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MINUTES

Wednesday, 21 July 2021 / 7.30pm

**7.30 pm WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

ATTENDEES: Sherry, Sarah, Hannah, Ken, Alex, Virginia Viela, Anna Sabin, Julia, Linda Jeal, Chris P.,

APOLOGIES - Kathy Bor, Graham Hodgson , Gonzalo Alvarez, Kate Meakin joining late

**7.40-8.30 pm (50 mins) COMMUNITY CATCH-UP**

**TREE PLANTING – Anna S**

HBC confirmed they are intending to spend £10,000 for 71 fruit trees of various kinds, to be planted in different sites around town. This is from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund

* Anna S has submitted a bid/application in the name of TTH
* Trees need to be already relatively mature (12cm girth), so that they are more visible, and less vandalised.; This may net be very easy
* Next task is to organise the volunteers and make a plan for planting and watering
* Timing: depending on weather, this could be delayed to spring 2023 if need be
* We may need to increase our insurance cover for a project of this size
  + TTH will be the umbrella organisation for the volunteers
  + However, the purchase of the trees will be handled directly by HBC, without TTH involvement

**WILD ABOUT HASTINGS – Anna S**

* Andrew Phillips is continuing biodiversity audits

**GARDEN TOWN – Julia**

* Fergus Gareth is the lead in the discussions with the Council
* The budget for Garden Town has not been reduced (out of reduced funding - ~£24k down from the original bid for ~£28k)
* HBC have hired an external consultant for the project
* Swan Terrace Gardens and problems with moths – the existing rose and rosaciae plants will need removing and replacing
* Comment from Sherry- more community involvement in the project would be welcome, as currently the involvement is mostly from existing organisations

**BALE HOUSE – Sherry**

* The new visitor centre at the country park has now opened – and is recommended for the views and the café
* It is a community buildings and could be used for meetings and activities

**WIGGLY PATH**

* Flowers are starting to bloom

**NOTICE BOARD**

* Ken to start the construction

**COMMUNITY GARDEN**

* A couple of weeks ago some Network Rail contractors trimmed brutally some of the established plants along the railings
* Suggestion to get some compensation from NR to get some replacement plants and pay for some of the volunteer time used for the tidying up
* NR have a unit dedicated to the improvement of station grounds –Chris and Sarah to follow up with them to advertise what we have been doing

**NCS Initiative – Linda Jeal**

* NCS is a national network of groups, offering training to young people for week-long projects
  + Could TTH participate?
  + The idea is to give young volunteers the task to engage the youth group in renewing the packaging used by fast food outlets and similar - to produce a list of good practice from various outlets – to highlight and record
  + Report and Data collected to be posted on a range of websites, etc
  + A meeting with Gonzalo on this should be organised
* Linda happy to coordinate involvement (lindajeal@hotmail.com)

**JUMBLE TRAIL – Sherry & Sarah**

* Suggestion to do it around the St Leonards festival (Saturday 14th August) – as TTH traditionally had a stall
* Separate meeting to be organised next week (Sarah, Sherry, Hannah)
* On the day – Chris and Andrea available to help

**COMMUNITY COMPOSTING**

* The bins have been installed and “blessed”
* Official launch is this Saturday 3-5pm at St Johns Church Garden, Brittany Road.
* Brochure attached

**LIVING STREETS HASTINGS – Linda Jeal**

* Linda keen to do a street audit in September (on the West Hill ?)
  + Can we review the criteria for the data we gather on local streets. For example, we could include wild flowers.
  + Linda will arrange a meeting to have the conversation about criteria. She is hoping several people will do small audits in their areas to use as examples.
  + TTH could be involved in promotion.
* Julia is on the committee monitoring quality of streets and requirements from local community, and suggests a local audit would be very useful to flag up issues with HBC and ESCC
  + This would drive future policy
  + Timing therefore very good

**GREEN DRINKS (on the beach) – Sherry**

* Next suggested date: Wed 18th August, in West St Leonards by the old Bathing Site beach huts

**URBAN DENSITY – Ken**

* Ken to lead a discussion on development of towns:
  + Build in towns to make them more dense ?
  + Build in the countryside ?
* We should have a TTH view / policy on the issue

**ECO HUB / GREEN DIRECTORY – Sherry**

* COOP funding on the development of the Eco Hub
* Eagle House – chat tomorrow to explore the possibility of using the bottom space there
  + The plus is that we wouldn’t have to manage the whole building
  + The space is immediately available

**8.30-9.00pm TTH BUSINESS**

**GROUP STATUS: GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABILITY – Sherry**

* A dedicated session is needed to discuss the future of the group, as there is a growing amount of projects, lots of dedicated groups focussing on specific issues, and a growing amount of coordination and organisation that can take a lot of time and energy from TTH:
  + how much do we want to take on?
  + How much is our involvement needed?
  + Is there any duplication ?
* Face-to-face would probably be more productive
* The same discussion is going on at all levels – including at SECA

**FINANCE – Sherry**

* Mid-year update from Chris
  + We need a bit more detail on the planning of upcoming expenditure
* We need to realign what we said we would do in the various bids, to what we are actually doing
  + Especially the £2.5k received from the Community Fund
  + The Local Connections fund was intended to be spent by March
* Financial management / sustainability

We need a separate meeting on this

**COMMUNICATIONS**

* Next newsletter to come in August

**NEXT MEETING**

* Monday 16th – 19.30 to cover only TTH business