Transition Town Hastings – Core Group Meeting

MINUTES – Monday 23rd November 2020 – ZOOM

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| TIME | ITEM | NOTES |
| 7 pm  (20 mins) | WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS | Sherry, Sarah, Kate, Ken, Julia, Hannah, Ursula, Andrea |
| APOLOGIES | Kathy |
| **PREVIOUS MINUTES** | n.a. |
| (40 mins) | **EVENTS** |  |
| Transition Network seed-funding (deadline 30 Nov) | £140k of Lottery Money available, for seed funding of local projects (140 micro-grants of £350-500 / and 20 full grants up to £3,500)  Suggestions:   * Place a permanent community noticeboard in the Warrior Square station garden, where we can advertise about TTH activities * Maintenance of the website * Co-ordinating TTN newsletters * Energy-efficiency seminar * Mapping of green areas in town, suitable for planting of trees / meadows.   Sarah M and Andrea to coordinate for the submission of the bids  Potential for application to support this to Foreshore Trust (deadline 3 December) – see below |
| TTH AGM | Due to COVID, thee AGM is postponed to early 2021 |
| Review priorities for 2020 |  |
| Green Hub | Park this - ESC can do some fundraising to pay staff to look into that  Sarah M is drafting a follow-on bid to the Co-op Foundation (see below) |
| inspiration visits / potluck suppers | On hold |
| Library of Things | Plans under way at the Observer Building. <https://www.libraryofthings.co.uk/>  Ken to contact Shelley Feldman (Heart of Hastings) who is co-ordinating LoT. |
| More trees / a Hastings forest | Julia, Sherry, Nicole Collomb and Anna Locke working with Fergus Garrett (head gardener Great Dixter) and Nigel Dunnett (Sheffield’s Grey-to-Green and the Olympic Park)  to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to the Hastings Town Deal (£25m, submission 31 January, 2022 award), to turn Hastings into a “Garden Town”.  Plans include:   1. Station-to-Sea: town centre corridor becomes a green area, with lots of tree planting and related activities. Links to Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) areas of development (Trinity Triangle) 2. Development of town-wide mosaic of wildflower verges, jewel-box front gardens linking to green routes through the town 3. Creation of a horticultural training programme to support the Garden Town   EoI is through to round 3.  The original EoI was for £2m, HBC reduced to £1m with condition of working with ESCC.  Another ongoing initiative is to allow streets to nominate themselves to be “pesticide-free”. There is already a system in place to nominate areas to not be mowed in the spring, so grass can grow. These then needs maintenance and litter-picking. TTH member Linda Jeal is involved. Julia has info. |
| Mapping / Green Directory | Can we connect Green Directory with Emerging Futures and Common Treasury? ESC can also apply for funding from the COOP – up to £10,000, by 15th December  Julia has been working on various maps already – shared on the call. Central Hastings has very little green, the rest of town is quite well endowed  The Emerging Futures team has also put up a map on the CT website. Includes videos links from the Discovery walk on 4 November, identifying spots in town centre related to both the Garden Town EoI and the HAZ EoIs.  Request from HBC Cllr Maya Evans to identify 2-3 verges in each ward (any highway land that is not being maintained – other than once a year) where wildflowers could be planted in the spring, by liaising with local councillors in each ward. Julia and Sherry on call with Maya tomorrow. TTH member Anna Locke is running a similar initiative in Ore. Ore in Bloom is 2-years old and has received £3600 from the Lund Fund to continue the work.  As TTH we could volunteer to “adopt” one of these patches in St Leonards. We could do two, one with native flowers (mostly flowering in June), and one with “pictorial meadows” that flower all the way from April to November. Both are all very good at supporting pollinators (although some invertebrates need native plants to feed on). Julia can advise.  Process:   * Identify the sites * Plant on the first year * Coordinate going forward – so local volunteers look after the plots   Plots identified can be put on the Common Treasury map – Sarah, Julia and Sherry to liaise with Susanne Currid (Hastings Hive) on making this happen |
| De La Warr event (Feb 2021) | « Care and Citizenship » event – we are participating as community partners. This is now running from January 2021 to the end of April.   * Seed-swapping workshop, ideally at the DLW Pavilion * Mapping of green spaces in Bexhill, with training on permaculture design   The budget is £1,050.  Sarah suggesting to also apply for funding from:   * the Foreshore trust (up to £6,000), by 3rd December to do something similar in Hastings. |
| NEXT STEPS | Everyone to send ideas about possible verges / plots by tomorrow evening.  Meeting tomorrow (Tuesday, 24 Nov) at 8pm between Sarah, Julia, Kate and Andrea to map the project and allocate different segments to the two bids |
| Local links and developments |  |
| HBC climate-change strategy | Strategy in progress. HBC contact is Chantal Lass |
| Silchester Mews building | Julia to look into the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof, once HVA takes over. Sarah talking to Steve Manwaring about use. |
| ESCC consultation on plans for | local cycling and walking initiatives |
| Hastings Community Network | Julia, Kate and Sherry took part in the Hastings Community Network meeting on Friday, 20 November. Theme – climate change. There was a presentation of two funds for rail-related projects (SE Community Rail partnership), into which we could also explore for funding (contact: Kevin Boorman) |
| (10 mins) | PROJECTS |  |
| Community Garden | Next session: 6th December, then fortnightly sessions on Sunday 12-15h |
| COMMS | Website  Newsletter |
| FINANCE |  |
| (20 mins) | **AOB** | Sarah’s suggestion – we should look at aligning TTH, Common Treasury and Emerging Future in a more clearly understandable package |
|  | **Upcoming Events** | Post Vaccination Party (Ken to host!) |
|  | **NEXT MEETINGS** | TBC |
| 8.30 pm | ENDS |