**TTH MEETING – 27 Nov 2023**

**WHITE ROCK HOTEL**

Attendees: Alejandro Valdivia, Andy Pope, Andrea Corso, Anna Sabin, ), Charmian Kenner (Hastings Area Bus Users’ Group, XRHSL), Chris Richards, Hannah Robbins, Ian Sier (Sus Trans, Community Land Trust), Penny Foxwell, Sherry Clarke, William Arkroyd (Friends of Coombe Valley and West St Leonards’ Forum

Apologies: Sarah M, Ursula M

Chair: Chris R.

**ROUND OF INTRO**

Charmian Kenner: many groups active in Hastings doing quite focussed work, but may benefit from working together with a broader perspective Friends of Hastings Country Parks, Friends of Coombe Valley, Hollington Orchard, New Doomsday Project

Alejandro: he reviewed the website, technically it’s up to date, just needs the content updating – especially the Events page which is the highest ranking in searches. The old projects can also be archived. He will restore the backup

Next he will look at the Green Directory – to clear out the inactive entries, tidy up the active ones, and eventually possibly put them on an a map

* Some other TT groups have set up their directories through the “Bioregional One Planet Living”, but Chris R recommends against using their structure

**PROJECT UPDATE**

**LEARNING TO GROW – Sherry**

Follow-on of the Garden Town activities, and the broad meetings held in Great Dixter and Alexandra Park earlier this year. Now Public Health is funding some workshops aiming to support local groups involved in gardening, growing, wildlife, biodiversity… to come together once a month for six months, to exchange knowledge and support each other. Facilitators are being paid, and attendees are receiving time credits. The first meeting took place last week. The first formal meeting will be on the 6th of January at the Education Futures Trust, The aim at the end of 6 months is also to put together a plan around access to green spaces that could be implemented at town level, supported by a grant from ESCC.

**GARDEN TOWN – Sherry**

Jan 27th there will be a public open day at Priory Meadow, which will start a public consultation based around a 6-week online survey

**STATION GATEWAY – Sherry**

Parallel project run separately – to transform the area between Havelock Street and Esk. So far little coordination between the two projects

**GREENING OF THE STATION – Sherry**

A third project from the Station management company, to make the front of the station greener

**WARRIOR SQUARE BULB PLANTING – Sherry**

This Wednesday 1.30 – 3.30 bulbs will be planted on the Winding Path by the WSQ Station

**HASTINGS GREENWAY NETWORK – Ian**

The network of cycling routes coming together at the Station is not going to happen, as the Borough Council is not allowing the one through Alexandra Park to be build (by the County Council), so the other two will also be pulled

The Ore Valley Greenway project might go ahead over the next couple of years

**EDIBLE OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND – Hannah**

This will go ahead again next year, late-summer 2024. One issue to address will be transport to the location outside town.

In early 2024 there will be some 10 apple trees available to be given away for free to anyone who wants them (4 are already allocated)

**DISCOVERY CENTRE COMMUNITY GARDEN – William**

Friends of Coombe Valleyis working to develop a community garden in the land opposite the tip (part of the Countryside Park, managed by Coombe Valley CIC). It had a café but it has now been closed since the pandemic. They started by planting wildflowers

**RAIL PARTNERSHIP – Andy**

Working various projects around the stations:

* Developing walking routes developments between stations or circular ones
  + Eventually also mapped for increased visibility
  + The “Slow ways” app has started the mapping, but they are now always checked
* Greening up the space outside the station (the island with the fishing boat), and the area in front of the college
* Working on Transport Day, on Earth Day (22 April 2024) – there will be activities around Sustainable Transport, incl cycling and walking, around the Integrated Transport Forum
  + One of the aims is to involve and educate the college students around how they travel
* Bike recycling project: around 100 bikes have been abandoned around the station over the past year, and they are trying to give them to local groups, to prisons, to Brighton SusTrans

**GROUP ORGANISATION**

Still debating whether to:

* Stay as an incorporated community group
* CIO
* CIC

We need to prepare for the next meeting, publicise it on the agenda, and get members to vote on it. Identify who the members are it a first step

**NEXT MEETINGS**

* Thursday 14th December (social event)
* Monday 22nd Jan
* Monday 19th Feb

Notes by Andrea C

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