

# Transition Wilmslow



## **TRANSITION WILMSLOW MONTHLY MEETING THURS. 18th OCT. 2018 AGENDA**

**PRESENT:** Paul Fairclough, Dr. Ceyiz Makal Fairclough, Pauline Handley, Helen Lederer, Mel Harris, Anthony Jones, Ribia Nisa, Anita Willoghby, Pat Baker (chair), Denise Renshaw (minutes), Chris Frankland

**APOLOGIES:** Garry Olson, Heather Calderbank, Pippa Jones, Andrew Backhouse, Jean Hill

**SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES:** Approved

### **UPDATE ON COMING EVENTS:**

- **FORAGING WALK** - Saturday 3rd November. Anita will contact James re payment. Carla is happy to take charge of checking Eventbrite booking list against people who turn up. Pat will contact Carla with regard this.
- **ANNUAL LECTURE** – Wilmslow Guild, Friday 16th November 8.30 – 15 tickets sold so far, most tickets tend to be sold just before event.
- **NOVEMBER TW MEETING** – Event planning for 2019
- **PLASTIC FREE WILMSLOW** - a public meeting is being held on the 1st November at the URC.
- **ENERGY GROUP MEETINGS** – second Thursday of each month, the next one will be held at 31 Vale Head, Handforth starting at 7.30
- **PEAT FREE GARDENING** for Britain in Bloom entry 2019, In process.
- **COMMS 30TH** October, 7.30 at Pat's
- **CARE for CE Dementia Re-ablement project** – enquiring about volunteering at the community garden, Mel will action this.

**LINDOW MOSS PLANNING APPLICATION – IN VIEW OF PREVIOUS SUBMISSIONS DO WE WISH TO MAKE FURTHER COMMENT BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE OF October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 and HOW DO WE ENGAGE ONCE A DECISION IS MADE.**

### **Introduction and background**

- What is Lindow Moss? Peat extraction site and the wider landscape  
*John guided us through the topography of the area using maps from the 1777 Burdett's map of Cheshire to modern time.*
- Lindow Moss Workshop, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
*This was a significant step forward and representatives of many interested parties took part in this day workshop, including Manchester Museum. The*

*document "A New Vision for Lindow Moss resulted". This document was circulated in advance.*

## **Questions and discussion**

### **Lindow Moss Planning Applications:**

- Planning history, current planning conditions and the ROMP,
- Current planning application for residential development on peat farm site (15/0016M) and variation of planning conditions with restoration plan (15/0064M)
- TW response to Planning Application 15/0016M (Circulated in advance)
- TW response to Planning Application 15/0064M (Circulated in advance)
- Pippa's note to Councillors, August, 2017 (Circulated in advance)

*John explained that the restoration conditions laid out in 2003 by the old CCC posed serious problems. The restoration of the site when peat extraction ceased in 2042 only required that the main extraction site was infilled with inert waste and returned to farmland. Crogan Peat have committed to restore the site to peat moss if they receive planning permission for houses on the brownfield peat farm site. He reminded us that it was because of this commitment that Transition took the decision to support their application despite it being in green belt.*

*The ROMP is due for review this year. One of the conditions of the ROMP was a sluice gate to maintain the hydrology of the site, this has never been enforced and has not been maintained.*

*Crogan Peat's first restoration plan was rejected because of an objection raised by Manchester Airport that flooding compartments formed by peat baulks would encourage movement of wildfowl in to the area although no evidence was presented to support that. Can we challenge this decision that appears to have been made on conjecture not evidence?*

*T W were unhappy with the plan to clear woodland along side Rotherwood Road and on the sandbank as it was felt it enhanced the sense of place by enclosing the site. This was acknowledged but has not been officially included.*

### **Questions and discussion: Do we want to submit further comments on Application 15/0016M? (Closing date October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, now to be heard on November 21st)**

#### **Points raised:**

- *Can we add anything new, to the very comprehensive submissions put forward by TW to previous planning application meetings?*
- *Certain points could be reinforced by comments from Pippa's letter to councillors about the cultural, archeological, industrial, historical and ecological heritage of the area. But as the meeting is about the housing application not the restoration this has to be used judiciously.*
- *We can reinforce that our support for the planning application is grounded in our desire that the peat extraction ceases and that the peat moss is restored. But our concerns for this unique site also mean that we would resist any further greenfield infringements in this area. Landscaping of any development would also be crucial to ensure that it wasn't visible from the Moss.*
- *Concerns were raised as to whether it could truly be a community resource for perpetuity if Crogan Peat remain the owners.*
- *We understood that CEC would be able to influence Crogan Peats management of the site through a Restoration Committee. This makes it very important that the committee is truly representative of the community and partnership organisations including TW*

- *Do Crogan Peat intend to start the restoration immediately if planning permission is granted?*
- *Members of Transition Wilmslow can also make comments on line, as individuals by searching for the planning application 15/0016M*
- *In view of a recent report on Peat Moss restoration is it already too late to hope that a restoration programme would work.\**

**Do we want to make a verbal statement when applications are considered by Cheshire East's Strategic Planning Board (current date, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 now November 21st)?**

*It was thought both written and verbal on the day would be useful if John felt able to represent us. It was acknowledged that on the day other community members and groups will oppose the planning application and we need to respect that and their reasons for doing so. Cultivating good relations with them.*

**How do we engage following a planning decision –**

- a) If applications are approved?**
- b) If applications are refused?**

*It was agreed because of the constraints of time and the “what if” element it will be best to come back to this at a later date.*

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. \*Hannah Lederer, Helen's daughter is preparing her dissertation on Lindow Moss and has been taking core samples. These indicate that the depth of peat in most areas is still over 2 metres which is positively in favour of successful regeneration. We look forward to hearing more about her research.
2. Dr. Ceyiz Makal Fairclough joined us this evening. She has been keeping a photographic record of Lindow Moss for some time and has presented this project at academic conferences in Turkey where it has been very well received. She is happy to share this with us and suggestions were made as to how we could share this more widely.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 15th November, 7.30 at the Friends Meeting House. Main Topic – planning for 2019 events.**