Transition Town Hastings – Core Group Meeting

MINUTES – Monday 21st December 2020 – ZOOM

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| TIME  | ITEM  | NOTES |
| 7 pm(10 mins)   | WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS | Hannah, Anna, Sherry, Sarah Macbeth, Julia, Nicole, Ursula, Kate, Andrea, Chris, Sarah Gomez Harris Polly Moseley and Richard Scott – Northern Flowerhouse |
| APOLOGIES | Ken |
| **PREVIOUS MINUTES** | n.a.  |
| (1h 20 mins)  | **EVENTS** |  |
| Garden Town | Update on the Hastings Garden Town EOI (Julia): * Bid submitted as part of the Hastings Town Deal (funds in 2022)
* Town centre transformed / social enterprise to train gardeners
* Visit of Polly and Richard (6-10 December) – looking at what we could do next year – planting showcase pilot wildflower meadows

Polly:* Conversation with Fergus Garrett (Great Dixter) has been ongoing for a couple of years
* Involvement of local artists is easy and draws the public in more easily
* Involvement of local community is key during the sowing
* GREEN JOBS: there is a potential here for the creation of sustainable jobs
* FUNDING:

Richard:* They aim to have quick turnarounds
* Focus on minimising cost and using existing resources
	+ eg use salvaged demolition materials – ties into Circular Economy
	+ Do we have an inventory of materials available locally ? That would be a great start
* Great to also connect with local farmers
* Example of decommissioned bowling fields (White Rock, Alexandra Park) that would be ideal for conversion into wildflower meadows
* Maintenance cost: does having wildflower meadows save the council money?
* COSTING: around £500 for the small plots. Around £1,000 per hectare for seed
* Small areas are more vulnerable – suggestion to go for larger areas, the marginal cost is minimal

Nicole:* Suggestion to have one “demo” / “surprise” sites in each area, to get council and public enthusiastic about them

Sarah Gomez: Heart of Hastings Community Safety project* Home Office-funded project to consult on safety with St Leonards residents
* Door-knocking : great interest from furloughed people to be involved in any community project – if only to keep their sanity – gardens highlighted

Agreement to continue planning at the next meeting and in the meantime: * to continue the conversation with Polly and Richard about 3-4 possible showcase locations around town
* to talk to Maya Evans and Leah Levane (HBC councillors) and Chantal Lass (HBC officer leading on climate-change strategy) to get HBC site permission asap
* talk to Fergus about potential funding to set up 2021 showcase sites

 Suggested showcase site 1:Chris P confirmed there’s enough money in TTH account to start on a small wildflower site immediately. Group agreed to go ahead with the “Wiggly Path’ between London Road and Warrior Square station as soon as possible |
| Culture Shift “Everyday Creativity & Wellbeing” | New call for submissions to explore the impact of creative activities during lockdown on people’s health and wellbeing. It aims to engage the local arts sector who have been adversely hit by COVID. Specific target groups. Deadline 11 January. |
| Space to Connect application (£10k COOP) | Sarah submitted a bid last week as ESC, including elements of the green directory, web site work, some rent |
| Silchester Mews | Potential to use the facilities, but no long-term visibility |
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|  | PROJECTS |  |
| Community Garden | On hold for now |
| COMMS   |  |
| FINANCE |  |
|  | **AOB**  | All other agenda items to be discussed in January |
|  | **Upcoming Events** | Chris’ Christmas Sanity Check-in Sunday, 27 December 7pm Post Vaccination Party (Ken to host!) TBC  |
|  | **NEXT MEETINGS**  | * Monday, 11 January 7pm
* Monday, 8 February 7pm
* Monday, 8 March 7pm
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| 8.30 pm | ENDS |