

SusWoT MEETING

7:30pm, 25th September 2025, Village Hall

Present

Alex Dunn, Liz Viggars, Veronika Taylor, Jane Stott, Fran Bragg

Apologies

Richard Bennett, Tracy Tainton, Steve Tainton, David McGregor, Peter Coleman-Smith, Mike Crabbe, Bridget Niblett

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

Previous Minutes

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

REGULAR ITEMS

Domestic Energy

Grant awarded by Retrofit West for five activities including the Energy Fair, 8th November. We still need to finalise some details with them.

The Energy Fair will be very similar to last year's event.

- We have booked up major suppliers and will approach some extras.
- We need to produce a leaflet for distribution from 25th October with a week for printing. We should have a **meeting with Lily** to finalise this.
- Kate was in charge of the kitchen and catering last year which came from Costco.
- We need to **seek volunteers** for the day. We had 31 helpers on the day last year.

We have funding for 3 more talks in the library in February, April and June.

March - open homes

Retrofit "dating service" - matching people with interest in particular technologies with those who have already fitted them.

Warm welcome to Westbury - pack for estate agents. Contacts for energy efficiency suppliers for people moving into the area. It would be good to have this ready for the fair to encourage these suppliers that we have a long-term strategy.

Veronika is part of the Northover Road CHEESE project and has identified a lot of draughts in her home, but is unsure about what products she needs and where to find them, so needs help with this. This could be something for the "I Did It" room and Open Homes.

Sustainable Holidays

Litter

Cubs and cadets were very grateful for the loan of litter pickers for a session on the Downs

We have 120 litter pickers and hoops for our Keep It Clean project to set up networks of litter pickers in Southmead and Henbury, in conjunction with Bristol Civic Society. The overall plan is available on their website: phase 1 - clean up the area; phase 2 - keep it clean regularly in your street with the equipment supplied by the project.

- We have a stall at the Greenway Centre on Saturday 11th October from 11am-3pm and there will be some people in Doncaster Rd park working on cleaning the area. There are existing litter groups in Pen Park and Doncaster Road park that we should try to include. Team Southmead have invited Alex to speak to them about litter picking at 11am on Tuesday 30 September. We have been focussing on Sea Mills open space during our recent litter sessions - when this is complete, this team will be available to support Southmead.
- Keep It Clean - we will leaflet the areas once they have been thoroughly cleaned inviting people to join a network to keep it clean. People are likely to be discouraged if the area is still in need of deep cleaning. We need the leaflet by mid to late November.

Litter policy. Liz has updated the health and safety guidelines for litter and river cleaning.

Trout in the Trym - River Cleaning, Himalayan Balsam

From Peter Coleman-Smith: "Good work continues though with progress being made to identify and assess the outfalls along the river. Wessex Water know about all their infrastructure (the combined sewer overflows) but don't know about the location of any misconnected drains - so a group of volunteers will walk the river to see how many we can find, then share what we see. More detail once completed."

Liz is going to assess the remaining Himalayan balsam tomorrow. There is a plant in a pond that is inaccessible due to sinking in the mud. There is a plant at The Royals. It is possible the warmer weather in the last few days may encourage more growth. There were far more plants at this time last year. It requires more than one visit to completely clear it. It would be good to publicise this work next June or July when the plant is more apparent.

Get Growing

Library Garden and Community Garden

Supper Club/ Meal Nights

Second Thursday - Restaurant

Thursday 9th October - next due: Al Fresco

Tuesday - Pub

12 days after the restaurant night, usually 4th Tuesday

Tuesday 21st October - next due: Victoria

Events - Recent and Upcoming

Village Show - Saturday 6th September

The show went very well, especially the container of Trym water and its accompanying wildlife. The guess the weight of the squash winner has already spent their £15 voucher at Sarah C, the greengrocer. **Alex** will add the new contacts to our list. Richard Bennett's video along the course of the Trym was the winner of the video class.

Saturday 20th September - Get Growing Trail open gardens

Open gardens. There were several helpers at each garden who took the opportunity to do some gardening tasks while they were there. We have to give feedback to Get Growing. We feel this time of year is not appropriate and works much better in June. Liz will reply to them with our comments.

Publicity

Phone Apps

Future Direction of SusWoT

Charity and Administrative Matters

Safeguarding policy. Liz has updated the safeguarding policy in line with current practice. We need a designated safeguarding lead with a contact phone number and email address. Alex is the current named person and will remain so. As a volunteer organisation we don't run DBS checks. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. 16-18 year olds must have permission from a parent or guardian.

As well as being a general requirement for us as a charity, it was specifically a requirement from Quartet to get a grant for litter pickers.

AOB

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 30th October

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