

## Notes from TW Steering Group October 15<sup>th</sup> 2014

**Present:** Andrew Backhouse (chair), John Handley, Marianne Broadhead, Anita Willoughby, Jane Selva, Garry Olson, Denise Renshaw, Chris Frankland.

**Apologies:** Pippa and Anthony Jones, Pat Baker, Emma Moss, Kate Gilmartin, Jean Hill

Highlighting indicates decisions made in tonight's meeting, no highlighting is used on notes circulated prior to the meeting

1. Notes from the previous meeting approved and Denise will forward these to Comms for the website with a few minor corrections.
2. Good turnout for Powerful the Movie on 30 September, next film night is "Chasing Ice" Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 at URC Chapel Lane.  
Please tell your friends: we'd like to have a great turnout! It won the 2014 Emmy Award for best documentary and has also won awards at numerous film festivals including Sundance. £2 donation includes cake! Hayley Spann from Transition Moss Side will give a brief update about the course she has done about young people in Transition.
3. <https://www.engagemutual.com/foundation/community-awards-2/> Rob Sawyer is nominating Lindow Moss for an Engage Mutual Community award.
4. Rob Sawyer asked if we could contribute to the renewal of the Lindow Moss website and Pippa said we would contribute 50% ie £25. She hopes this is OK with everyone....and will need a cheque for that sum to Rob Sawyer. We could consider suggesting they might in future want to join our website?  
This suggestion was approved by the meeting, f.a.o the treasurer.
5. Community Energy Day organised by Kate Gilmartin  
The workshop will start at 10.30am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. It will finish at 4. Lunch will be provided. The venue is room B17, The Green fish Resource centre, 46 - 50 Oldham St,

Manchester, M4 1LE – The nearest tram stop is Market Street in the Northern Quarter. Please contact Andrew if you are interested in going.

**6. Energy Group Update:** The energy group are investigating government grants for community projects, eg. PV panels on public buildings such as the Leisure Centre. This would be a community investment scheme and would require a separate company to be set up backed by the Town Council. As Cheshire East Council own the buildings, they would have to be on board.

### **7. Environment and Planning: Local Plan update.**

John commented further on the notes circulated in advance of the meeting on the Local Plan hearings. He felt that all the work that he and Jean had put into the preparation had been worthwhile. A very positive outcome was that a recommendation would now go to the Local Nature Partnership for Cheshire on Lindow Moss being adopted as a Nature Improvement Area.

The first phase of the hearings concentrated on the Vision and the 9 Policy areas in the plan. Transition Wilmslow attended and spoke at 5 of the recent Hearings at Macclesfield Town Hall.

The Hearings have now been adjourned. Subject to considerations by the Planning Inspectorate and Cheshire East Council they are likely to resume again in December. This will focus on "Local Plan Strategy Sites and Locations".

The reason for the adjournment is due an unexpectedly large  
1) Vision and development strategy

The strategy is tactical rather than strategic. It should give much greater prominence to the regeneration of Crewe as, in effect, a 21st Century New Town or Garden City. We reminded the Inspector that life expectancy for men in Crewe is 10 years less than Wilmslow and for women, 15 years...this is a grotesque discrepancy. On the positive side, Crewe is already a strategic transport hub of regional significance and is unusual in the UK in having a vibrant manufacturing economy. It does not have a landscape or social amenities to match and what is needed is a comprehensive Master Plan, rather than isolated housing land allocations. There may be merits in extending the Staffordshire Green Belt to embrace Crewe as Cheshire East propose (specifically to maintain the identity of Nantwich) but this may be premature until a more ambitious plan for Crewe has been drafted. All this is

justified now but will also prepare the way for Crewe, and the UK, to realise the full benefits of HS2, when Crewe will be just one hour from London. At Ian Wray's suggestion we drew the parallel with Milton Keynes and Newport Pagnell in the 1970's for Crewe and Nantwich in the 21st century. We also cited the rejuvenating effect of New Town status on Warrington since the 1970's and the stark contrast between the two town centres (Crewe versus Warrington) today.

2) Green Belt - With regard to the North Cheshire Green Belt, we pointed out the recent expansion of Manchester (Airport City) and Stockport (housing at Woodford) into the Green Belt in Greater Manchester, which increases the functional importance of the Green Belt in North Cheshire. We referred to our landscape Character Assessment of the countryside of Wilmslow, Styal and Handforth and pointed out that, despite the pressures, successive Local Authorities had done a good job of maintaining the rural character and quality of the Green Belt. Development within the Green Belt at Handforth East seemed particularly inappropriate.

3) Infill development in residential areas - Cheshire East suggested that 'green infrastructure' is about networks. We pointed out the importance of the 'green matrix' of gardens and street trees in residential areas. We talked about 'town cramming' versus 'town planning' and drew the Inspector's attention to the cumulative impact of infill development in settlements such as Wilmslow, especially the continuing loss of residential gardens with implications for urban character, loss of play space for children, impact on biodiversity and resilience in the face of climate change (shading, evaporative cooling and moderating surface run-off). At a minimum, Cheshire East should be monitoring cumulative development and considering restrictions on continuing infill in areas where its negative impact is most concentrated.

4) Support for the farm economy

We made the case for a more progressive rural economy policy given the world class quality of Cheshire as a 'dairy county' and the growing importance of home food production. We pointed out that some of the most productive pastures are on lower quality farmland and that protecting farm structure is likely to be even more important than a simplistic policy based agricultural land grade, as in the current plan.

5) Lindow Moss as a Green Infrastructure Asset

We made a robust case for the wider Lindow Moss landscape as a Green Infrastructure Asset. It clearly fits Cheshire East's definition and the reasons for its exclusion are baffling. Here at least Cheshire East conceded that we had a point and suggested that the area might be viewed as a 'Natural Improvement Area'. Informally, after the Hearing they encouraged us to put the case the Local Nature Partnership.

## **8. Lindow Moss Day School Update**

Work is progressing on the Day School at Wilmslow Guild on 18th October. 37 places have been booked on the study day so far plus 16 students from MMU and the U. of Manchester. A bronze head of Lindow Man is being loaned for the day, Garry will try to provide a temporary mount for this by Saturday. In response to queries about a photographer on the day, it was suggested that Gary Kershaw was attending and Andrew agreed to ask him to take photos.

## **9. Food Group update - report from last meeting.**

### **Gravel lane Community Garden**

Garry reported that the goal posts he had set up to prevent the trees being used for this purpose have been broken and could pose a hazard.

He has made them safe. Nothing further has been heard from the local resident who complained since Rachel replied to the email. It was decided that if the Council agree we will replace the posts with something stronger. Garry will check with the council.

It was agreed to seek to set up a group "Friends of the Temp" who will take responsibility for maintaining the garden with support from TW. To this end Garry will speak to Kirsty Thorpe about writing an article for the Parish Magazine and a flier can be prepared for posting in the Temp area. And the gardening club at the Guild approached.

The beds need to be cleared. Possible winter planting; Brussel sprouts, cabbages, garlic.

**Lincoln Road Allotment** - Launch of the transfer to the Allotment Society from the Council - Friday 31st October: Invitation to represent Transition Wilmslow Opportunity to promote TW and the community garden and orchards. Rachel and Denise hope to do this.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 22nd October 8.00 at the Coach and Four.

Garry commented that his time had been very occupied by the Art Trail. This had been generally acclaimed as a great success and local businesses had benefited as well as the artists. It was planned to repeat it next year and Wilmslow Business Group would take on the organisation.

9. NB Mike Carey has lots of currant bushes for TW, he would like you to take them if you want them in November.

## **10. Comms group update**

The Comms team have put together a document which is attached giving directions on passing information on events to them, what is required and deadlines. Also details of how they will publicise the information as long as it is received in time.

## 11. Monthly Challenges update

This month's challenge is food choices, see website for details

**12. Green Drinks** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November is day before film night . It was felt best to keep to the usual routine and still keep to the same dates. Anita was the only one who made it to the last Green Drinks.

13. Anyone interested in buying washing up liquid in bulk to reduce plastic waste? Contact Pippa

## 14. Charitable status:

Anita presented the results of her research into the requirements of the Charity Commission to attain charitable status.

The 6 steps are:

a) **Appointment of trustees**; A minimum of 3, max of 12.

These form the governing body who may make decisions collectively or delegate . The meeting thought Trustees will probably be appointed from volunteers from the Steering Group and that they will be appointed for 3 year terms, but can serve more than 1 term. Initially appointments could be staggered so that all trustees did not terminate their service at the same time

b) **State the purpose of the charity** - its charitable purpose.

Anita felt that thought needed to be given to producing a statement of purpose that is brief and not overly complicated.

There are examples of acceptable formats on the Charity Commission website. The Strategy Group are currently working on wording of straplines and purpose so are happy to take this on. To this end, words were recorded that were felt key in describing the purpose and activities of Transition Wilmslow. This work will also be useful in reviewing the wording of the current constitution.

c) **Name the charity** will be known by-"Transition Wilmslow"

d) **Structure**; It was decided that the structure of choice will be "Charitable Incorporated Body" otherwise 1 person would have to take sole responsibility if at a future date we needed to purchase land or employ someone.

"Association" status was thought preferable as it means that everyone is welcome and decisions can be delegated to the

Steering Group. "Foundation Trust" would require the Trustees to take all of the responsibility.

e) **Governing Body:** There is a template for the Governing Document that Anita will work through and advise on which sections are relevant to TW. A model constitution for an "Association" can be viewed on the Charity Commission website. Andrew and Anita will meet before the next Steering Group once Anita has had time to study the template with the aim of presenting a draft document for the next meeting and incorporating the work of the Strategy Group on the wording for the Purpose section. If possible they will email out a draft document prior to the next Steering Group meeting to allow everyone time to study it in advance.

f) **Register;** having completed all the previous steps.

**The meeting was extremely grateful to Anita for all of the work she has done already in bringing this to the meeting which resulted in a very constructive session.**

**15. AOB:** Garry asked if anyone would adopt 2 hens, 1 a good layer , 1 not. Subject to scrutiny as a proper person Andrew is prepared to take on this responsibility!

**Date of next meeting: Weds 19<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm FMH**