

Transition Wilmslow



TRANSITION WILMSLOW MONTHLY MEETING THURSDAY 17th May 2018

PRESENT: Mel Harris (chair), Helen Lederer, John Handley, Carla Richardson, Heather Calderbank, Pat Baker, Mel Harris, Jean Hill, Pippa Jones, Anthony Jones, Chris Frankland, Anita Willoughby, Denise Renshaw (minutes)

APOLOGIES: Received from Andrew Backhouse, Ali Berry, Garry Olson.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: Minutes approved

ANY NEW BUSINESS: We have heard from Maddie Bean that her dissertation is nearly ready for submission. A picture of the meeting was taken which we will send to her with our thanks for her involvement in Transition Wilmslow and our best wishes for the future.

EVENT PLANNING:

June 2nd: Foraging day – 3 tickets are left for the event. Jane is the lead on this event and will need to get the list of participants from Eventbrite just before the day.

June 16th - Pot Luck supper at Chris' home, details to follow.

Date to be arranged: "A visual study of Lindow Moss: exploring the development of artistic vision through the application of research methodologies". Dr Ceyiz Makal Fairclough is happy to speak to and exhibit the photographs in her study. Possibly an event for the library.

GROUP REPORTS:

Comms Group – Pat Baker:

1. Data Protection: General Data Protection Regulation. The deadline for compliance is 25 May 2018. We keep only basic information about our subscribers – their email addresses. They have already given their permission for us to use their email when they initially signed up. We have drawn up a 'Privacy Policy' based on that of Transition Network. The Policy is available on our website under the 'About' tab at <https://transitionwilmslow.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/transitionwilmslow-gdpr20181.pdf> We are also contacting via MailChimp all those who have signed up to our newsletter. There is a link to the full Privacy Policy, with the usual option to un-subscribe in the information section at the end of the email.
2. Website subscription renewals: We have an account with Wordpress that is automatically renewed annual via Ali Berry, cost £11.00. Our domain name is registered with Fasthosts and is automatically renewed annually via Pat Baker, cost £8.39. This is good value.
3. Twitter: Transition Wilmslow have 1,827 followers and are following 1,876 accounts. Any posts on our website blog are tweeted automatically.

4. Eventbrite: Tickets for the Forage Walk with James Wood on 2 June have been selling well. As of 16 May only three tickets are left. We will send out another mailshot next week.

Anyone needing login and passwords for Mailchimp, Twitter, Gmail, Eventbrite Pat has provided a list, please contact on transitionwilmslow@gmail.com if you were not at the meeting and need one of these. We were reminded that contributions to twitter and the facebook page are open to all.

Events to be advertised in the 'Inside Wilmslow and Alderley Edge' magazine for July/August need to be in next week.

Energy Group – Ali Berry, Helen spoke to it.

Mike Rance (previously of GoLo Macclesfield) came to talk to the Energy Group in April about a potential battery storage project in Wilmslow in collaboration with Anesco (www.anesco.co.uk). Anesco are currently building a large battery storage facility in Macclesfield, which will be used to balance the load on the National Grid network.

The aim of the new project is to install PV on the High School and Leisure Centre to generate electricity, and to link with a large battery to store the electricity when it is not being used, rather than exporting it all to the grid. We are currently in the process of approaching the High School to find out if they are interested in being involved and Mike is trying to get commitment from the Leisure Centre and Cheshire East

Mike will also be coming to the next Energy Group meeting, which is on Wednesday 23 May, 7.30pm at Joy and Luigi's House.

Environment and Planning: Jean Hill Wilmslow Neighbourhood Plan

- Following review of an outline draft of the Wilmslow Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) just over a month ago, work is now in a more advanced stage to prepare the first draft for consideration. This draft will be available for review by the WNP steering group on May 29th. The Wilmslow and Handforth Landscape Character Assessment project, initiated by Transition Wilmslow and in particular the work of John Handley, will be a major supporting document to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- It is hoped that the draft plan will be available for public consultation in mid June. It will be available on line and in selected places around the town. Copies will also be sent to local groups, organisations, local businesses and other interested parties for comment. The consultation will last for approximately 6 weeks. Publicity will include flyers and public events such as the Artisan Market, the Wilmslow Show and a number of Drop-In events.
- **Consultation Feedback by Transition Wilmslow**
The previous considered and very comprehensive response by Transition Wilmslow on the "Emerging Policies" draft was welcomed by the WNP steering group. It has played a significant contribution to the development of the current draft plan. Jean paid particular tribute to the extensive contribution John has and is making to the Landscape Character Assessment, an integral part of the final WNP. Transition Wilmslow can again contribute by forming a group to review and comment on the draft WNP. To this end we will schedule a special meeting in July, open to all, to provide feedback, as in the initial consultation.

Jean feels optimistic about the current climate of consultation between the community and the Town Council and cited the work being done to again have a cinema in Wilmslow as an example.

Food Group: Garry Olson

"Having recently received a grant of £1,450 from the Airport Community Trust Fund there have been two working parties in the past ten days building six new raised beds and filling them with manure and topsoil. Thanks to Chris Frankland and his staff for working hard to prepare and deliver all materials. 7th Wilmslow Brownies had a productive Tuesday evening planting vegetables in two of the old beds and on Monday this week 5th Wilmslow Beavers planted up three of the new beds. Our new water butts came into their own with many watering cans being carted. There is still lots to do, including moving excess manure onto the compost heap in the corner of the park and planting up five beds which remain empty. Of course there is always ongoing maintenance as well.

To achieve these last few points it was decided among the group on Saturday that we should meet regularly in The Temp on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. This should be a relaxed and sociable time when anyone who chooses to turn up can work towards meeting our aims of a proper community garden. For the first week we need to purchase plants that will fill the space and get things going. I am happy to do this next Monday or Tuesday and would like anyone who is interested to accompany me."

Mel reminded us that we have received a grant of £500 to spend on plants, soil and manure. In planning the planting we need to take plants attractive to butterflies in to particular consideration.

Jean contributed that Ruth McNulty has asked if we could put a bid together for money required for planting fruit trees on the land near Sainsburys and also consider planting for the Romany Garden.

Lindow Moss and Wilmslow Neighbourhood Plan – John Handley

1. On the evening of April 11th we held a refresher visit to Lindow Moss for TW members who are prepared to lead visits to the Moss by Brownies and other groups, repeating last year's successful programme. Six people attended. At the monthly meeting on April 19th Carla volunteered to make contact with local groups with a view to re-establishing the programme of visits this summer.
2. On April 14th, TW hosted a visit to Lindow Moss by the Chester Society for Landscape History. They enjoyed the visit, contributed to much lively discussion and made a donation of £50 to TW and has finalised plans for a walk by a Swedish agricultural University who will visit Styal and Lindow.
3. Two interlinked planning applications for the peat working area of Lindow Moss were submitted to Cheshire East Council in December, 2014. One (15/0016M) proposed a small housing development on the peat farm site, the other (conditional on approval of the first) proposed rescinding existing planning conditions and replacement with a comprehensive programme of ecological restoration across the whole site (15/0064M). Cheshire East are indicating that the housing application will be considered by their Strategic Planning board on the morning of Wednesday, June 27th. However, it needs to be pointed out that Cheshire East have repeatedly deferred considering these items after including them in a draft agenda.

4. The Wilmslow Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) is at an advanced stage of preparation. It is hoped that the plan will become available for consultation later next month. It is noted that Lindow Moss has prominence in the WNP. Wilmslow Neighbourhood Plan steering group will be consulting with town/parish councils that adjoin the Lindow Moss area.
5. The Wilmslow Landscape Character Assessment will be published in association with Countryside as a supporting document to the Neighbourhood Plan. There will be a section on the Lindow Moss Character Area which will include: Landscape Character; Landscape Ecology; Landscape History; Sense of Place and then 3 brief interlinked sections about Lindow Moss as a celebrated landscape, a changing landscape and a landscape of opportunity (with proposals for action). It was Transition Wilmslow which pioneered the Wilmslow Landscape Character Assessment back in 2013 and John continues to work on the updated and final version.
6. Earlier this week (May 15/16) there was a conference in Doncaster to mark the completion of an EU 'Life' project to restore a large peatland – the Humberhead Levels. Kieran Sheehan of JBA Ecology who spoke on mossland restoration at our Lindow Moss Day School in October, 2014 is chair of the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area. Anthony and Helen attended the conference as representatives of Transition Wilmslow.
7. Anthony reported that it was a fantastic experience, both the presentations and the site visit. There was a lot of interest expressed in the problems of Lindow Moss and people he met there are interested in visiting the Moss. It was pointed out that the Historical and cultural links could attract interest from the Lottery Fund, as a restoration project. Anthony will write a full report with recommendations, for next meeting.

Plastic Free Wilmslow: Andrew Backhouse

Ruth is working towards getting the plastic free status - getting lots of organisations signed up, but I can see the need for another public meeting soon to get more people re-engaged in order to regain impetus.

Transition Wilmslow Walks programme:

Pippa will pass on to Carla contact details, of the groups who did walks last year.

Carla is ready to arrange dates but requires the names of other TW members willing to share in leading the walks. The names brought forward who helped last year were: Jane Selva, Garry Olson, Denise Renshaw, Helen Lederer, Anthony Jones and Mel Harris.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 21st June at 7.30.