



Minutes of Sustainable Calne Meeting 18th March - A healthier happier town.

In Attendance: Tom Morris, Rob McNaughton, Bob Greenwood, John Bennett, John Boaler, John Schofield, Sue Pitman, Stan Woods, James Gladding, Tom Morris, Celia Stevens, Averil Margaret Ashton, Glenis Ansell, Fiona Campbell.

Introduction by Tom Morris:

4 pillars of Sustainable Calne explained by Tom and run down of previous single focus meetings.

A healthier happier town.

This topic covers huge areas but clearly we need to link these to Sustainability.

Tom Morris of Sustainable Calne and John Schofield of Sustainable Devizes have been attending a course called “Transition” which is about that move towards to a sustainable town. John Schofield from Sustainable Devizes gave a talk to explain what they have been doing in Devizes. John is the chair of the group.

Key points:

Sustainable Devizes re-launched in 2015 – initially focussed on raising awareness of the issues relating to sustainability. In 2019 the formation of Extinction Rebellion and the focus on Climate Change as a National and International issue changed the context and people were coming to them wanting to get involved. They have 4 broad issues – similar to Calne - *Food, waste, transport and energy*.

The Transition Network is an organisation based on the premise that sooner or later we’ll have to manage without fossil fuels. As we can’t rely on governments to initiate the changes, they see their role as imagining and planning for a future without the use of fossil fuels. (There is a book by Rob Hopkins that explains this).

Food:

Focus on local production of foods – they held a seed swap last year – being done virtually this year.

Permaculture – a system of gardening which requires less input. Ran an introductory one-day course on this.

Gorilla gardening – filled an unused flower bed with vegetables. A group trying to build on this where people can see them.

Salisbury Repair Café had a speaker who came to Devizes which was very popular – the idea is that people bring along their broken things and they are helped to repair things. The “customer” stays with the repairer to learn a bit and then there is also a café – had to stop because of Covid but hoping to get going again.

In lockdown 1 a survey about cycling – what encourages and what puts them off. About 260 responses (Facebook, paper survey forms, twitter) – Cycle friendly Devizes – linked to Council and working together on infra -structure projects.

30th May – world’s biggest cycle ride and event.

Transition network – not bounce back but bounce forward. Rob Hopkins book - *From What Is to What If*.

What Is? What have we got that we want to keep – what can let go of?

What If? Asking questions – imagine something different – go to 2030, if everything that we want to happen for climate change had happened what would it look like? How can we begin to make it happen?



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What next? E.g. Have a bakery, a brewery and a mill on one site because of the links.

Things are changing quickly so Devizes thought about how to move forward with this. Linked with other groups to see how they could work together.

Comments from others:

Stan – repair café sounds a great idea.

Glenis: Single use plastic – now likely to get a water fountain. Beat the Street in September.

Bicycles that we gave to the police – chase up where they are.

White good refurbishment.

Fiona Campbell - The more central to the town centre these things are, the better they get used. Something we need to hold in our heads – need a vision for what a town centre can be – these things would make it more sustainable as a town centre as well as more sustainable.

James – pick up on what Fiona said – link it into the neighbourhood plan.

Break out groups:

Group 1:

Looked at applying some of these ideas into Calne – Community farm possibility? Change land that we receive from Wiltshire devolution – re-purpose.

Group 2:

Also talked about community garden space. Discussed empty premises in the centre – what can we do to find a use for these buildings? Get those places occupied. Could places be let on a bi-monthly basis to different groups.

Group 3

Devizes independent shops held a treasure hunt around their shops. Invited young people to set up stalls and make and sell items.

Transition training had focussed on importance of people feeling part of the group and looking after the group – avoiding burn out. Include time to socialise and spending time together – including everyone so new people don't feel like by-standers but can participate.

Group 4:

Funding available in the town to use and need to make the most of it. Needs to be support for groups to ensure they can access it.

OTHER POINTS/QUESTIONS:

Men's shed – how does it function and what are the ambitions? Originally a mental health issue – good when Repair Academy was next to Men's shed to interact together – can this happen again?

Tom interested in planting in places around the town.



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Averil & James: No play area in the town centre.

Sue: Could some of the town beds have some vegetables – seen it done in other places.

Bob: we have people with skills that we're not using. Tom thought we could do a skills audit.

Next meeting will be 15th April – Community energy.