

Banbury Community Action Group

Meeting notes from: **Tuesday, 5th December 2017**

Ye Olde Reindeer Pub, Parsons Street, Banbury



Next Meeting: **Tuesday, 2nd January 2018, 7pm – 8pm**

Thanks for coming: Julie, Philippe, Harry, Colin, John D, Hilary, Chris (Chair), Lorraine (Notes), Lynda

Apologies: Emily, Tim, Manel

Chris welcomed Julie who had recently moved to the area, and gave us a useful insight into the ways that we could use our projects to support residents in our community.

Skill Share

- Philippe and Chris attended this on 11th November in Oxford
- There were workshops held in the morning and afternoon.
- The day started with an introduction covering a variety of topical issues around sustainability.
- Talks and workshops attended:
 - Air pollution (Chris Church) – there is the ability to measure air quality locally.
 - Nuts and bolts of running a group.
 - Focus on a shared sense of group direction. (Henry Owen)
 - World Café – themed tables with a facilitator and note taker. You sit down at a table covering a topic and wander to another depending upon your interests.
 - CAG Oxfordshire are looking at alternative funding to what is currently provided by OCC.
 - The new Community Engagement Officer with CAG, Kerry Locke came across as dynamic and really positive.
 - OxFutures are working with Low Carbon Hub for energy.
 - Community Land Trust – this is volunteer run to get access to land for community use.
 - Energy projects: Thermal Imaging – pictures are taken of homes and businesses to show where energy is being lost by means of a report. 13 houses are done every year, it's very labour intensive.
 - A network map of Oxfordshire is being created to show the most inefficient buildings.
 - Philippe has contacts for following this up if anyone is interested.
 - CAG groups have tools available to share if needed.
- Benefits gained from attending:
 - The excitement of other groups.
 - The support that it is available for developing groups.
Chris will invite Henry to come up in January to help us gain a sense of direction for BCAG.
 - It was a worthwhile day for sharing ideas and the food was amazing.

Partnering with similar local community groups

- The group came up with various contacts for Chris to follow up.
- Ideas were shared on ways to make the first approach to other community groups.
- To find suitable partnerships we need to consider the following:
 - What are we doing?
 - What do we want to do?
 - What can we do together?
 - Create a mission statement – do you have anything in common with us?

Bridge St. Garden Noticeboard

- Banbury Town Council informed us that the area where the noticeboard was to be installed is no longer suitable.
- We will contact Cherwell District Council and agree on another part of the plot that can be clearly seen by the general public on foot.

DBS Checking

- Hilary will book a training session for January 2018.

Browning Road Orchard

- There will be a planting, mulching and pruning session on **Saturday, 6th January 2018 10.30am**
- Two dead trees will be replaced
- Lorraine will notify the town council of the activity and arrange promotion.

Refashion/Give or Take

- Marlborough Rd church hall has been booked for **Saturday, 17th March 2018 10am-4pm**
- Emily will liaise with Lorraine regarding the event details.

CDC Swap Shop

- The CDC recycling team are considering running a swap shop for unwanted Christmas presents.
- Provisional date: **Saturday, 13th January 2018.**
- A couple of people are interested in being involved once further event details are known.

Community Garden Enquiry

- St Francis Church in Highlands would like advice on starting a community garden.
- Colin will put them in touch with Harry.
- They are welcome to visit the Bridge St Edible Community Garden for an informal tour on request.

Growing Collaboration meeting

- Harry attended the latest meeting for the Growing Collaboration group which brings together members of CAG groups across Oxfordshire to share ideas and projects.
- There is interest in starting a CAG network service for social prescriptions.
- This is beneficial to residents who have mental health conditions that don't require medication. It would provide a way for them to integrate with the wider community and improve their health and general wellbeing.
- What impact would this have on BCAG as a group?
 - Bridge St garden would be used as a facility.
 - 2 leaders would be required to facilitate a session.
 - Contact CCG for potential social prescription funding.
 - John D has connections for potential CC funding.
 - Include Julie in further discussions on this project.

Forest Gardening

- Philippe is interested in Forest Gardening and would like to find a place suitable in the town.
- There may be scope to include this in the Country Park in Grimsbury (flood alleviation scheme behind Gateway). Follow up with Paul Almond at CDC.
- There is the option to incorporate this within the Browning Rd Orchard.

Next Catch-up Meeting

- The next one will be on **Tuesday, 2nd January 2018. 7pm Start**
- Phone the Reindeer Inn to confirm availability the day before.