

Transition Wilmslow



Transition Wilmslow – Monthly Meeting January 11th 2018

Present: John Handley (chair), Maddie Bean, Garry Olsen, Anita Willoughby, Helen Lederer, Chris Frankland, Carla Richards, Denise Renshaw (minutes)

Apologies: Mel Harris, Jean Hill, Andrew Backhouse, Pippa Jones, Anthony Jones, Pat Baker

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted as a true record with the exception of a correction to item 7b. Remove Helen Lederer wrote to energy NW re balancing energy

Business arising:

Item 6 – Further to meeting of Chris Frankland and Jean Hill with Ruth McNulty and Rob Menlove re development of green walkway from Parkway to Sainsburys car park with the agreement of the Romany Society. Still awaiting feedback from Rob Menlove re: contact with CEC Tree Officer and their reaction to creating a path, clearing undergrowth and planting some fruit trees.

Item 8 - Letter to Esther McVey – Energy group are revising the letter

Item 9 – Low energy dinner went well, another is planned

Item 10 – Sheffield Carols at the Railway Inn went well

Item 13 – Geoff Levermore U3A lecture is now fully booked.

Agenda Items:

1) Congratulations to Pippa: The meeting was unanimous in wishing to congratulate Pippa Tyrell-Jones on her very well deserved MBE for services to stroke medicine and our thanks for her inspirational leadership of Transition Wilmslow.

2) Event dates for 2018:

January 18th - Showing of 'Demain' and Chilli Supper at the Old Dancer: 35 confirmed attendances. Bookings can still be taken on Eventbrite until Sunday 14/1/18.

March 24th - Earth Hour: **John will speak to Doug and Alan to finalise plans before Feb 8th.**

April 21st - Artisan Market stall to promote reduction in use of plastics – Andrew, Helen Lederer and Helen Wright will hold **a meeting on February 27th to plan this, all interested in**

participating are welcome. Venue and time tbc. Helen will check with Andrew that stall has been booked.

Using #Wilmslow Pippa has challenged Wilmslow businesses/shops to offer to refill people's water bottles. Several are responding - Suburban Green on Hawthorn Lane are already doing this

A suggestion from the meeting was to approach Wilmslow Partnership and Wilmslow retailers re: hessian bags with logo such as 'I shop Wilmslow' to be available in all shops.

3) Children's Activities:

Garry will now start liaising with children's group leaders on Community Garden activities for the coming year.

John will lead another training walk on the Moss on Wednesday 11th April starting from the top end of Strawberry Lane. Denise and Carla will take on the organisation of these walks, liaising with Pippa. Denise to forward to Carla the check lists etc for walks that Pippa has created.

Pippa has applied to Wilmslow Town Council for a grant of 600 pounds to cover insurance and publicity costs of walks

4) Adult Walks etc..

- **14th April** - Cheshire Landscape Hist Soc.- John to lead this walk on LM – not open to the public.
- **September Saturday 22nd** – An equinox dawn walk on Lindow Moss, led by John. Meeting at 06.00am followed by breakfast at the Meeting House. Ask Pat Baker re setting up booking on Eventbrite and advertising etc..
- **Guided walk on the Carrs** - Date tba– led by John
- **June 2nd and 3rd November** – Pippa has arranged foraging walks with James Wood, venue Styal Woods. These will be set up on Eventbrite once details finalised.

November 16th - Transition lecture at Wilmslow Guild – Climate Change and Food, a cosmologists perspective. By Professor Sarah Bridle. Arising from her concern for her children's future.

Low energy meal – The energy group will plan another low carbon supper during the summer months, date to be arranged.

Wilmslow Show, July 8th – to be discussed at March TW monthly meeting

5) Group feedback

5a) Energy Group

Next meeting 15th Feb

5b) Food Group

Garry is waiting for a response from Marianne Hodkinson giving the go ahead for the next phase in the development of the Community Garden.

Mel has done a summary of the grants applied for:

- An application has gone in to Cheshire East, asking for £1,000 to pay for soil, seeds, plants, bulbs, fruit trees, mulch, signage and interpretation for the nine new

raised beds we plan to build in the spring of 2018. We should hear in mid-Feb if we've been successful.

- The application to Manchester Airport's Community Fund of up to £3,000 for materials to construct nine new raised beds is nearly completed. The deadline is mid-Feb and we'll hear before the end of April. I've just asked Chris to give us a proper quote for all materials and transportation to attach to the application.

Further money will be required for digging the well, a suggestion was made that there might be some '106' monies available .

Now that the holiday period is over Garry will set up planting programme for the existing beds with Brownie's, Beavers, Guides etc.. Garry commented on how encouraged he is that the Community Garden now has a large group of willing volunteers who turn up when work parties are appealed for.

5c) Lindow Moss

'The planning application for the restoration of Lindow Moss was submitted in December, 2014; we have now been waiting three years for a decision by Cheshire East Council. We have been told that CEC have commissioned a report on the technical feasibility of the restoration proposals. There is no indication on the website as to when the application will go to committee. The meeting was reminded of Chris Baines' recent advice that direct action might be the way forward. If significant progress is not made during 2018 the meeting felt that the proposed Dawn Walk on Saturday, September 22nd, around the time of the autumn equinox, might be a good opportunity for appropriate publicity.

The meeting decided to maintain the focus of our walks programme on Lindow Moss as this is still not well known to people in Wilmslow (by contrast with the Carrs) and there is a good story to tell. There will be a training walk (refresher for some and induction for others) meeting at the top end of Strawberry Lane at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, April 11th. Denise will follow up contacts with Brownie groups etc during April to put together a summer walks programme. John Handley is leading a walk for the Chester Landscape History Society on Saturday, April 14th.

Cheshire East Council have commissioned Land Use Consultants to prepare an updated Landscape Character Assessment for Cheshire East which will inform the designation of 'Local Landscape Designation Areas' in a supplementary planning document to the Local Plan. We have suggested that the Lindow Moss landscape character area should be designated for special protection. At this stage both Land Use Consultants and CEC are unconvinced about that but we will continue to make the case - that might have to be during the consultation process once the SPD is published.

A Turkish academic, Dr Ceyiz Makal Fairclough. who lives in Wilmslow is currently making a photographic study of Lindow Moss. She will be presenting a paper in Turkey in April titled 'A Visual Study of Lindow Moss:exploring the development of artistic vision through the application of research methodologies'. The meeting suggested that Ceyiz' photographs might make a good exhibit as part of the Wilmslow Art Trail.

The Report on the Wetlands of Cheshire emphasised that archaeological evidence for the Cheshire Mosses is scarce because the surrounding landscape is permanent grassland. However, a field has recently been ploughed (prior to seeding) close to Barlow House Farm and this presents an opportunity for field walking to search for flints etc. TW notified

the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service who maintain the Cheshire Historic Environment Record. They cannot help but encouraged us to follow this opportunity up and to inform them of any results.'

John Handley

5d) Neighbourhood Plan

- The Steering Group is currently reviewing its draft policies with Urban Imprint, the Planning Consultancy that is advising the group. Once this is completed Urban Imprint will use these to produce a draft plan for the group to consider. No timetable has been agreed but it is hoped that this will be in early February /late March.
- A policy for green infrastructure on protecting gardens and established trees is being developed, John asked Chris to comment on the draft policies. A walk with John, Garry and Chris is planned with a view to writing a report.

Helen is encouraged that more attention is being taken of the submissions she has made than she had envisaged.

5e)Environment & Planning

I have recently made submissions to CEC on behalf of Transition Wilmslow with regard to the recent planning applications on two strategic sites at Heathfield Farm, Dean Row and Royal London (Housing Sites). This, I think, will almost bring to an end the Transition Wilmslow input into strategic planning matters. There may however be some further applications on the Royal London site which I will respond to if necessary

Although there are a number of individual planning applications now being made for housing in Wilmslow I do not consider that Transition Wilmslow should become involved, in the same way as the Wilmslow Civic Trust, as an organisation that automatically comments on ongoing Planning Applications.

In the longer term my intention is that the E&P group should take a break following the WNP work as we are likely to be "planned out"

Jean Hill

Date and time of next meeting: AGM February 8th 7.00 - Pot luck supper to be held at the Meeting House

8th March is next Monthly Meeting