

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 31st July 2025, Village Hall

Present

Alex Dunn, Liz Viggars, Fran Bragg, Richard Bennett, Julia Schwarz, Jill Kempshall, Bob Murphy, David McGregor, Hilary Keevil

Apologies

Bridget Niblett, Hattie Lupton, Sarah Fennell, Judith Sluglett, Pat Meek

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

Previous Minutes

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

REGULAR ITEMS

Domestic Energy

Richard is taking on the energy work of SusWoT.

Meeting with Retrofit West this morning:

- Retrofit West have 15 people on their team this year, up from 5 last year.
- They are planning a series of local energy fairs based on our successful model last year.
- They are willing to fund the fair again and are encouraging us to put on other events such as the library talks.
- They are willing to contribute to generic SusWoT leaflets that have a proportion of the space devoted to energy and Retrofit West content.
- They would like more feedback from people who attend events. We did collate a lot of responses on the day about the fair itself. They would like follow up later on about what people have done as a result.
- There will be more competition this year for grants, but we have already got a good reputation with them so should be OK. They would prefer everything to be in a single application this year rather than for each separate activity.

Proposed repeat of Energy Fair - Saturday 8th November

- We have 5 suppliers from last year who have signed up. Only Herschel have declined, but may come again another time.
- We have all the plans from last year, so there will be a saving on preparation.
- We may try to leaflet further afield this year, into Henleaze for example. There may also be new people to the area looking to work on houses, people who couldn't make it last year or those whose interest has increased over the year.
- The fact that it is a dedicated energy fair means people are there for that reason and take a lot of interest. At general events such as the May Fair, people are there for other reasons which are generally more fun.
- We could liaise with Retrofit West to have wider publicity across the city, such as Bristol Live or local radio.
- People living in areas with council housing are seeing the council doing upgrade work to their properties and may be stimulated to think about their own.
- The EPC assessment process and category required will be changing for landlords, so they may be having to consider improvements.

- What has changed since last year? Planning permission for heat pumps, different focus for grants e.g. insulation, changes to planning permission for solar panels on listed buildings, etc. The situation in many areas of home energy changes regularly at the moment, so even those who came to last year's fair may benefit from another visit. Emphasise this in publicity.
- Cooling is also becoming increasingly relevant.

We have plenty to do here and are therefore happy to go ahead with another fair this year.

Open Homes is difficult to organise. BEN are running a day on the same day as the Village Show (6 Sept). It may be better to have a matching system for when people are available rather than dedicated days.

Green Libraries Week: Monday 27 October – Sunday 2 November 2025. The theme is "Seeds of Change". Could we do an event at the library as part of this week? This is the week before the fair. Jill has contacted the library and is waiting for a reply. <https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesWeek>

Retrofit West video of SusWoT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pERh5mEtzul>

Sustainable Holidays

Litter

- Canford Lane has had a lot of litter during the hot weather. There have been wheelie bins dumped outside the entrance to the park that Bristol Waste ignored. Bob has managed to arrange to get them removed. There are also trees down in Canford Park which are dangerous. He has had trouble getting anyone to take this seriously. Maybe we can add something to the website reporting area. There is also a lot of litter pushed through the fence into Canford Park. The Westbury-on-Trym Society is looking after the park and has been doing a thorough job.
- Bristol Civic Society - Southmead litter picking recruitment - see Alex's proposal at the bottom of this agenda. We have £3,000 to purchase equipment for new litter pickers in Southmead and then Henbury. These areas will not have any experienced litter pickers within their areas, so it may take longer to establish networks. There are currently 3 groups in Southmead: the Pen Park Pickers, a group in the Greenway Centre and a council group. It will take many months to get the areas clean initially followed by maintenance cleaning. Are there any other community groups in the area that can be interested in litter picking.
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpoGomi>

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

SusWoT visited a national river cleaning conference in Keighley and gave a presentation.

We are still finding more litter in deeper layers that continue to be revealed by the water and we are also more skilled now at spotting and removing items.

Balsam has been almost removed, but there are pockets which are very spread out. It is coming up very quickly - 2 weeks from being not yet visible to flowering.

Wessex Water are upgrading 10 sewers around the Trym (CSO - combined sewer outflow).

Get Growing

Get Growing Trail 20 September - 2 hours in library garden (working party) and community garden (seeking new volunteers).

The community garden need some help replacing an arch which has become rotten.
Water butts news. The programme has stopped as there are not any suitable installers.

Library Garden and Community Garden

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

Second Thursday - Restaurant

Thursday 14th August

Mezze Bar

Tuesday - Pub

Tuesday 26th August - day after bank holiday (12 days after the restaurant night, usually 4th Tuesday)

Events - Recent and Upcoming

Village Show. Promote and encourage entries. We need volunteers for the stall.

Publicity

Phone Apps

There has been a problem. There was an update that seems to have caused a problem. Liz has not heard from Matthew.

Future Direction of SusWoT

AOB

Date of Next Meeting

Village Hall closed for maintenance.

28th August

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

Appendix: Alex's Proposal to Bristol Civic Society (BCS)

MT Meeting, 23 July 2025

Item 9: Litterpicking and Recruitment Report

Southmead will be the first target. The Bristol electoral ward boundary will be used to define the Southmead area. Recently several Westbury-on-Trym streets were moved to Southmead as part of boundary changes, these streets are already being cleaned regularly.

At the June SusWoT meeting it was formally agreed that Southmead would be the first target. A leaflet has been commissioned.

Southmead councillors have been contacted. Currently they hold a monthly litter pick on the third Saturday of the month.

There is a group called Pen Park Pickers who hold regular litter picks. SusWoT have been in contact with them.

No equipment has been purchased yet.

At the next SusWoT meeting 31 July the strategy for Southmead will be agreed.

It is proposed that:

1. Starting in September work will commence to deep clean all Southmead streets and green spaces.
2. In September regular activity will resume to keep Southmead Trym Valley Open Space exceptionally clean. (It was deep cleaned 4 years ago as part of the Cleaning the Trym and has been maintained to a reasonable standard since.)
3. By mid September a high quality leaflet for delivery to households in or near areas that have been deep cleaned will be available. Input from BCS will be needed. (This should be a third of a page of A4 and will go on the back of the leaflet, visible, which will be folded in three).
4. When sufficient streets in a particular part of Southmead are ready leaflets will be hand delivered to all the households in that area. They will be delivered so that they arrive at a time and separately to other deliveries so that they will have the highest impact. They will explain what SusWoT are doing and invite people to keep their own street clean. 'Keep it Clean' means cleaning it as often as needed to keep the street clean. These people will be given their own kit and be expected to clean their street regularly, usually once a week.
5. There will also be an invitation to join BCS of course.
6. If possible it would be useful to have copies of the latest Better Bristol (BCS magazine) that could be delivered to all households in Southmead. (Printing more is much cheaper than printing something new.
7. After the first twenty(?) streets have had leaflets delivered and people have had a chance to respond we will review progress.
8. Do we want to offer an introductory membership price?
9. We would expect to have cleaned all Southmead properly once by mid November.
10. We would look to engage with existing litterpicking groups to see if they might change their approach to meet our 'Keep it Clean' approach.