

Next Meeting: Catch-up **Tuesday 6th November 2018, 7pm – 8pm**
Ye Olde Reindeer Pub, Parsons Street, Banbury

Thanks for coming Chris (Chair), Philippe, Lorraine (Notes), Hilary, Pat, Jack

Apologies: Lynda, Manel, Colin, Harry

Chris welcomed the new visitors to the group.

Bridge St. Edible Community Garden

- Harry sent through some upcoming activity dates:
 - **Saturday 6th Oct and 20th October** – usual garden working parties.
 - **Wednesday, 10th October 7.15pm** – Garden meeting at The Mill to plan events and activities over the winter period.
 - **Sunday, 14th October** – Canal Day
 - A simple activity such as Apple Pressing, refreshments of simple food and cake.
 - Kids Corner Café will be asked if they would like to be involved.
 - Jack will discuss it with his contacts at Banbury Woodcraft Folk.
 - **Wednesday, 17th October** – Workshop with Frank Wise School: external activity in the community to improve self-esteem. The age range is 16-19 years old. Philippe will also give a talk on the importance of volunteering.
- **Planting Flowers** – requests are coming in from people interested in planting flowers. As the raised beds are for edible vegetables and flowers, it was suggested that planting in the ground at edges of the garden would be more suitable. There is educational value around plant pollination.
Manel would be a key person to lead the flower growing section.
- **Visitor information on raised beds** – There is a move towards volunteers adopting raised beds and experimenting with different growing techniques. It would be useful to add friendly signs to these to explain what is happening in each one.
- **Local Wifi Network**
 - Philippe has been looking into the installation of a private Free wifi network, using Raspberry Pi, as a modern way to engage with garden visitors.
 - Accessible information would be, pictures, planting plans, meeting information, tasks done or to-do etc.
 - QR codes could be used to provide information at points around the garden.
 - Cost for the server and solar panel is approximately £60.
 - The server box can be hidden in a fake bird box high in a tree to avoid vandalism.
 - Advertising of the free wifi would need to be clearly shown as garden specific and not the whole internet.
 - The committee approved the idea and funding request.

Packaging Free shop

- Philippe has been doing further research on this and has a list of suppliers for containers, organic loose products, dry grains, nuts etc.
- Friendly discussions have been held with Annette who runs the Natural Health Store in George Street to expand the range in her shop.
- Crowdfunding – Banbury CAG would promote it.
- Flyer and surveys to promote it could be included at our projects and engaging with local independent cafes to raise awareness.
- There are already campaigns being organised by Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Woodcraft – Chris has a contact who could be invited as a speaker.

East Close Community Gardens

- The community gardens have been informally approved by Sanctuary Housing.
- The support from Banbury CAG has been limited to funding a donation of paint and fixings, plus volunteer time in sourcing materials and assisting with furniture construction.
- Banbury CAG's support has now come to an end and Sanctuary are now in discussions with the resident to formalise the project's long-term plan.
- We have provided information on how to obtain freebies from Wilko, Screwfix and potentially B & Q.

National Forest Garden Scheme

- Philippe gave a brief explanation of Forest Gardening.
- There is potential for using the Browning Road orchard. The soil is poor and often waterlogged so this will need to be explored further.

DBS Checking

- The committee approved the application for Associate Membership of Oxfordshire Youth at the cost of £40 – Lorraine will action this.
- Philippe has offered to do the 1 hour training course on checking ID documents and will arrange a suitable time with Liz.

Banbury Town Council Grants

- The system has now changed - £30,000 is available each year allowing many groups to claim a maximum of £500.
- Lorraine will apply as Freegle for equipment to support the outdoor Give or Takes
- Application forms will be sent to Hilary and Jack

Give or Take / Repair Cafe

- There will only be 2 guest stalls this time – Replenish and the CDC Recycling Team.
- The electrical repair café will take a 3rd of the space and be heavily promoted.
- A poster for fixers will be permanently left on the garden noticeboard.
- Online and offline promotion is in hand.
- Additional volunteers are needed to help with the give or take, pay as you feel café and donating cakes.
- Better signage for promotion around the RVS Community Centre would be helpful.
- The garden has an A-board which could be used for larger posters.

Newsletter

- The new style newsletter to improve engagement with the public has received a lot of positive response.
- Information on completed projects and activities will now be included in this instead of the meeting notes.

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