

Banbury Community Action Group

Meeting notes from: **Tuesday 3 April 2019 AGM**

Kids Corner Café, Bridge Street, Banbury

Next Meeting: Catch-up **Tuesday, 7 May 2019, 7pm – 8pm**

4 Ale and Gin, Butchers' Row, Banbury

Thanks for coming Chris (Chair), Alison (Notes), Lorraine, Colin, Hilary, Lynda, Harry, Bob, Hilary B, Aseem, Pam, Nina (Low Carbon Hub Community Director)

Apologies: None received

Chris welcomed everyone to the group.

1. AGM

- Chris gave his Chair's report detailing activities the group has been involved in over the past year. He passed on his thanks to volunteers who have been involved.
- Hilary gave the treasurer's report. We have received some grants during the year including funding to cover the cost of give or take events. We have spent slightly more money than has come in but our bank balance remains fairly healthy.
- The Bridge Street Community Garden had an initial grant of £10,000 and just over £2000 is still available to spend on this project.
- Chris (Chair), Lorraine (Secretary) and Hilary (Treasurer) all stepped down from their roles and we expressed our thanks to them for all their hard work.
- Alison was elected as Secretary and Lynda as Treasurer. There were no nominations for the role of Chair and so this remains vacant. Members will take turns to chair catch up meetings and we will continue to advertise.

2. Give or Take / Electrical Repair Café - Saturday, 23 March 2019

- Lorraine reported that the event had been very successful with large numbers of visitors arriving before the official start time.
- We had 156 visitors and 18 volunteers (only 5 of whom attend catch up meetings).
- 609kg of unwanted items were donated and rescued from landfill.
- Aseem was able to help arrange a radio interview with BBC Radio Oxford who wanted to learn about the event and speak to the Electrical Repair volunteers. This will be great publicity for these events.
- As the events have grown in popularity Lorraine is considering moving the summer event to an indoor venue as the stall may not be big enough.

3. Low Carbon Hub Community Interest Company

- Nina, Communities Director, attended to tell us more about the Low Carbon Hub and opportunities to work together. The hub focusses on generating green energy and reducing carbon emissions (from transport).
- Along with 26 other groups we own a £1 share in the Community Interest Company.
- We are eligible to apply for Community grants of up to £500 each year or this money can be used to provide an energy audit for a community building. St. Hugh's has benefitted from this this year. Energy audits are also available for schools and small/medium enterprises.
- The hub also has a competitive large grants scheme awarding up to £5000 to projects. Other groups have received funding for projects offering retrofitting of insulation and creating clean street areas around schools.
- Some members of the group were interested in the idea of applying for funding for a bicycle repair project but we need more volunteers to be able to take on additional projects.
- An Not for Profit cooperative is being set up in Oxfordshire to encourage home owners to make their homes more energy efficient and train tradespeople to help with this. There may be a chance to be involved in this in the future.

4. Garden Update

- Saturday sessions are running 11am – 2pm on 1st & 3rd Saturdays until the end of June. During July the times may shift earlier to avoid the hottest part of the day.
- Liz is leading sessions when Harry isn't available.
- As more people look after specific beds it has been necessary to label them and Harry is working on a system to record work done so that people know where other groups have planted etc.
- Leaflets about the gardening sessions have been produced and volunteers will be delivering these in Grimsbury.
- We need a bin for the garden and Harry is applying for this but the Town Council need to see our accounts. We need assurances that this will be emptied free of charge.
- Girl guides are coming to do a workshop in May and there has also been interest from a primary school.

5. Any Other Business

- The Orchard Picnic date needs to change to 14 July. Aseem has produced some posters.
- Colin agreed to chair the next meeting and Harry will chair on 4 June.

6. Next Catch-up meeting

- **Tuesday, 7 May 2019**, 7pm – 8pm 4 Ale and Gin, Butcher's Row, Banbury