

Sustainable Wallingford

E-News - May 2003



Sustainable Wallingford Events

Inaugural Meeting

We held our first open meeting on 12th May at the Friends Meeting House on Castle St. and the meeting was very well attended – thank you all for that big vote of confidence.

We used the meeting to describe our core aims and vision for Sustainable Wallingford and then we began discussing some of the initiatives that we had or were planning to start in and around the town. However, the most important part of the evening for us was to encourage those attending to get involved in some of our activities. We want to achieve a lot and we are only going to do it if lots of us work together on interlinked initiatives. Everybody who attended filled in feedback forms and the response was very positive – lots of you wanted to get involved with one of the initiatives or helping out in some way. We hope the enthusiasm is still there and that you will chose to get involved in one or more of the projects!!

If you missed the meeting and want to see what was presented we are more than happy to send out electronic copies of the presentation alternatively please contact one of us and we will be more than happy to meet up to run through what was discussed.

Market Stall

We ran our first 'market stall' on Saturday April 12th and we had a very warm reception. We used the stall to raise awareness with residents on critical issues such as waste and energy efficiency. We were also then able provide green boxes, energy efficient light bulbs, water hippos and composters to the public.

The stall was very well received and it appeared a very effective way of engaging with local people on 'sustainability' issues. Please consider helping out at the next market stall events on May 31st and June 7th.



Future Events:

The 'Farmers' Market Stall!

The next market stall coincides with the Farmers Market on Saturday 31st May (9am – 1pm). We are very keen to have some of you volunteer to help plus of course it will be great for us all to be supporting local producers as well as promoting recycling etc!

Please contact Tom Butterworth if you can spare 1 or 2 hours to help out - tel. 01491 824620 or email tobutterworth@hotmail.com

Warborough Green Day

Warborough Parish Council has organised a green day on June 7th – it is predominantly to promote some waste initiatives. We will be there with our market stall to promote sustainability and get more people using green boxes and energy efficient light bulbs. Again we could do with 1 or 2 volunteers to help talk to our neighbours over the river. Again please contact Tom Butterworth if you can help.

BedZed Visit - limited places to the state of the art Eco-Development in London.

We have reserved 10 places for a trip to BedZed sometime in September in conjunction with TV Energy and councillors from SODC (a chance to influence them as well!). The trip is subsidised and will cost approx. £20-25 per person (transport and entrance). The date will be finalised once all the seats are taken but it is likely to be mid-week. This is an un-missable opportunity - if you are interested then please let us know ASAP to reserve a place.

Speakers

We are trying to confirm a speaker to come and give a talk on renewables and how they can be implemented at a local level sometime in July. The exact date and title of the talk will be sent out in due course – watch this space!

Future Visit – Recycling Centre

We have an invitation to visit Grundon's Recycling Centre in Berks. later in the year – this will be a great opportunity to see what happens to the waste from our green bins once it leaves your doorstep! It would be good to get an indication of the interest so we can begin organising logistics. Please contact us to let us know if you are interested.

Sustainable Wallingford Projects

Community Action Group for Waste (CAG)

Kate Aydin (Oxford County Council) came to the introductory meeting to confirm that Sustainable Wallingford had been officially accepted as a CAG – she also gave some examples of the work the 6 existing Oxfordshire CAGs have been doing – very inspiring!



Becoming a CAG basically means that we will be getting a **grant for £2,500** to work on community waste projects and we will get the full support of Kate as well as the waste team at SODC. This is a really exciting opportunity for us to do something innovative with waste, some of the ideas that have been discussed include; community composting, swap days, recycled art days, business paper recycling, nappies. Ultimately the people in the CAG will decide what projects it wants to pursue so what we need is a group of 4-5 people to make the CAG work. Kate said it would only require a few hours commitment a month!

Lynn Anderson has agreed to initiate the group and has suggested a first group meeting on **Tuesday 3rd June at 7.30pm at 14 Castle St.** 10 of you said in the feedback forms that you would like to get involved with waste projects and this is the ideal chance to make a difference!

Schools

Lots of people at the meeting were keen to work with schools and we believe there is a lot we can be doing to facilitate this.



We would like to contact all the local schools to request meetings and to suggest projects and initiatives that we can be doing together. We want a group of 4-5 people to be working together as a 'schools working group'. Obviously the group will also need to liaise closely with the waste, energy and local sourcing groups.

Tom Butterworth an experienced eco-schools facilitator will be leading this group and will have the first meeting on the **Wednesday 4th June at 7.30pm at 75 Wood St.** to discuss how to work together and agree next steps.

Community Action for Energy (CAfE)

CAfE is a major new programme designed to promote and assist local community based energy projects. Talk about good timing!! The group will be given free advice and support and plugged into a nationwide network of other community groups and regular updates on funding sources available to our target projects.



We will also have the support of the Thames Valley Energy Advice Centre for energy efficiency and from TV Energy to identify and promote renewable energy projects in and around Wallingford. In addition SODC will be re-launching 'Solarsavers' a subsidised solar hot water initiative later in the summer. We think this will be a really exciting opportunity to make a difference

We hope to have a core group of 4-5 people working with this project. Justin Adams will initially lead this group and the first meeting will be held on **Monday 9th June at 7.30pm at 14 Castle St.**

Local Sourcing

Local sourcing is another major aim of our group and an area that SODC is working hard to promote. Initially we will focus on local food but later hope to expand into other areas.



One current SODC initiative 'The Big Breakfast' is aimed at encouraging local hotels and B&Bs to put 5 locally produced foods on their breakfast menu. We want to encourage Wallingford organizations to lead the way! Another area we are keen to pursue is to bring local food into our local schools (South Gloucestershire has done this very successfully). We will also be pushing to improve the penetration of organic box schemes.

Dorothy Cussens (who is very experienced with local food initiatives) will initially lead this group and the first meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18th June at 7.30pm** at 13 Castle St. Everyone identified this as a critical issue in the feedback forms and 6 of you expressed an interest at getting directly involved – now is your chance!

Sustainable Wallingford Projects (cont.)

Residents Group

The residents groups will be aiming to reach out to residents in and around Wallingford to promote sustainability generally.



Initially we want to raise the level of awareness of the key issues. For instance educate people on what happens to their recycled waste – how is sorted, what happens to the recycled products etc.

One way we will raise awareness is through regular market stalls. The next stall will take place on the 31st May (9am-1pm) and we are keen for people to come and help at the stand and talk to the locals about the issues (many want to know more what they can do!). We will also be having a market stall at Warborough on 7th June to coincide with their village green day.

We also want to run top tip of the week in the local press to pass on small steps that people can undertake on a daily basis.

In the longer term we would like to see an Annual Green Celebration (day/weekend) in Wallingford to bring all of the people together around green issues.

Tom Butterworth is organising a meeting to discuss how we can work with residents on **11th June at 7.30pm at 75 Wood St.** Please come along if you would like to promote sustainability generally within the town.

Biodiversity

Wallingford Environment Group (WEG) has many ongoing initiatives targeting bio-diversity locally and Sustainable Wallingford intends to promote WEGs activities and encourage broader involvement.



If you want to get involved in WEG activities then please contact Emma Broad on 01491- 839493.

Currently WEG is running a 'Wildlife Gardner of the Year Competition' to raise awareness of wildlife friendly gardening. The closing date for entrants is 31st July so there is still plenty of time to enter and there is a great prize – for an entry form or more details please ring Emma on (01491) 839493 or 839948 (answerphone).

Future Projects:

We still aim to get involved working with local businesses and with property development. We would also like to set up a group looking at **transport** issues to understand what we can do at a community/town level.



However, we felt that we would be better starting with fewer initiatives and in those projects where people have expressed most interest in getting involved. But please do watch this space – the more people who get involved the more we can do!

In addition if you have ideas you want to act on that are not covered here then please let us know and we will be delighted to support you in any way we can to make them happen. We really believe we can make a difference at a local level.

Other Information

Can't Make the Meeting Dates:

We have had to get going by just setting some preliminary meeting dates but if any of you can not make a specific meeting but are keen to be involved in that project then please contact us or the person leading the group and we can organise future meetings to suit all (hopefully!)

Steering Group Members Wanted:

We are in desperate need of some help with the steering group in particular we need....

Web Designer so that we can get a decent website up and running

Publicity – to look after (and improve) this newsletter

Treasurer – to set up bank account and look after our finances!

If anybody knows a friend or wants a crack at any of these jobs themselves please get in touch – or if you want to get involved in the overall co-ordination let us know.

Questions/Queries:

If you have any questions at all please email us on sustainablewallingford@hotmail.com or telephone Justin 01491-836350 or Lynn 07799-882062. Individual email addresses will be set up in due course to make it easier to contact specific members and groups!