

Banbury Community Action Group

Notes from Tuesday 1st March Meeting

Small Items:

- Gazebo and banners have been purchased for the group.
- You can vote in local branches of Tesco for three community projects – **Banbury CAG's** Bridge Street Community Garden, Banbury Town Council's signage for Browning Road Orchard, or the refurbishment of a playground in Farnborough (not the air show one; the local village). Grants of £8000, £10,000 or £12,000 will be awarded by the supermarket.
- Money. We've spent more than we've earned* over the course of the year, but there is £516 in the account.
- Banbury North Signal Box. Not a CAG item but of local interest. The box will be taken out of use from August, and the historic semaphore signals (the metal fingers that make that satisfactory clunk when the signal is changed) will be no more. However, a credible local campaign exists to save the signal box for community use. The line between the north end of platforms one and two will go, leaving room for an access path. If we could acquire and recycle some old signals for the community garden, we would!
- Community Garden. All quiet over the winter but look out for announcements when it's time to *spring* into action again.
- Care share. An organisation already successfully running all over the country, including Oxford, would make a car available for hire by members by the hour or day following a modest joining fee. A social media campaign to ask people to fill in a survey about this idea will be launched as soon as the approaching Bring and Take is successfully concluded, and Andrew will be spearheading this in conjunction with communications colleagues from Cherwell District Council. The level of interest suggested by this survey will be used to help to decide what to do next with this project.
- Litter picking on **Saturday** (5th March). Part of a national initiative, with thanks to Jane for taking the lead for Banbury CAG. Meet Cornhill Centre, Castle Street, 11.00. (It was observed that in previous litter picks certain products featured highly in what was collected, for example energy drinks (clearly they don't provide enough energy to get as far as the nearest bin) creating the possibility that manufacturers could be approached to ask what they might do to counteract the problem.)
- Mondelez, who run the coffee processing plant, apparently have a big team of employee volunteers – worth keeping in mind for future projects.

Main Item: Bring and Take

- Just when you think these couldn't get even better, this one has. Lorraine and a group of willing helpers have more stalls and more publicity than ever.
- Please note change of venue.* Originally the Methodist Church was planned but they had double double booked. The RVS Cornhill Community Centre on Castle Street, OX16 5HT, will be our new HQ for the day. The date, 12th March from 11.00 to 2.00, remains as originally planned.
- Stalls: Food for Charities. (Hilary has kindly volunteered to cook something from the food available, if this can be organised with sufficient notice.) Apples for Eggs are organising a cookbook swap, Doodledash Vintage will have recycled furniture. Love Food Hate Waste, Seed swap, composting advice, and a company that sells bulk products that you can use your own containers for will all be there too. There will also be people to help with advice and repair of electrical items, and carry out PAT testing.
- There will also be a café, with 'pay as you feel' or 'donations'. If you like baking, your cakes will be gratefully received.
- And although overnight fame cannot be guaranteed, a *TV crew are coming!* They will be filming

for the BBC television programme 'Hugh's War on Waste'.

- All this of course in addition to the central theme of Give and Take. As ever, anyone can come along to drop off, or take away, clothes, books, DVDs, small electricals, toys and other home items
- And don't think we're going to retire after that, with a nice second hand lampshade and pre-loved copies of the Thomas the Tank Engine books. The date for the *next* Bring and Take after this one has already been decided - 25th June. More details in due course.
- For future reference there is also a company in Bicester, Fresh Direct, which collects and distributes unwanted food commercially, but do make donations too. Andrew is going to liaise with them.

Next Banbury CAG meeting: Tuesday 5th April.

* Yes, it is an acceptable past tense for earn. Don't believe everything your spellcheck tells you.