

Sustainable Calne Meeting Thursday 14/01/21: MINUTES



Present: Celia, John Bennett, John Boaler, Esther, Carlie, Dee, Denis, Bob, Kevan, Stan, Nigel, James, Sam, Tony, Tamzyn, Peter, Alan,
Apologies: Tim, Glennis, Tom

Cllr John Bennett, Chair of Sustainable Calne, opened the meeting and briefly explained the scope of the group. The 4 'pillars' were outlined;

- to enhance the local ecology
- to build happier, healthier communities
- to better provide for sustainable transport
- to consider community energy use/provision

This was the first of a series of meetings to focus on specific issues.

1. Celia Stevens introduced the topic of the meeting – Walking in Calne. Because of pollution in Calne there is a real need to reduce short car journeys but in preparation of meeting had realised there is an interest in walking groups in Calne and scope of meeting had widened.
2. Cllr David Songhurst outlined the work he and others in Calne Without parishes are doing on Rights of Way – an audit of local routes with a view to making improvements. Any help with this is welcomed.
3. Air quality issues in Calne:
Cllr John Boaler reported on Air Quality issues in Calne, drawing attention in particular to the very high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (Nox) at the junction of Silver St and the A4. Members interested in the AQ data can view the figures for Wiltshire on wiltshireairquality.org.uk
Stan Woods reported on the Citizen Science air quality project which he is leading – with the aim of collecting data on Particulates. See contacts at end.
4. Cllr Tony Trotman explained how Section 106 (S106) money, which comes from new developments, has been used to improve provision for cyclists and walkers in Calne, and in particular routes to school. He explained that these works were legally limited by agreements with developers and not just a “pot of money.” *He noted a list of desired improvements local cyclists had put together after auditing the nominated cycling routes through Calne. He thought there were probably some places where the S106 money could help with this and promised to take this to the S106 working group.*
Celia Stevens shared notes from Cllr Glenis Ansell on the ‘Beat the Street’ project which Calne Town Council is sponsoring this Spring/Summer.
5. Presentation of slides supporting a harder hitting campaign against unnecessary car journeys and highlighting pollution levels both from and inside cars.
Discussion: Relating to the previous contributions and addressing how we might persuade people to walk more and to reduce short car journeys.

Points made:

- Publicity about Air Quality must be related to standards and use official data
- When there are temporary roadworks in the town, could the Council have signs encouraging motorists who are queuing ‘Please switch off your engine while you are waiting. Help us breathe’? Cllrs *Tony Trotman & John Boaler noted this suggestion and will take it forward to Calne Town Council*
- Concerns highlighted about the poor state of some pavements esp at The Pippin (behind Sainsburys), Prince Charles Drive, Church St and Station Rd nr the roundabout. *Details of the Wiltshire App – by which such issues can be reported to Wiltshire Council – were shared.*
- Uncertainty about posters that are too hard-hitting – people who live near busy roads are well aware of the air pollution.

- Parking on pavements esp by delivery drivers, which can force pedestrians into the road. The message should be 'Block the Road, Not the Pavement'
- Too few pedestrian crossings. Ones needed esp on A4 near Curzon Park and between White Hart and Stockley Lane.
- Concern about speed of the traffic along the A4 esp at Quemerford
- No safe cycling route from Curzon Park to the By-pass
- Street lighting is an issue in some parts of the town and discourages walking on winter evenings
- Overgrown foliage can obstruct passage along pavements. *This should be photographed and reported to Wiltshire Council via their App.*

6. Feedback from walking groups/ walkers

- Peter, who leads one of the Wiltshire "Walking for Health" groups in Calne commented on the poor condition of many pavements in town.
- There are places where there is no link between 2 paths
- It would be good to produce some local walking/cycling maps/ a database of walking routes – and advise on whether boots or wellies should be worn. *Bremhill got funding to develop a walking App giving walks from the centre of their village. Could seek funding for a Walking App for Calne?*
- Dee from Mid-Wilts Ramblers described their programme of walks. They produce several booklets of walks. She noted that in some places they come across broken stiles, paths through crops not clear, hedgerows not cut back. Maintenance of paths is the landowner's responsibility. Weather-proofing starts and ends of some routes, that get very muddy would make a difference
- Esther outlined the '1000 mile' Challenge which she is signed up to.

7. Favourite walks

4 members described walks they enjoy doing from Calne : Bob – Calstone Wellington; Kevan – Bremhill; Denis – Bowood Loop; Celia – Penn Hill nature reserve.

8. Next Sustainable Calne meeting will be on Thursday 11th Feb on Biodiversity.

Next "Better Walking and Cycling for Calne" group on Monday 22nd February. (Name to be discussed!)

The meeting closed at 9pm

Contacts for anyone who wishes to take these issues forward:

1. To be help set up a new local walking group – cllrbennett@cllr.calne.gov.uk;
2. To help with audit of local footpaths around Calne – david.songhurst@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk
3. To purchase and install your own air quality monitor - www.sustainablecalne.org.uk/scp-air-quality.html
4. To contribute to a list of walks that go directly from Calne – celiafstevens@aol.co.uk
To find local walks as described at meeting go to Sustainable Calne website
<https://www.sustainablecalne.org.uk/>
5. To join an established walking group – Ramblers Association have several groups in Wiltshire but often this requires travelling <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/group-finder.aspx>
6. To report an issue with pavements or overgrown branches etc My Wiltshire app or <https://my.wiltshire.gov.uk/>
7. To link up with other walkers and join a challenge to walk a 1000km in 2021 search for <https://www.walk1000miles.co.uk>
This is in conjunction with Country Walking Magazine. There is a Facebook page with local links as well.