



Annual Network Meeting

Monday 13th July 2015 7.45 pm Malvern Cube, Malvern

1. Present

Ginny Lee
C. Jackson
Seonaid Barber
Graham Skinner
Denise Skinner
Robin Coates
Ian Caldwell
Harold Armitage
Jill Terry
Dinah Sage
Brian Harper

2. Apologies for absence

Received from: Nathan Burlton, Jan Dyer, Chris Dyer, Mike Munro Turner, Raphael Bate, Sanghajoti Woolf, Sue Wolfendale, Bob Tilley, Peter Clements, Wilma Harrington

3. Approval of minutes of 14th July 2014

The minutes of 14th July 2014 were approved as an accurate record. Proposer Brian, seconder Robin.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

New initiatives:

Malvern by gaslight – ongoing

Energy Tracers – operating and training in Bristol, where there is interest and encouragement from the city.

Brian is busy with some commercial work.

Inner Transition is continuing with its successful format

The offer of a regular article in the Malvern Observer has been taken up occasionally.

The third meeting of ElectrAA will take place this week.

Plasterboard:

Brian made contact with Fortis Housing and raised the issue at a Warmer Worcestershire meeting. Unfortunately the interested house owner has moved.

Householders are hesitant to publicise problems for fear of the value of their property dropping.

Brian raised the issue at the AGM of the AECB, and might be collaborating in an article for Building magazine.
Could the issue be raised in the Malvern Observer?

5. Receive the independently examined accounts

The Food Alliance now has its own account.
The talk by Polly Higgins brought in £100.
The balance is £945.91.

The independently examined accounts were accepted. Proposer Ginny, seconder Seonaid.

6. Chairman's Report

Nathan retired during the year through pressure of time, and Ginny became sitting chair.
Nathan was thanked for all the hard work he has done, and the work he continues to do in the background.

7. Elect officers of the Association

Chairperson: Ginny was nominated by Ian, seconder Seonaid, elected unanimously.
Ian continues as Treasurer, Dinah as Secretary.

How Ginny sees the role of Chair:

- Hear of new projects
- Co-ordinate where appropriate
- Hold regular Co-ordinating Group meetings
- Attend meetings about new initiatives – or find delegate

Should there be a vice chair? Needs discussion

8. Receive and vote on any proposals to change the Constitution

Discuss changes to the Annual Network Meeting quorum at the next Co-ordinating Group meeting.
Work out the wording and circulate it before the next Annual Network meeting.

9. Receive the Annual Report of Transition Malvern – verbal reports

Co-ordinating Group - Ginny

The core group of TMH aims to meet every six weeks. (Less often recently). It is open to anyone who is running initiatives, or who would like to start one. Some projects are run by several people.

If you are interested in receiving notification of meetings and minutes, Dinah will add you to her Co-ordinating Group email list.

Anyone can come to the meetings to see what is going on.

Ian will add Co-ordinating Group dates to the Google calendar, and occasionally mention it in general emails.

Malvern Energy Co-operative - Ian

The solar panels on the Cube became operational in September 2014. The balance of electricity going to the Grid and to the Cube will be known after a full year.

Finding new roofs is proving difficult. They need to face roughly south, and to be on buildings which use a lot of electricity during the day. Panels in fields could be considered.

Volunteers to help find roofs would be welcome.

A promising scheme fell through because of impenetrable bureaucracy.

The status of co-ops is likely to be changed by the FSA. It would not affect MCE at present, but could mean that future schemes would not be eligible for tax relief.

Repair café

The attached report was read out.

Gleaning - Ginny

The Growing Worcestershire project would like to work with Transition Malvern Hills, as part of a national project.

Farmers are often left with crops which cannot be sold, but are edible. Volunteers collect the food for distribution to food charities.

Locally the project is at the stage of seeking to appoint a volunteer co-ordinator for the whole area to establish a relationship with farmers who would like gleaners to come in.

Gardenshare

The attached report was read out

Malvern Hills Food Alliance

The attached report was read out

Car club- Robin

There are now 12 vehicles, and 64 participating households. The cars are well spaced, eg Link, Wells, and an electric car at Clarence Park.

Each car has a keeper. The club is run by the keepers and Nathan, using Ian's brilliant software. Robin is secretary.

The workload is too much for the key people, and needs a rethink.

If you use an old car for two days a week, the running cost is £800 to £1000 a year. The car club is much cheaper, and includes the option of a seven seater or a pickup.

Grants were received towards the electric car and a small car.

Storrige village hall is considering having a car for hire.

Electric bikes can be hired for £12 a week or £52 a month. They are usually used for a trial, and advice can be given on buying. Longer term hire can be arranged.

Malvern Cube – Ginny and Jill

TMH worked alongside the campaign with Jill Terry to obtain the Cube for the community.

The Cube is now run by trustees. There are a wide range of bookings, with no grant funding, apart from specific grants to particular projects.

Robin acts as project manager, making the building more energy efficient. Worcestershire County Council is the landlord. Negotiations are in progress over the position of the boundary as a little more outdoor space is needed.

Funding is being sought for a skatepark, better carparking and (longterm) an extension.

Some services have been relocated to the Cube when other buildings have been closed – including some operated by WCC. £100,000 has been spent on the building.

An advisory group is being set up to look at long term hires. Transition Malvern Hills is invited to have a representative. Seonaid expressed an interest.

Ginny has made an enormous contribution to the Cube. She was a key in the transfer of control, started the café, which is now run on a commercial basis, and has started the Weekend Cube events.

June runs the Community Garden, and works there with volunteers on Tuesdays.

Could Gardenshare be connected to the community garden? It would be a good way for new gardeners to learn skills.

Are there any other pieces of public land which could be used?

The boiler had to be replaced. The new system is much better.

The Cube would benefit from greater publicity – could social media be used?

Transport – Dinah

Inactive, but a useful link eg someone wanting to know about rail users' groups.

Inner Transition

The attached report was read out

10.AOB

Questions and ideas for new initiatives or publicity.

The Calendar has been changed to a newsletter, coming out every four months.

Events put on jointly with other organisations often have better attendance. There are likely to be fewer films.

The new Premier Inn would like to have its landscaping as a growing area. Ginny is discussing this. Is their roof suitable for solar panels?

Floodlights are on in the day –wasteful. Trading Standards may be able to help.

May be gravel extraction at Fish Meadow, Upton

At the Chance4Change meeting Julian Roskams spoke about the energy report commissioned from TMH for MHDC. Some political momentum is at last being gained. The new Chief Executive has a better track record and is open to new ideas. The Energy Plan will be discussed at a full district council meeting – lobby your councillors.

Jill Terry will provide a link to the report.

[Added later:

http://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/documents/10558/125552/MALVERN+HILLS+EEP+2012_17+Final+April+2012.pdf]

Could Priors Croft be converted to provide affordable rather than more executive homes?

Energy Tracers – MHDC was not interested, but a training programme is going ahead in Bristol, with support.

We should take up the offer of a regular spot in the Malvern Observer. Seonaid may be interested in writing and her daughter may be able to help.

Actions

Lobby councillors over energy plan

Keep an eye on plans for Fish Meadow.

And for Priory Croft.

Write something for the Newsletter.

11. For next Co-ordinating Group meeting

Should there be a vice chair?

Discuss changes to the Annual Network Meeting quorum at the next Co-ordinating Group meeting.

Work out the wording

The Inner Transition group would like to know how they can feed into the other groups better and provide support

Next Calendar/Newsletter

For next Annual Network Meeting

Circulate wording for change to Constitution to change the quorum.

12. Date of next meeting

Co-ordinating Group Thursday 30th July 2015. Venue tbc
Annual network Meeting July 2016

Update on Malvern Hills Repair Café: July 2015

MHRC is now well into its third year at Malvern Cube attracting an average of 52 customers to each session. Since opening in December 2012, the multi-skilled team of volunteers has dealt with almost 1500 customers and approximately 2000 items.

MHRC has recently been awarded £9300 by the Big Lottery Fund to assist with the expansion and development of its repair and advice services into two new locations in Herefordshire and Worcestershire over the next twelve months. These locations will represent major population centres of the area with good transport links to the surrounding rural communities. Market research has already been carried out in two potential towns to assess the level of interest and support for hosting a permanent Repair Café.

Three key activities that are essential elements of the opening of any new Repair Café will underpin the development programme:

1. A training programme for all volunteers who will be involved in the running, operation and administration of each new Repair Cafe.
2. The reimbursement of subsistence and travel expenses for volunteers and the purchase of tools and specialist equipment.
3. The compilation of an outreach educational programme of visits to local schools, colleges and other organisations to promote the economic, social and environmental benefits of the Repair Cafe culture. A small number of volunteers will be trained to undertake this role which is initially likely to be piloted by the Worcestershire Eco Schools initiative.

Jan and Chris Dyer

13 July 2015

THE GARDENSHARE PROJECT

Hi all,

Sorry I can't be there, but it is the last Tai Chi session this summer, and I want to be there.

Currently the Gardenshare project has 6 available gardens in Malvern and West Malvern. But no gardeners interested.

I have been reflecting on the level of responsibility I have re Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children. As we have no/dont need a DBS check, I still clearly need to be responsible in setting up people so that both gardeners and garden owners who are more vulnerable (eg, disabled, with small children) have less risk posed. (My background is in social work with Looked After Children, so I am aware of risks, and have an ethical responsibility to ensure appropriateness of matches)

Over Springtime, I had put lots of effort into advertising. Designing flyers/posters with the help of Helen. But that was set back by lack of funds to get ANYTHING printed. I had revamped Gardeners posters to try and attract new, or unconfident gardeners, and was intending to put up both flyers (A4 and smaller) in all free public places around Barnards Green, Malvern, Malvern Link, west Malvern, etc.

When this attempt was obstructed due to lack of funds, I phoned 3 local newspapers, Gazette, Observer and About Malvern, and negotiated a few paragraphs describing project, with pictures of posers – which I emailed off to all 3 as they suggested. Sadly, nothing was ever printed in any of them!

So..basically the current situation is : out of date flyers/posters in the Cube, new flyers in situ on my laptop, 6 available gardens and no gardeners on the books.

My situation recently has become a lot busier now. I am becoming more involved with Syrian refugee pressure/support groups, other Buddhist/meditation voluntary work and the new paid job which I've finally

started...I feel unable to do much more now around this Gardenshare project until end of winter/beginning of Spring next year, other than minimal input.

I have met some really generous, kind and warm garden owners..its been unfortunate that there has been no funding available for advertising..which is what this project really needs.

Thats it....lots of love and best wishes,
Sanghajoti xxx 13/7/15

MALVERN HILLS FOOD ALLIANCE (MHFA) – 2014-15

During this year MHFA has made some progress towards bringing its website to a point where it might achieve some revenue from advertising and thus decrease its dependence on grant funding. The underlying reason for achieving the advertising revenue is to gain the unrestricted funds required for MHFA to pursue other local food activities of interest to its members.

The progress was achieved by forming an Editorial Group (EG) responsible for all 'matters website'. The EG consists of 6 MHFA members and 2 volunteers enlisted via 'Malvern Volunteering' and meets monthly.

A project devised by EG was 'Connecting local food caterers to suppliers'. The project involved identifying and questioning all local food caterers in the HR8 (excluding Ledbury town), WR8, WR13 & WR14 postcode areas regarding their suppliers. The caterers deemed to make the greatest use of local produce were offered free advertising on the website and the caterer and supplier information gathered was used to further build the database for the website's online food directory. This project received £1350 funding from Malvern Hills AONB

EG's plans for next year are to build the MHFA membership base through newsletter, social media, etc activity and eventually to make the website the main means of communicating with MHFA members.

The other main MHFA activity this year was to achieve a £10000 grant from Awards for All/Big Lottery Fund to undertake a project entitled 'Worcestershire Food Links'. The project is modelled on 'Herefordshire Food Links' and involves MHFA working with 'Growing Worcestershire' (instead of the Bulmer Foundation) to achieve a database that will underpin all local food activity in Worcestershire. The first tasks for the database being to produce a county-wide online and hardcopy local food directory.

Chris Dyer
10 July 2015

How to Fall in Love with Our Planet: Next Steps in Inner Transition

This programme of 10 sessions was designed by Mel Jameson, Mike Munro Turner and Raphael Bate for the Inner Transition Group of Transition Malvern Hills. It was designed to take us on a journey to help us to deepen our relationship with the Earth, recognise and deal with attitudes that hold us back, and strengthen our commitment and joy in living more sustainably.

We started with a very well attended meeting at The Friends Meeting House with Polly Higgins, the campaigning lawyer. The subsequent 9 meetings were held at The Cube, attracting typically around 15 people from our mailing list of 65.

Mike Munro Turner

We are now starting to plan next year's programme, building on feedback from the group.

We would like to know how we can feed into the other groups better and provide support

Melanie Jameson