

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 24th April 2024, Village Hall

Present

Alex Dunn, Richard Bennett, Pat Meek, Mike Crabbe, Keith Yeandel, Myra Jones, Liz Viggars

Apologies

Fran Bragg, Hattie Lupton, Sarah Fennell, Judith Sluglett, Tracy Tainton, Steve Tainton

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

Previous Minutes

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

REGULAR ITEMS

Domestic Energy

We've completed all our talks and Open Homes with support from Retrofit West. The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) have made a video about how we used the funding. This should be uploaded to the WECA website soon.

We've booked the Village Hall provisionally for 8th November to repeat the fair. We will go to the organisations who attended last time, and see if they want to come again (feedback had been positive so we would expect to see a reasonable level of commitment).

If we go ahead, we need to focus on attracting new customers. Suggestions included listing the suppliers who are attending and including more specific questions that could be addressed (suppliers may be able to help with the detail here).

Liz to talk to Abby at Retrofit West about future funding opportunities in mid-May (after the election)

Sustainable Holidays

Jane has produced an article for the May edition of the Henleaze and Westbury Voice. There has also been information shared by other individuals. We will pick this up when the main parties are present.

Litter

We went out with the Bristol Rotarians on 11th April and litterpicked Clifton with them. The Civic Society have offered us £3000 to expand our standard litterpicking activities (rounds etc) to Clifton, Henleaze, Henbury & Brentry and Southmead. We will engage with the councillors in these wards to identify the activities already in place (action Alex).

We promoted the Great British Spring Clean on Morning Live on BBC1 on 4th April. [Morning Live - Series 7: 04/04/2025 - BBC iPlayer](#). The feature is 62 minutes into the programme.

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

As ever, we are nearly finished our deep-clean of the River Trym and Hazel Brook. For the last few months, we have predominantly focused on the surrounding green spaces - extracting a huge amount of old flytipping from the bushes around the Sea Mills Trym Valley.

We will look to carry out further cleaning on the river - it should be quicker as there will be less historic rubbish.

We have started to find Himalayan Balsam along the river already. It has been spotted at Shirehampton Road and the Royals in Blaise. It has not been found yet at Grace Gardens or near the Dingle Car Park - however we need to monitor both areas closely (along with the area around the Confluence). We also need to return to the steep slope opposite the Beech Cathedral in Blaise where we tackled an area for the first time. Liz will update the map.

We continue to get reports of wildlife in the area - with further sightings of eels and otters along with kingfishers, egrets, trout and smaller fish. The wildlife park has reported eels and otters. There are Eels in the wildlife park.

At the last Trout in the Trym meeting, it was suggested that we would not need to empty the silt traps this season (as they are only refilling slowly). Friends of Blaise are liaising with the council about sluice gates and action on the ponds. Alex to seek update from Alastair

Get Growing

The Community Fair is on 10th May. SusWoT will be selling tomatoes and a few courgettes. We will need volunteers to help between 9am-3pm. Liz and Alex to sort out rota.

Alex and Hattie are currently tending the tomato plants. There will be a potting-on session for the Community Fair tomatoes on 3rd May. We need around 6 volunteers to help.

May is a bit too early to be selling tomatoes to grow outside. We used to have an additional event as part of the Bristol-wide Get Growing Trail. However the Trail has now moved to September - which doesn't fit in with our growing timetable. So we will look to have an open day on the second Saturday of June to sell more. This could involve the Stoke Lane community garden and Library garden as well as Alex's.

It was suggested we might be able to sell them at the Methodist weekly fairs - Liz to discuss.

Library Garden

Broad beans are growing - need to plant something in the other half. Grass needs to be mown.

Community Garden

The arch needs to be replaced. SusWoT has offered to pay (expected £200). Jim and Lesley would welcome some support with maintaining the garden as one of their key volunteers is very unwell.

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

Second Thursday - Restaurant - Thai for 8th May

Tuesday - Pub

12 days after the restaurant night, usually 4th Tuesday

18 people at the last session at the Vic - it was very noisy as the football team were celebrating their cup victory.

We're basically rotating between the Duck and the Vic as the Mouse and Horse aren't keen on doing a standard menu on a Tuesday (we could look to pick this up with them again now that the new management teams are more established. We talked about other pubs that do food - the Eastfield or the Lion. We agreed to try the Lion for 20th May - Keith to liaise.

Events - Recent and Upcoming

3rd May - potting on at Abbey Road - need around 6 people.

10th May - community fair - 9am to set up for 10am start - finish by 3pm. Particular help needed for setup. Volunteers so far: Steve, Tracy, Alex

20th June - joint working session with the Wildlife Park.

Publicity

Our new websites (for SusWoT and Trout in the Trym) have been developed by Laura. We need to continue to develop content.

WECA have made a video of SusWoT to show off our Domestic Energy projects - they have included footage of our other activities too.

We agreed to place a full-page advert in the Village Show booklet - which was shown to the meeting. Liz to update and send to Carole.

Phone Apps

Alex needs to send Liz Zen login to progress with putting this on GooglePlay

Future Direction of SusWoT

It looks on the surface that we are doing similar activities to other sustainability groups. We should look more closely to understand more. We are also open to ideas to develop new projects.

AOB

None

Date of Next Meeting

Regular meeting time: 7:30pm, last Thursday of the month, Westbury-on-Trym Village Hall. Next meeting 29th May.