homes to improve insulation and energy efficiency.
 - The heat pump project was unsuccessful as only a quarter of the homes were deemed eligible by the central project and few people were at the stage in their heating cycle where they would be interested in considering a heat pump.
 - Retrofit West is a project run by WECA to encourage people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- We are in the process of becoming a registered charity. We just need to demonstrate that our work on the Trym is approved and supervised by the council.

Treasurer's Report

- Our income in 2023 was £21,000 compared with £1,500-£3,000 in previous years. We have already received £5,000 in 2024. This has transformed our finances.
- Get growing brought in £540 last year and is likely to be slightly less this year as we did not participate in the Get Growing Trail.
- The majority of expenditure has been on cleaning equipment for litter picking and river cleaning. Waders do not last a long time and we ensure that there is always full kit available as people need it.
- We had a grant from Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to monitor voles and otters. There are plenty of signs of otters.
- We have also spent money on administrative items such as the website, app, hall hire and liability insurance.
- We currently have £29,000.
- Some of the grants such as Retrofit West and Keep It Clean are tied to those activities, but the heat pump payments are not.
- Q: What was the motivation for becoming a charity? The amount of money we are now receiving - an HMRC requirement.

Election of Officers

Chair

Alex Dunn was unanimously approved to continue as Chair.

Treasurer

Liz Viggars was unanimously approved to continue as Treasurer

Secretary

Fran Bragg was unanimously approved to continue as Secretary

Looking Forward

Current plans and new ideas for the coming year.

- The Retrofit West project is underway.
- Working with schools to introduce them to SusWoT activities and values. Could also involve the Wildlife Park.
 - It can be quite difficult due to health and safety restrictions. We thought we organised a litter picking activity with a primary school with detailed plans only to be told on the day that it couldn't happen.
 - Scouts and DofE students have also approached us for activities. Some did some river cleaning which is a strenuous activity.
 - What about workshops that don't involve going out of school?

- Other outreach activities:
 - We have also done an outreach talk for the WI.
 - David McGregor is doing some energy workshops with local church groups.
 - We should form a group to investigate this further.
- The Westbury-on-Trym Society has some ideas of projects that we could collaborate with. Especially Canford Park and particularly the pond (sunken garden), which is currently infested with algae again. There have been difficulties with the council in the past.
- Problems with overhanging street trees and overgrown gutters and blocked drains due to the council stopping using weedkiller. Street leaves produce an enormous amount of waste to manage which is both heavy and voluminous. It can be quite hazardous to work in the road depending on the location. The council have recently limited the amount of waste that they will collect from river cleaners. It sounds like we might need to work with the new council on this matter.
- Traffic - what could we do? The Westbury-on-Trym Society has been working on traffic for the last 3 years surveying traffic and producing a report. This is being updated in light of recent changes to the road network - this is ongoing. Their report can be found on their website - news item of 19th July 2023: <https://www.westburytransportplacegroup.org/news>.
 - We shouldn't be duplicating what WOTS are doing? Can we point our members to their work if that is their interest?
 - Are there different aspects to this topic such as the behavioural aspects of why people choose the travel modes that they do and the environmental impact?
 - Should we be promoting localism in the same way as we do with the meal nights? Do we actually want to discourage people from driving through the village at all, rather than facilitating it?
 - Use existing national events such as [Mobility Week](#) to piggy back events for the whole village to raise these conversations in the area.
 - There are numerous groups with different interests around traffic and varying resources in the area. It would be good to know what is already going on.

Date of Next Meeting

Next regular meeting: 7:30pm, Thursday 25th July.

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