

Transition Wilmslow Steering Group Notes November 2014

Apologies: John Handley, Jean Hill, Andrew Backhouse

BIG NEWS: £500 from Skipton BS Grassroots Giving to support the library exhibition!!

Flo has submitted a 1 minute film to Arup for a competition: we get £100 just for entering.

LINDOW MOSS DAY SCHOOL:

An unqualified success. Well done everyone who worked so hard on it, especially John and Jean but also the team who helped out beforehand and on the day.

Notes and reports for information

COMMS UPDATE:

The new logo was introduced on Twitter and Facebook last Wednesday 12 November and also made an appearance later in the day at the Film Night. Thanks are due to Heather Calderbank who designed the logo and put in a tremendous amount of work to produce the new leaflet and organise the printing. We now have five thousand leaflets ready for distribution!

Access to both versions of the logo – square and banner – are on the TW Dropbox folder in PDF and MSWord format, for use in stationery, posters, flyers etc. Alternatively e-mail the Comms team at transitionwilmslow@gmail.com, putting <Comms> in the title and you can have the logo via e-mail.

WEBSITE STATISTICS AT 17 NOVEMBER 2014-11-17

It is encouraging to see quite a leap in visits to the TW website over the past three years

YEAR	NO OF VISITS TO WEBSITE
2012	3064
2013	4527
2014 (up to 16 Nov)	7130

Most popular pages accessed in the last 90 days:

TITLE	NO OF VIEWS
Home page/archive	898
We want your vote for Wilmslow(Skipton Grassroots Giving)	112
Diary	78
Lindow Moss	62
12 Monthly Challenges	43
Groups	42

Energy Group meetings	38
What is it we do?	36
Film & Cinema	33

How they found us in the last 90 days

Search Engines	492
Twitter	78
Netvibes	20
Share button link	11
Transition Network website	6
Skipton Building Society	6
Facebook	4
Wilmslow.co.uk	3

SKILLSHARE: Andrew and Kirsty (URC) have suggested a Churches Together/TW Skill Share possibly 14 February, anyone who would like to join a small group to plan this? Anyone any thoughts about a repair café? (these have been done at other Transition groups, involves asking someone who fixes things (computers, bikes, radios, clothes...) to come along and...well fix things for people so they don't throw them away. Might bring more people in especially men....

FOOD GROUP:

Food4Macc have asked whether we could have a drop off point in Wilmslow for our veg bags and other food and whether more people might order if they don't have to collect from Macc. The regular shoppers amongst us think their food (veg, meat, trout, cakes, bread, butter, cheese and yogurt and ice cream) is fabulous value and delicious. Anyone interested in ordering please talk to Pippa, Pat, Denise Rachel or Garry. Anyone who can think of a good drop off point let us know.

There are some lovely veg (red cabbage and sprouts and herbs) at the Community Garden in the temp....

Garry has asked Kirsty at the URC if people would be interested in forming a Friends of the Temp group to keep the community garden going and maybe even expand it if there are enough helpers/enthusiasm.

TW had a presence at Lincoln Road Allotment Society Launch. I took along newsletters, energy group leaflets etc. unfortunately the attendance was very disappointing but it was attended by the Handforth ward EC councillors and Riverside Housing Association who were interested in the work of Transition

We're looking for some volunteers at the allotment this weekend to help us plant fruit bushes, and make some raised beds. When: Sunday 23rd November, 1pm
Where: Lincoln Road Allotments. Directions : Follow Dean Row road from Summerfields, cross A34 and take next left up Lincoln Road. Go to end of Lincoln Road and follow path to allotment entrance (approx. 100m)
Come and join us for some fresh air, exercise and good company! Children welcome!

LOCAL PLAN WORK: message from Jean and John.

On November 6th the Development Plan Inspector (Stephen Pratt) wrote to Cheshire East Council to set out his interim views on the legal compliance and soundness of the Submitted Local Plan Strategy. His key findings include:

- a) The Council has met the minimum legal requirements of the Duty to Co-operate;
- b) The proposed level of future housing provision seems inadequate to ensure the success of the overall economic, employment and housing strategy and the Council's assessment of housing need has significant shortcomings;
- c) The proposed settlement hierarchy (with Crewe and Macclesfield as Principal Towns) seems to be effective and soundly based but further work is needed to justify the spatial distribution of development, including addressing development needs of settlements in the north of the district. The limited amount of new housing proposed in Green belt settlements such as Poynton, Knutsford and Wilmslow is very contentious: the proposed levels of housing at these settlements will not meet their needs and insufficient consideration seems to have been given to how these needs will be met. The development of smaller sites within the built-up area or on the fringes of these settlements does not seem to have been fully considered ... (and this) may have unduly influenced decisions to release larger Green Belt sites in the LPS (such as Handforth East);
- d) The process and evidence relating to the proposed amendments to the Green Belt in the north of the district seem flawed, particularly the release of sites from the Green Belt and the provision of Safeguarded land, and there seems to be insufficient justification for establishing a new Green Belt in the south of the district.

The Inspector states that if Cheshire East choose to continue the Examination on the basis of the current evidence he is likely to conclude that the submitted plan is unsound. He suggests that **either** the Examination should be suspended (for up to 6 months) to give Cheshire East time to do the necessary remedial work **or**

Cheshire East withdraw the Plan and resubmit it when all the necessary consultation and supporting justification and evidence has been completed. The Council have opted to suspend the Examination and do the follow-up work.

Jean and John took part in 5 days of the Examination as discussants on behalf of Transition Wilmslow and submitted the following evidence:

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 'Local Nature Improvement Area'. Informally, after the Hearing they encouraged us to put the case to the Local Nature Partnership.

Lindow Moss Update:

1) Documenting the outcomes from the Day School

It is suggested that Jane and John get together to review the material from the Day School and how it can best be stored. This includes: Programme; List of attendees; Photographs of the day's events; Speaker biographies; Presentations (including written versions of all three Soapbox presentations). John also has photographs of Rick Turner's visit to Lindow Moss on Friday, October 17th.

2) Day School Follow-up

Jean sent prompt collective thank yous to everyone involved and John followed up with personal messages. The feedback from contributors has been very positive. Rick Turner is keen to stay involved and to assist our campaign for the Moss.

Jean has prepared draft final accounts and sent these through to the Guild.

The contributors from MMU and UoM are interested in forming a scientific advisory group to ensure that we capture the full research and educational potential of Lindow Moss, and to provide expert guidance on realising the Lindow Moss Vision. John will take this forward.

Several of the speakers have suggested key texts - this needs to be assembled as a reading list/source of reference material....John has this in hand.

3) Lindow Moss Exhibition

We have agreed to mount an exhibition during November utilising the first floor display space at Wilmslow Library. This will pick up on the theme 'A New Vision for Lindow Moss'.

John and Heather have visited the library and prepared an exhibition plan. The exhibition will be called 'A New Vision for Lindow Moss' and will be badged as a Transition 'event'. Heather has prepared the art work for a new title panel and a Transition Wilmslow slide to accompany it. We will also utilize the panels that were produced for the Wilmslow Show, together with some additional panels to be produced from material used at the Workshop and Day School. John will get the new panels produced through the University Media Centre and we hope to get the exhibition in place before the month end.

Diana at the library is quite keen to have some kind of exhibition launch (at some stage in December presumably) and this becomes more important now we have the sponsorship.

4) Lindow Moss Vision : pro-active measures

With support from Cheshire East and Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT), we have been invited to present the case for Lindow Moss as a Local Nature Improvement Area to the Cheshire and Warrington Local Nature Partnership board. I am happy to lead on this with support from Jane and Flo, keeping Pippa and Anthony copied in. It will require close liaison with CWT and Cheshire East, as well as key Government agencies (Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage).

5) Lindow Moss Vision : re-active measures

We anticipate the submission of a planning application (CWT tell us that this is

now imminent) for housing on the Peat Farm site adjacent to the Moss, which could provide an exit strategy for the Peat Company, and secure restoration of the Moss. Transition agreed to form a view once the application had been lodged and it could be studied in detail. I am happy to prepare a draft response on behalf of Transition for consideration by the Transition Steering Group, prior to submission to Cheshire East. This will require close liaison with our partners, especially CWT.

**ENERGY GROUP:
Report from TW Energy Group 14.11.2014**

1. Community energy

- a. Cheshire East is considering putting PV themselves on roofs of their offices and leisure centres, but have suggested we talk to the schools directly, and housing associations. Wilmslow High School are sounding positive though we are awaiting a conversation with the business manager to add to what the head has said. The URC is a potential site too.
- b. Be useful to know if other members from TW are interested in this project as it is huge!

2. Anything else exciting

- a. We want good ideas to get people visiting houses and talking about the issues!
- b. Could the Steering group do a Brainstorm to throw up possible ideas like – Open Doors and art and garden and music....Conservation and the arts ...

3. Energy Stall

We will have run an energy stall at the Artisan Market this Saturday including a bike powered generator to demonstrate the importance of low energy bulbs and LEDs. We need to book these into everyone calendars further ahead so we have a good range of helpers!

4. Andrew and Pippa met with Jill Shaw from Cheshire Connect, who put voluntary groups like ours in touch with experts who will help out for free. Jill has identified someone to help Andrew with the type of organization that needs to be set up in order to do the energy generation project and is very happy to help find people for help with other projects (eg Charitable status, Lindow Moss).

5. Helen Lederer and Ali Berry did Kate's energy workshop in Manchester in October.

6. Transition network newsletter has news of Bath and Weston's community share option project which has just closed at target of £1.6M! Kate and the Greater Manchester group are in touch with them so hopefully we can learn something!

Main topic for the evening:
Transition Wilmslow Constitution - led by Anita

The revised draft following the discussion of the first draft at the meeting and consultation with the adviser from Cheshire Connect is attached as a separate document.

The main discussion was around membership. The meetings preference if it fitted the Charity Commissions requirements was that Steering Group members and those active in subgroups would be members and all others on the mailing list etc would be designated "friends of TW". Trustees would be drawn from those prepared to stand on the Steering Group who had no vested interest and possibly some external people in sympathy with the aims and objectives of TW. Everyone was extremely grateful to Anita and to Andrew for all their work on our behalf.

The charitable objects document was presented by Marianne. The revised version is incorporated in the TW Constitution document attached

Any Other Business

FILM NIGHTS: we showed Chasing Ice which is a shocking film about melting glaciers. Next film will be January, A Dangerous Game
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_ctHQn4Hyg date tbc

MONTHLY CHALLENGES: Flo's latest challenge is energy. Details on website.

ECOVER REFILLS: for those of you still challenged by plastic free Tuesdays Pippa and Anthony have Ecover products (fabric conditioner, washing up liquid, hand wash, wooden floor cleaner and general purpose cleaner) so bring your empties and fill up! Works out at about £1.10 per 500ml for each. Pippa's mobile is 07766 745134 so text if you want to call round and fill up!

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 17th December 2014. Upstairs in the Meeting House.