**TTH 2021 AGM – 20 NOVEMBER 2021**

**MINUTES**

“We pretend that a life within walking distance and quiet reflection has all but disappeared. It is a figment of nostalgia, at the extreme term of contempt. But the future is all about reclaiming the ordinary, creating a life within walking distance and quiet reflection. And not making a big production of it. [Peter Block]

**ATTENDEES**: Sherry Clark, Chris Petts, John, Kate Meakin, Anna Locke, Mary Dawson, Julia Edwards, Ursula McLaughlin, Thalia Griffiths, Josh Brem-Wilson, Anna Sabin, Dario

**INTRODUCTION**

**CHAIR’S REPORT – Review of 2021 projects**

* COMPOST COMMUNITY (Ursula and Josh)
  + Kick-off in March 2021
  + First site established by St John’s the Evangelist
    - Contribution of TTH funds, including from Transition Network’s Bounce Forward funding
  + Two more sites upcoming (Station Garden and the Yard)
* COMMUNITY GARDEN (Chris)
  + 6th anniversary coming up this December
  + Lots of volunteers have been helping over the year, but it’s difficult to retain a regular group
  + After a quiet 2021, the plan is to relaunch the volunteers sessions next year
  + Thanks to Jill, Clive, Mike and Mick for their regular contribution
* WILDFLOWER PATH (Chris)
  + The Safer Streets group cut all the existing bushes to the ground
  + Sherry submitted a bid to get a £5,000 grant from HBC to finance the planting of the Path
    - This was intended to be centred around street safety – by making the Wiggly Path a more attractive place where the sense of involvement and ownership would strengthen
  + Over a few weekends a group of volunteers cleared the ground from weeds, and followed by a seed sowing event
  + The feedback from the community was very positive
* GARDEN TOWN (Sherry)
  + In 2020 there was a request for bids for a town Recovery Fund
  + One of the elements of the bid was submitted in January 2021 around the concept of Hastings Garden Town
    - Involving Richard Scott (from the Eden Project, Fergus Gareth (from Great Dixter)
* HASTINGS TREE PLANTING (Anna S.)
  + The bid to the URBAN TREE CHALLENG FUND was successful, the aim is now to plant 71 trees by 2023
    - Mature trees will be planted – they will require lots of watering over the first three years (around 20 litres per week)
  + There is a group of volunteers between Hastings
    - The aim is to involve local residents, schools
  + There is a meeting planned for the community to vote on a few specific options
  + Potential project for 2022: Optivo would like to have trees planted across all their sites, and there is the potential to submit a large bid for hundreds of trees
* BEE GARDEN (Anna S.)
  + This is not a TTH project, but related – there is funding to plant two trees in Priory Meadow, and to host some bee hives
    - Volunteers will be invited to dig up the ground – at the latest before March 2022
* WILD ABOUT HASTINGS / ECO VERGES
  + A group came together in 2021 up to identify sites across the town that can be rewilded, to create areas that are suitable for development of biodiversity, and are visually attractive
  + A full report (put together by Andy Philips) was submitted to the council, including all the surveyed sites
* THE GREEN ROOM
  + Funding was obtained in 2021 to set up a Climate Hub
  + Regular meetings are taking place on Thursday in the Common Room (including Energy Advice)
  + Event on Thursday 2nd of December 17-19 to set up a Resources section, showcasing what all the groups involved in sustainability in the area are doing
* THE GREEN DIRECTORY
  + Includes businesses and activities around sustainability in the area
  + Compiled 2 years ago, it’s on the TTH website – it now needs updating and
* POTLUCK SUPPERS and other events in the Common Room
  + The first Potluck Summer has taken place (28th October)
  + Next one coming up (25th November)
  + Xmas Meal 9th December
  + Green Drinks are now taking place in the Common Room
  + Chutney Making event on 11th November
* CITIZENS are DESINGERS
  + Care and Citizenship project at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill – was moved online
  + Anna L. and Sarah Macbeth put together their Sustainable Design and Permaculture stills, developing a framework for identifying sites suitable for “greening” projects across town
    - It was reviewed in the Permaculture Magazine in July 2021 and publicized by Transition Network
* THE COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD at Warrior Square Station
  + Funded by Transition Network’s Bounce Forward fund
  + Projected and executed by Ken Davis

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

* 2021 Financial Summary presented by Chris (see attachment)

**NOMINATION OF GROUP MEMBERS**

Thanks to the Core Group members and volunteers

Sherry and Chris are stepping down after a long contribution

Nominations for the post:

* Chair – no nominations
* Treasurer – Andrea

Voting:

* Chair – vacant
* Treasurer – Andrea

**WORKING GROUPS FOR 2022**

Suggested Groups:

*Climate-resilience activities*

* Community garden & wildflower path (e.g. oversight, planning, tending, etc)
* Garden Town
* Compost Community
* Tree-planting
* Project overview and coordination

*The Green Room at The Common Room*

* Information & advice - coordination and upkeep
* Activities - organisation and coordination

*TTH Meetings & membership*

* keeping contact details up-to-date
* monthly meetings

*Green Directory*

* Review, update, upkeep

*Social activities*

* e.g. Green Drinks, potluck suppers, Big Lunch, etc

*Communications*

* Promotion (newsletters, supporting other groups with comms
* Graphic design (posters, flyers, logos, etc)
* Website management and upkeep

*Fundraising & project management*

Suggestion from Mary to include “Community Engagement” as a specific task

* Community Engagement (with schools, and local demographics that are not naturally involved in groups such as TT)
* This is already partly happening around the Common Room, but could do with some more focussed attention

**VOLUNTEERS FOR EACH OF THE GROUPS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLIMATE RESILIENCE & GARDENING** | **MEMBERSHIP & MEETINGS** | **FUNDRAISING & PROJECT MANAGEMENT** |
| Food Growers Network  Anna Locke  Sarah Macbeth  Julia Edwards  Mary Dawson  Victoria  Chris Petts  John Sleeman | Ursula | Anna Lock  Kate Meakin |
| **GREEN ROOM / CLIMATE HUB** | **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** | **COMMS / DESIGN** |
| Kate Meakin | Mary Dawson  Julia Edwards | Hannah Robbins  Thalia Griffiths  Ursula |
| **GREEN DIRECTORY** | **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **HASTINGS FOOD GOVERNANCE** |
| Ursula  John Sleeman | GREEN DRINKS: Anna Locke & Scott | Josh  (Dario) |

**SUMMARY** – **IMPACT AND INFLUENCE 2021**

**Activities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| All year | TTH monthly meetings |
| All year | Warrior Square station garden |
| Ongoing | Garden Town partner |
| Spring 2021 | Eco-verges develops into Wild About Hastings |
| 23 February | “Sustainable Hastings” online event / Hastings Emerging Future |
| 14 April | Anna Locke’s book launch |
| 9th & 16th May | Clearing the winding path at Warrior Square station |
| 25 May | Winding Wildflower Path community seed-sowing with Richard Scott |
| 6 June | The 2021 Big Lunch West/ St Leonards Gardens |
| 19 June | South East Climate Alliance (SECA) Step Change event (online) |
| 6-8 July | visit to Liverpool wildflower projects |
| 24 July | Hastings Compost Community launch / St John’s Church |
| 18 August | Green Drinks / West St Leonards |
| 15 September | Green Drinks / West St Leonards |
| Sept 2021 | The Green Room opens at the Common Room |
| Sept – ongoing | The Green Room every Thursday/ The Common Room |
| 28 October | first “Food for Thought” potluck supper 1 / The Common Room |
| 1 – 15 November | Permaculture “Plan Your Project’ course / Anna Locke |
| 11 November | Chutney-making & Green Drinks / The Common Room |
| 25 November | “Food for Thought” potluck supper 2 / The Common Room |
| 2-5 December | Christmas in the Common Room |
| 9 December | Christmas potluck supper / The Common Room |

**Partnership, collaboration and/or supporting**

* Churchwood Community Orchard
* Divest East Sussex
* Energise Sussex Coast
* Hastings Commons
* Hastings Compost Community
* Hastings Emerging Futures project
* Hastings Garden Town
* Hastings Green Party
* Hastings Town Deal programme
* Safer St Leonards
* South East Climate Alliance (SECA)
* Tidy Up St Leonards
* Transition Network UK
* United Nations Association (UNA) Bexhill and Hastings
* Wild About Hastings
* Extinction Rebellion (XR) Hastings