

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 27th March 2025, Village Hall

Present

Alex Dunn, Liz Viggars, Fran Bragg, Bob Murphy, Jane Stott, Keith Yeandel, David McGregor

Apologies

Steve Tainton, Tracy Tainton, Judith Sluglett, Mel Ward, Denise Barwell, Pat Meek, Jill Kempshall

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

Previous Minutes

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

REGULAR ITEMS

Domestic Energy

Library Talks

- Third talk will be on Tuesday 1 April at 7:30pm in the Library.
- We are liaising with Go Green Widcombe to share ideas (<http://www.widcombeassociation.org.uk/project/go-green-widcombe/>). They have 270 people in their mailing list.
- We have provisionally booked another energy fair for 8th November. We will need to seek funding if we are to pursue this. The last fair was very successful with a large turn out from the public. We will review whether some things would need to be done differently.
- People have found Matt Williams from Retrofit West very helpful. Would it be possible to involve him in our planning?

Litter

- The map on the website has been tidied up (<https://suswot.org.uk/local-area/litter/litter-rounds-map/>).
- Alex has spoken to the Civic Society about encouraging the type of litter picking activity that we do in Westbury across the city. We estimate that about 50 sets of equipment would be needed per ward. They have offered us £3,000 to pursue this project. There may be interest in Southmead, Henbury and Clifton in the first instance. Clifton Rotarians are interested in joining with this. They are having a session on 11 April. Another advantage of this selection of wards is that they represent councillors from all major parties.
- We were filmed on Monday by the BBC in Southmead. This will be on Friday 4th April on Morning Live (9:30-10:45am). <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000nxkq> .
- Bristol Clean Streets Forum. The council have updated Fix My Street (<https://fixmystreet.bristol.gov.uk/>). The idea is that reports are collected centrally and assigned to the right department such as Parks, Bristol Waste, Housing etc. This is still under development and is currently quite long-winded. Please feed back any issues with this service to us as we can feed back to the council.

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

- No balsam has been seen yet, it usually becomes visible at the start of April.
- We will start work on looking for people who live in roads next to the river to keep their areas clean.
- Peter Coleman-Smith has had reports of eels in the Wildlife Park. We are going to join an activity in the Wildlife Park on 22nd June, including any balsam that may be there.

Get Growing

- Alex has planted 700 tomatoes which should be ready for the fair on 10th May. Hattie and Jeannie have volunteered to look after some seedlings in their greenhouses.

Library Garden

- Library garden, beans are up. More things will be planted out in April/May.

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

Second Thursday - Restaurant

Thursday 10 April will be at the Mezze Bar.

Tuesday - Pub

12 days after the restaurant night, usually 4th Tuesday. Tuesdays seem to be a problem for the pubs. Despite pre-ordering with the White Horse, on the day they were only able to supply one dish, so the party retired to the Black Swan. Some of them do have the kitchen open on Wednesday. Some are also too small to accommodate a single large table. Tuesday 22 April. Keith to enquire at the Victoria.

Events - Recent and Upcoming

Community Fair, 10th May. No-one talked to Abby from Retrofit West at the Fair last year - it is not the type of event where people are in the frame of mind to have complex conversations like that.

Village Show 6 September. We need to confirm our classes for the Village Show. The theme is Space. We have had a video class for the last few years.

Publicity

- Both websites have now been redone thanks to Laura.
- We now need more content. We are making a schedule for this.

Phone Apps

- If the updates to Fix My Street are successful, this may fulfill some of the functions of WoTPlot. However, the council are unlikely to be interested in general litter problems as opposed to fly tipping.
- The app is still really important for tracking balsam.
- We need to claim ownership of the website in some official way which is less than obvious.

Future Direction of SusWoT

- Jane suggested an idea of looking into low carbon holidays. We discussed this and decided that it's complicated. The issue is not only travel modes on holiday but also what we do when we are there. We suggested that we write something for the Henleaze Voice in May.
- Jane to provide 100 words on low carbon holidays to Alex by 12 April.

AOB

- Has everything happened relating to SusWoT becoming a charity? Liz is applying to HMRC to register for Gift Aid?
- Are people still using log burners a lot? They have been identified in the past as a significant source of air pollution. The type of wood is important. Some councils bring in bylaws about log burner emissions.

Date of Next Meeting

7:30pm, Thursday 24 April

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