**Transition Town Hastings monthly meeting**

**25 October 2023 / 7pm / White Rock Hotel**

**Participants:**

Alejandro Valdivia, Andy Dinsdale (Strandliners), Damian Tissier, Hannah Robbins,

Patrick Glass, Sherry Clark

**Apologies:**

Andrea Corso, Anna Sabin, Beccy Mccray, Chris Richards, Penny & Paul Foxwell, Sarah Macbeth, Kate Meakin

**COMMUNITY INFO-SHARING**

Group introduced themselves and summarised their areas of interest and plans.

Damian Tissier

* 6 acres of unimproved grassland in Westfield. Exciting plans to develop land using regenerative agriculture practices.
* Career/ background in community consultation - worked in Plymouth
* Ladder of participation / can start to radicalise the community
* NDC - community dinner and community consultation / Marsh Farm/ Glen Jenkins
* Who gets paid and who doesn’t / worked with job centre to support people on benefits
* Rinsing - money never sticks in community

Hannah - - talked about Victoria George (Progress Network, St Leonards)

* VG responsible for garden space behind Dandelion in St Leonards
* Has been in touch with Hannah
* Hannah to link Damian with VG
* VG also interested in helping at WS station community garden

*Town Grown*

* Exploring funding for Edible Open Gardens 2024

*Compost Community*

* work on new sites still stalled because of council lack of capacity

*Strandliners*  (Andy Dinsdale)

* wide range of plastic/marine waste-reduction activities across Hastings & Rother
* see website for info and join (free) to receive quarterly magazine
* citizen science focus / Community Action Training in progress
* aim to build capacity beyond the beach-cleans
* reminder of importance of local rivers as well as seas/ working on Rivers Rother and Tillingham, also Camber Sands, Pett Level
* Love Our Rother festival - in Rye, possibly Bexhill. Aim to bring projects together - repair shop, plastic-free towns, litter-free town centre
* Young Strandliners group now up and running
* Rother District Council gives 2 employee-volunteering days – exploring using those days to support local actions to get council staff involved
* capacity always a challenge - lots going on! Always welcome new people

*Hastings Garden Town*

* Towns Fund Station-to-seafront/ Havelock Road transformation
* East Sussex County Council (ESCC) procurement process finally completed
* Second phase (community/ stakeholder consultation) of programme scheduled to commence immediately, with a very short timeline, led by consultants, Arup
* Hopefully, Arup’s concept designs (April 2022) will be public!
* Though TTH initiated GT idea and 3 TTH members are part of Garden Town team, it is becoming less clear what part TTH should and will be able to play in this particular part of the overall Garden Town vision
* Nicole Collomb, Julia Hilton and Sherry Clark attend monthly project team meetings, Town’s Fund programme lead meetings and feed into overall programme development
* Julia and Sherry - tour of Peabody Trust’s transformation of Thamesmead estate in SE London with Cllr Maya Evans and rep from Southern Housing (25 Oct) . Hosted by Dr Phil Askew, lead landscape architect of project and St Leonards resident

*Learning to Grow* Community Of Practice

* £25k ESCC Public Health grant
* TTH to host a ‘community of practice’ to feed into Garden Town vision
* Funding duration – January to June 2024.
* Grant to cover coordination of a series of peer-learning activities, including talks, visits and practical learning opportunities; time-credits scheme and £500 to each group involved
* Builds on the events TTH facilitated at Great Dixter (October 2022) and Alexandra Park Greenhouse (May 2023).
* Kick-off event - mass bulb-planting of the winding wildflower path, followed by discussion and lunch on Saturday, 18 November, 10am-1pm at Clifton Centre.

Warrior Square Station Community Garden

* Regular gardening sessions at WS Station Garden will move to once-a-week from the end of October. Sundays 2-4pm
* Plan to clear 2 raised beds nearest tunnel and plant with green manure to renourish soil for spring planting

Winding Wildflower Path

* Spring/summer bulb-planting on Saturday, 18 November/ 10-11.30am. First “Learning to Grow” community of practice event.

Nightingale Passage

* meadow area needs weeding, bramble-clearing and resowing

*We Dig Wednesdays*

* Part of *Gardening Our Streets* - the first practical, community-supported element of the Hastings Garden Town programme. Aims to increase greenery, biodiversity and nature in urban public spaces, created and cared for by local people
* Meets at 12 Claremont in Trinity Triangle every Wed at 1.30-3.30pm (ends December 2023)
* Participants recognised for their contributions via We Dig Hastings time-credit system. Credits can now be redeemed at Stooge Coffee, The Grumpy Cook or the Isabel Blackman Centre.

Patrick Glass

* anthropologist - former volunteer at the station garden
* interested in staying involved with TTH
* Marina Allotments

**TTH CORE BUSINESS**

Organisational Structure

* Discussion postponed til next month as a result of small core group
* Sherry meeting with Steve Manwaring (HVA) on Thursday, 26 October to get advice and details about converting to CIC. Invite open to all to attend zoom call.

Monthly Newsletter

* TTH needs to pay for this – coordinator currently unpaid
* next edition planned for distribution early November; Hannah to send prompt for contributions
* Hannah to confirm with Sarah who’s putting it together this month

Website

* Thanks to Alejandro for volunteering to help with regular website maintenance
* He’s had a look and will meet Sarah M to get access details and begin updating
* Will need help with content from group
* Should include date of next meeting and links to TN new funding

Funding

Transition Network

* New (final) stream of funding (£270,000) now open for applications to Transition Network
* Deadline 7 January 2024
* Workshops 18 November and 2 December for groups interested in submitting applications for micro (£100-500), full (£500-5000) and partnership (£5k-10k) grants.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Tuesday, 26 October

* EFT Fundraising talk with Fergus Garrett (Great Dixter)

Wednesday, 27 October

* Hastings Urban Bikes AGM

Friday, 17 November

* HVA AGM & volunteer awards / 10-3pm

Saturday, 18 November

* UN Ocean Symposium & Marine Exhibition , Bexhill / 10-4.30pm
* Bulb-planting – wildflower path / 10-11.30am

December TBC

* TTH Christmas party? No funds but Sherry to check if possible to use 12 Claremont for a potluck party. Hannah to send a doodle poll with dates. Suggestions include Friday or Saturday, 1/2 December or Friday or Saturday 15/16 December

**NEXT MEETING**

* **Monday, 27 November / 7pm / White Rock Hotel**

[ends]

Sherry Clark / 27 October 2023