

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 29th May 2025, Village Hall

Present

Alex Dunn, Liz Viggars, Richard Bennett, Fran Bragg, Pat Meek, Jill Kempshall, Myra Jones, Sarah Fennell

Apologies

Hattie Lupton, Judith Sluglett, David McGregor

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

Previous Minutes

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

The previous minutes were accepted by the meeting

REGULAR ITEMS

Domestic Energy

C.H.E.E.S.E.

- C.H.E.E.S.E. will have a stall at the Sustainable Business Fair - put on by FutureLeap at the Bristol Beacon on 9th-10th June. Public access is free to the stalls.
- C.H.E.E.S.E. will continue to partner with Retrofit West next winter - so clients for C.H.E.E.S.E. surveys get a 70% discount.
- C.H.E.E.S.E. has just received a substantial 2-year grant from the OFGEM Restitution Fund to expand our operations for those in fuel poverty - providing free surveys and 'First retrofit' workshops and materials, and also pressure-testing (which can be done in the summer).

Retrofit West

Liz is going to a Retrofit West focus group about community groups working with them.

- We needed more than one person on the Retrofit West stall at our energy fair as they were overwhelmed
- Some installations have been going on in the area since the fair. The heat pump installer had several leads from the fair. Alex is having a battery installed by Ecocetera and will ask them what response they had.
- SusWoT members have found it takes several months to get various parts of the process to happen, such as replacing meters if necessary and getting payments out of energy companies. Experience with Octopus has been good.
- We are going to apply for a grant for another energy fair this November

Planning

In the news today, the government has removed the planning restriction that a heat pump must be at least a metre from the property boundary. There is no restriction now. This has been a significant obstacle especially for people in the nation's 6 million terraced houses.

Sustainable Holidays

- Sarah travelled from Istanbul to Bristol last year by train (mostly).
- There is support from companies such as Byway (<https://www.byway.travel/sustainable-holidays>) to plan sustainable travel, for those who are not used to planning their own travel itineraries.
- It is not just travel, but also where you stay and what you do when you get there.
- Article for the July magazines. Contributions from everyone who has interesting stories and information to Alex by 5th June.

Litter

- We have written to the councillors of Brentry, Southmead, Henleaze and Clifton about Keep It Clean. We are looking to leaflet to Southmead as they responded. This is the start of the Civic Society plan to engage with every ward in the city.
- Richard to talk to Explorer Scouts in Brentry to recruit some scouts to take on a round permanently, rather than an isolated pick.

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

- Bullhead fish are now breeding in the Trym, and other species have been seen, such as perch, trout, an otter and a kingfisher.
- 2 mini balsam sessions. Some stands have not returned, which is good. Other patches are growing and are being addressed. Can't attack balsam in woodland during bird nesting season.
- Liz is going to Wessex Water to talk about sewage. The quality of the water in the Trym has improved this year. There are new sewers north of the area where the large building project is underway and some outflows have been improved to reduce discharges during heavy rainfall.

Get Growing

We sold about 350 tomato plants at the Community Fair along with a few other plants.

Library Garden and Community Garden

- Tomato sales - 11am-3pm, Saturday 14th June at the library garden and Stoke Lane community garden
- David is going to bring his display hive and some honey to the Stoke Lane community garden

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

Second Thursday - Restaurant

Thursday 12th June Al Fresco

Tuesday - Pub

12 days after the restaurant night, usually 4th Tuesday

Tuesday 24th June

Events - Recent and Upcoming

Community Fair went well.

Village Show - 6 September. Theme is Space. We have a video category of Green Space.

Publicity

Can others post on our Facebook page? We will look into it.

Phone Apps

Not heard from the author about what's happening about some issues. It can be accessed from the SusWoT website homepage.

Future Direction of SusWoT

Another idea from Jill was to encourage people to use their front gardens to grow things and not pave them over.

AOB

Richard is now a trustee of the SusWoT charity.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 26th June

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