**TTH MEETING – 26 Jun 2023**

**WHITE ROCK HOTEL**

Attendees: Amanda Jobson, Andrea Corso, Anna Locke, Anna Sabin, Catherine Pinhorn, Chris Richards, Damian Tessier, Hannah Robbins, Jo [xxx], Kate Meakin, Philippa Beagley, Sarah Macbeth, Steve Manwaring

Apologies: Ken, Mary, Sherry

**INTRO & AGENDA ITEMS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

* King’s Road Market – next Saturday, volunteers needed to set up and man the stall
* St Leonards Festival – next weekend

NEXT MEETING:

* Monday 24 July, 19h White Rock Hotel [room has already been booked]

**TTH ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**HVA (Steve)**

* Supporting local voluntary organisations in getting set up, get funding and structure themselves adequately
* TTH started as an Unincorporated Organisation with a very simple constitution (like most voluntary organisations). As the complexity of its activities grows and the level of finances and risk increases, it may require a different legal structure – and incorporation. Elements to consider is whether the organisation needs to take on shares of property, vehicles, and possibly employees.
* TTH has grown as an umbrella organisation for independent projects. This throws up a few issues:
  + Is the liability and responsibility related to the activities matching our current structure
  + Financial accountability – in relation to grants received, and some times on behalf of other groups
    - We need to make sure we comply with money laundering requirements
* CIC: when the organisation is focussing on commercial activities and the generation of revenue
* Charitable Incorporated Organisation: more reliant on grants
  + In the past this required setting up a Limited Company, while now a CIO gives some advantages of limited liability and some advantages of being a charity, with a simpler legal structure, a standard model constitution, then registered with the Charity Commission
  + TTH being active in the arena of environment and sustainability would likely fall within the arena of CIO
* The main thing to do now is to evaluate all the above, and consider whether anything needs to change or not

**TN Feedback (Anna L.)**

There are only two incorporated TN groups in the UK at the moment (in Liverpool and London). Considering:

* We turn over <50k
* Don’t own any assets
* We don’t aim to trade
* We don’t employ anyone
* Most of our projects are ring-fenced from a point of view of finance

Therefore the recommendation of TN is that it’s not necessary to set up a more formal structure

**Feedback from Philippa**

* Her experience with a CIO related to dancing is that it is very simple to run

Interested in attending a separate meeting on organisational structure:

* Amanda J., Chris R, Philippa B., Hannah, Sherry, Andrea
* Possible dates:
  + 6th July from 7pm
  + 10th (best for Philippa)
  + 11th
  + [14th]] (not so good for Andrea and Philippa)

**GROUND WORK – SAVE OUR WILD ISLES FUND, update from Philippa**

1m pot set up by Aviva to match 2:1 any funds raised during the first 6 weeks through crowdfunding (up to £5,000) by charities and local organisations, inspired by WWF and RSPB. We are in Area 1 – Kent to Cornwall.

* The Community and Environment fund, also by Aviva, matches 1:1 match funding beyond the first 6 weeks

Link: [Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund - Groundwork](https://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/save-our-wild-isles-community-fund/)

Projects need to be around

* Linking people to nature
* Enhancing nature

Recommendation is to get some 20 pledges before starting the crowdfunding

**HASTINGS’ MENs’ NETWORK – GREEN MAN (Chris R.)**

* Mens’ circle coming up this Thursday at Glen Veness’ garden
* Also Biodigester being built at the Pocket Park, but looking for a permanent home – open to suggestions
  + Eg the Brewing Brothers site could be on option
* Chris also looking at the apple picking and then juicing – to make it bigger than in the past
* Also looking at having a visioning date in a commercial orchard that is currently abandoned, and could be brought back into operation

**TOWN GROWN**

* Edible Open Gardens – 1-2 July
  + Booklet and posters ready, launch “party” took place last weekend
* Update from Damian
  + He has 6 acres of land outside Westfield and wishes to amongst others, rewild some grassland area, and also set up some kind of community based garden (using only hand tools, setting it up as a “circular economy” project). He is also looking at how having smaller plots looked after by larger numbers of people become a lot more productive
    - He needs some volunteers to come in and help
    - Unfortunately there is very limited bus connection, and no bike lanes
    - He is also looking at how to get a building permit for the site
  + He is also working with Bromgrove Growers, a group of neighbours producing food together with the aim of giving surplus to food banks, and looking to grow and establish a more formal structure
    - They could be interested in connecting with Town Grown

**AOB**

* ANNA S. – Having helped set up the Hollington community garden, Anna aims to set up 3 traffic-free shopping areas in town as her next project
* AMANDA – Friends of Hastings Station are aiming to make the roundabout near the main Hastings station greener
* COMPOST COMMUNITY – Gensing Gardens is a priority site, for which there is a lot of support
* SOCIAL MEDIA – Lexie Mayhew offered to help, Sherry invited her to the meeting