



## Notes from Steering Group Meeting held on 21st January 2015

### Venue: Wilmslow Quaker Meeting House

#### **ROB HOPKINS VISIT:**

Rob Hopkins Visit! Great news, we have won a visit from Our Leader!

We need a Thursday evening in May/June: suggestions for dates and who we'd like to invite please!

Pippa is in correspondence with Rob Hopkins re dates in May or June, Thursday evenings, for his talk. It was discussed whether we wanted his talk to focus on our development as a Transition Town group or to use it to showcase the Transition Town movement. Pippa will sound him out and also ask whether he would be prepared to make his presentation at Wilmslow High later in June.

*(The date is now fixed for Thursday May 7th.)*

#### **TRANSITION WILMSLOW CONSTITUTION:**

We have been told our draft objects do not seem likely to meet Charity Commission approval as they do not not make public benefit plain enough or sufficiently meet their criteria. We can either send them as below and hope they will suggest minor amendments or adopt the Letchworth model ones further below. They need to state the public benefit.

*"Our object is to develop a self-sustaining community that protects and improves the natural environment and encourages the prudent use of resources for the benefit of the people of Wilmslow and surrounding areas. We will do this by promoting responsibility and commitment at the level of the individual and the community as well as within organisations in the following areas:*

- *Local energy saving*
- *Working towards zero carbon local energy generation*
- *Local food availability*

- *Awareness raising and education surrounding the issues of climate change and resource scarcity.*

*We aim to develop our community sustainably and to strengthen our local economy in order to meet the needs of our population without compromising future generations."*

or the Letchworth aims and objectives that have been accepted by the Charity Commission

*"The objects are:*

*The promotion of the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment and prudent use of natural resources for the benefit of the public in Wilmslow and the surrounding area by advancing education and raising awareness of climate change, resource scarcity, peak oil and economic resilience; promoting individual, community and organisational commitment to a reduction in CO2 emissions, energy saving, reducing reliance upon carbon emitting energy sources, and increasing resilience to resource scarcity."*

The meeting was happy to go with the tried and tested Letchworth version

All those who regularly attend Steering Group or Sub-group meetings will be asked to be members and those on our mailing list will be associates without voting rights. Is that correct?

5 names of Trustees were proposed; Rachel Corrigan, Anthony Jones, Denise Renshaw, Pippa Jones and John Handley. The Trustees should familiarise themselves with the advice to Trustees on the Charity Commissions website. Appointment of Trustees will take place at AGMs in line with a rolling programme of appointments.

#### **ENERGY GROUP:**

We need to have some shadow board members for a community energy company/cooperative. Andrew has approached Rod Menlove, Garry Gresham, Amanda Stevens, Mike Carey, Kate Gilmartin, and will also be talking to Helen Lederer or Ali Berry., and Catherine Barber Brown The first shadow board will meet on the 30<sup>th</sup> January. If you know someone with expertise in accounting, finance or PR it would be good to have suggestions. It was suggested that Sarah Fox was approached as a possible member of the shadow board.

Cooperatives such as Low Carbon Lymm and Morecambe Bay Renewables make payments to investors but any profits made over and above this will be used for energy saving community projects.

Andrew has asked the Town Council for money towards the insurance of our thermal camera, to pay for a new battery for the university one we borrow, and for staff time to train up more surveyors and get more done as we have 26 requests for surveys and Andrew is not able to do many.

Caitlin McAndry and Libby Moore from the 6<sup>th</sup> Form at Wilmslow High have joined the Energy Group and are stirring things up on PV in the school ,an revitalising the Eco group.

We will be happy to do a stall at the Artisan Market in March to promote community energy etc.

Ali Berry has taken on being chair of the Energy Group from Andrew.

Ali has signed us up for The Big Energy Race: we need some goals to work for.

### **FOOD GROUP:**

Wilmslow Food Festival 15th - 21st March.

<http://www.wilmslow.co.uk/news/article/10897/cooking-up-some-big-plans-for-new-wilmslow-event> : should we be involved? Possibly leafletting on the Artisan Market day also promoting Food4Macc direct, but care needs to be taken not to tread on aWilmslow businesses toes. Also permission needed to leaflet

Seedy Saturday: Scheduled for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at the Community Garden Gravel Lane

### **PROGRESSING THE VISION FOR LINDOW MOSS:**

The full report by John Handley is attached.

We have heard that the Scientific Advisory Group particularly welcomed the section "Next Steps" and East Cheshire is happy for the Lindow Moss group to take this forward. It could be an advantage if Lindow is combined with South Cheshire Meres and Mosses, it would comprise a site of 10,000 hectares, a very significant SSSI.

The response to the pending planning applications off Rotherwood Road will be decided once details of the plans are known at the next Lindow Moss Group meeting on 27th January.

John thanked the Comms Group for their help with the Lindow Moss Exhibition at the library. It is planned to use the exhibition at the Love Wilmslow, Love your Planet day at the Guild.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 7pm Lindow Moss Exhibition and Bryan Sitch talk**

John meeting Bryan at station, Meet at Library from 7, the library will be open to the public so we can access early. Pippa will bring tea coffee milk sugar. Offers for cake

needed.

Bryan staying o/n with Pippa and Anthony, Laptop and Projector - Denise

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb: Love your planet Love Wilmslow with CTW**

Facilitators needed for discussion groups

Volunteers needed to make soup for lunch and people to share skills in the afternoon.

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> February AGM:** nominations please for Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March Ashton Heyes Goes Carbon Neutral Wilmslow Guild 7.30**

Being organised by RGS

John Spawton can get reduced price tickets (£5)

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** Energy Group Stall artisan Market: Offers of helpers?

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 8.30-9.30pm** Earth Hour: any suggestions for a communal event? Or encourage individual "lights off " events?

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March** Film Night: A Dangerous Game URC

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July** Wilmslow Show Very successful last year with the Lindow Moss theme, needs a group to put together. Could this be an opportunity to showcase energy generation projects? Need to register with the Wilmslow Show website. Pippa and Anthony away so others will need to take on organization, registration etc. Garry asked if he would coordinate this again.

***Future projects:***

***Anyone interested in Transition Streets Training? Need to bid for funding***

***Anyone interested in a strategy workshop sometime?***

**Any other Business:**

Cheshire East Workstreams - There is a meeting reviewing policies on the Green Belt this Friday 23rd January. John will be attending.

Chris Frankland raised his concern that he has been stopped from processing local wood on his site on the grounds that it is an industrial use of green belt land.

**Date, Time and Venue of next meeting: AGM 18th February, 7.30 at the Quaker Meeting House.**

## **Progressing the Lindow Moss Vision - John Handley**

The New Vision for Lindow Moss was developed through a Workshop in April, 2014 which involved key government agencies, Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, user groups and local residents. The Workshop was convened by Transition Wilmslow and facilitated through a pro-bono contribution from the consultants ARUP. The New Vision is summarised below:

*Lindow Moss is one of the most significant peatland landscapes in Britain and yet it remains abused, neglected and officially unrecognised. Through this New Vision those who care about the future of Lindow Moss are coming together as the Lindow Moss partnership to restore, conserve and celebrate this uniquely important landscape. This will involve:*

- *Cessation of peat extraction and restoration of the peat working area to create an attractive natural habitat and to re-establish the Moss as a carbon sink*
- *Protection of the wider historic landscape of Lindow Moss*
- *Improved access for recreation and exercise, for all ages and abilities*
- *Creation of an area where flora and fauna can flourish and be appreciated*
- *Interpretation of the rich natural and human history of the Moss, including Lindow Man, to enhance education and understanding*
- *Establish a 'green tourism' destination whilst maintaining its natural character*
- *Recognition of Lindow Moss as Green Infrastructure Asset in the Cheshire East Local Plan and a 'green lung' for the people of Wilmslow and beyond*

The area in question is broadly congruent with the Lindow Moss Landscape Character Area in the Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment (see map attached), and this in turn matches the very extensive 'unimproved' landscape known as Lindow Common in Burdett's 1777 map of Cheshire. Today it consists of an actively worked peatland core, surrounded by an historic landscape where the enclosure field pattern captures the geometry of the medieval 'Moss Rooms'. There are sand islands and sandy fringes, including Lindow Common SSSI consisting of heathland and isolated patches of mire habitat, and fringing woodland. The woodland fringes of Lindow Common and the on the moss itself create a welcoming sense of enclosure.

## **Progress since the Lindow Moss Workshop**

During the months following the Lindow Moss Workshop, Transition Wilmslow have worked with their partners to raise the profile of the Lindow Moss landscape, and to prepare the way for implementing the Lindow Moss partnership. This has involved:

- Lindow Moss exhibition at the Wilmslow Show (13.7.14)
- A Dawn Walk (2.8.14) with readings and a commemorative ceremony (by the Green Seed Group) to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of Lindow Man, Britain's first almost intact bog body, in August, 1984
- A Day School held in association with the Wilmslow Guild (18.10.14) to explore the ontogeny, archaeological significance and prospects for restoration of Lindow Moss
- A Guided walk around Lindow Moss linked to the Day School with support from Cheshire East Ranger Service
- Submission of written evidence to the Inspector and participation in the Examination in public of the Cheshire East Local Plan (25.09.14), arguing for proper recognition of the Lindow Moss landscape in the Local Plan and its designation as a Green infrastructure Asset
- An exhibition on the Lindow Moss landscape in partnership with the Wilmslow Library,

(December 14 - January 15) and book display, with a public lecture by Brian Sitch, Curator of Archaeology at Manchester Museum, on 'Interpreting Lindow Man, The Manchester Museum Experience'

This programme of events attracted a high level of participation and generated associated press and media coverage. The Metropolitan University of Manchester and the University of Manchester were heavily involved in the Day School and Guided Walk and they are happy to form a Scientific Advisory Group to provide expert guidance on realising the Lindow Moss Vision and to realise the full potential of the area for research and education. Subsequent to presenting evidence at the Local Plan, Cheshire East Council encouraged Transition Wilmslow, together with Cheshire Wildlife Trust, to prepare the case for Lindow Moss as a Nature Improvement Area and to present that case to the Local Nature Partnership. This could potentially be the vehicle for formalising the Lindow Moss Partnership.

### **Next Steps**

During 2015 Transition Wilmslow and their partners, the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, will take forward the following:

1. Develop proposals for Lindow Moss as a Local Nature Improvement Area and present to the Cheshire and Warrington Local Nature Partnership;
2. Continue to press for proper recognition of the Lindow Moss landscape in the Cheshire East Local Plan, for example as a designated Green Infrastructure Asset;
3. Consider and respond to a planning application for housing (submitted Jan, 2015), and associated proposal to restore and manage the cut-over peat bog as a wildlife habitat. Whilst this proposal would require housing development in a Green Belt location, it could provide an exit strategy for peat working;
4. Resist planning applications for development which would damage the integrity of the mossland landscape and/or prejudice key access routes into the area;
5. Establish a Scientific Advisory Group for Lindow Moss drawing on expertise at Manchester Metropolitan University, The University of Manchester and the Manchester Museum, to provide expert guidance and to help realise the full potential of the area for research and education;
6. Ensure that material which is critical to the interpretation and understanding of landscape history (for example the sub-fossil pine) is recorded and conserved during peatland restoration/ongoing working;
7. Establish contact with the British Museum (the 'home' of Lindow Man), with a view to engaging them, together with Manchester Museum, in developing an integrated programme of interpretation which links the Lindow Moss landscape to Lindow Man and his story;
8. Seek to engage Chorley Parish Council and Mobberley Parish Council through, for example, offering the Lindow Moss exhibition for display on their premises;
9. Work towards formalising the Lindow Moss partnership, perhaps through the vehicle of a Local Nature Improvement Area;
10. Continue to engage the wider public through profile raising activity and media coverage through the Transition Wilmslow 'Comms Group'.

This work programme will be taken forward by the Lindow Moss Working Group of Transition Wilmslow in association with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the Saltersley Common Preservation Society.

Draft for Discussion at the Transition Wilmslow Steering Group, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015