**TTH 2023 AGM**

**22 July 2024**

**WHITE ROCK HOTEL**

Attendees (20) : Andrea Corso, Anna Locke, Anna Sabin, Damian Tissier, Emily Medd, Evelyn Murray, Farid Tejani, Jo Walker, Kate Meakin, Ken Davis, Nicole Collomb, Peg Brusseau, Penny Foxwell, Peter Cox, Rhod Jones, Sarah Macbeth, Sherry Clark, Simon Stafford, Ursula McLaughlin, William Ackroyd

Apologies: Chris Richards, Ian Sier, Polly Gifford, Terry Hume, Nick Hanna, Nick Sangster, Hannah Robbins, Virginia Vileda, Will Sandy

Chair: Kate Meakin & Sherry Clark

**INTRO**

**ICEBREAKER**

Pick a neighbour and find out three things that you have in common

**PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS**

**COMMUNITY GARDEN and WILDFLOWER PATH– Kate Meakin**

Brief history of both garden and the two more recent wildflower path projects, done as a few one-off focussed sessions and then ongoing watering and maintenance

Sow Wild / Earth Day 2023

**GARDENING OUR STREETS – Sherry Clark**

Started two years ago, with funds from the Heritage Action Zone, to build and fill sixteen planters as a pop-up ‘parklet’. The planters have now been in place in Robertson Street and Trinity Triangle area and tended by the Gardening Our Streets (GoSt) team since May 2022.

GoSt was set up to pilot a way to maintain the planters (weeding, watering and tidying) through as a time-credit scheme. Participants earn one time-credit for every hour contributed, which can be redeemed for a cuppa and a cake at Stooge Coffee in the Trinity Triangle. The initial project was funded by Making It Happen (2022) and the project received £6k extension funding from the Heritage Action Zone in the spring of 2023, along with the use of 12 Claremont as a base.

Every time the GSt team work in the area, they receive positive comments from the public saying how much they appreciate what’s being done.

The 2023 time-credit scheme also supported Tidy Up St Leonards with the equivalent of 100 time-credits to use with their volunteers.

Time-credits redeemed at Stooge Coffee = 130 (Gardening Our Streets) + 16 (Tidy Up St Leonards)

HOURS CONTRIBUTED (01 April – 30 September 2023)

Gardening Our Streets - 145 hours

145 @£15/hr = £2,175 (notional cash value of contributions)

**TOWN GROWN – Anna Locke**

Brief reminder of how the Transition Towns movement started back in 2005

[SEE SLIDE DECK]

TG is a network of local individuals and groups interested in growing more food locally, in private or public spaces. It is an extension of the Ore in Bloom projects. The first year was very focussed on workshops and training, seed swaps. The second year introduced the Edible Open Gardens events, and the Our Town is an Orchard campaign. 18 trees were given away.

This year the Hastings Hop Club was started, with 12 hop hubs started by 12 people, and Brewing Brothers are planning to making a Hastings Ale with the locally grown hops

**GREEN MAN, GREEN SHOOTS, GREEN ECONOMY**

[SEE VIDEO]

**GARDEN TOWN – Nicole Collomb**

Started with a post-pandemic, central government recovery fund for 100 of the UK’s most disadvantaged towns (Town’s Fund), focussed mostly on making the town economically more successful. A group of local TTH members and activists came together and produced a plan to turn the town into an example garden town where economic recovery would be coupled with flood resilience, increased biodiversity and improved attractiveness for the public realm. The plan was one of 155 ideas submitted to the Town Deal board for consideration.

Hastings Garden Town includes 4 component parts:

1. Co-design of a Garden Town Plan – with a web of connected green spaces / corridors
2. Creation of an alliance of local projects and practitioners to share skills
3. Development of horticultural skills training and support that provides opportunities for employment and meaningful activity
4. Flagship ‘Station to Seafront’ project - the route from Hastings station, down Havelock Road to the seafront, inspired by Sheffield’s Grey to Green scheme

Hastings Council liked this and joined it with an East Sussex County Council for the improvement of roads and travel in the town, allocating £3m, and now very focussed on Hastings town centre (but not in the rest of the town), eventually with a reallocated £10m budget.

In 2022, international consultants Arup designed a plan, which was finally put out for public consultation in early 2024, with very strong response from local individuals and groups. There was very strong opposition to limiting traffic , including changing bus routes and taxi rank location. The final plan should be published next week (July 2024), after the pre-election period (nothing currently known about the final shape it will take). The work needs to be completed by 2026.

**GREEN ROOM (ended March 2023) – Kate Meakin**

Established within the Common Room on Cambridge Road. Every Thursday, the Green Room was hosted by TTH and Energise Sussex Coast as a small-scale pilot Climate Action Hub, with weekly energy advice clinics, practical skills workshops including retrofitting, renewable energy, experimental textiles, permaculture, mushroom growing and chutney-making and monthly potluck suppers. Funded by ESCC through a Making it Happen Grow grant of £15k.

**COMPOST COMMUNITY – Ursula McLaughlin**

[NOTES FROM URSULA]

**LEARNING TO GROW – Sherry Clark**

Initiated as part of the Hastings Garden Town project, TTH hosted a community conversation at Alexandra Park greenhouse (May 2023) where local environmental, growing and gardening enthusiasts and practitioners came together to share common challenges and identify what the group felt was needed to improve their effectiveness. One particular need identified was for the creation of more regular get-togethers for peer-learning and skill-sharing.

Funded for 6 months by East Sussex County Council (Public health/community resilience) in late 2023, LtG aimed to host 6 monthly group gatherings showcasing local projects and including a £500 ‘bonus’ for every project that contributed to 5 or 6 sessions. The first gathering took place in November 2023.

The focus of the gatherings was on how groups can come together to maximise their collective impact.

Hopefully more funding will be received for a continuation of the initiative.

A suggestion was made to make a movie about this to publicise it more broadly

**ADMIN**

**ACCOUNTS**

[SEE SUMMARY]

**ROLES**

* Chair: Farid Tejani nominated and accepts to take on the role for a year
* Treasurer: Andrea Corso confirmed
* Secretary: open (Sherry to continue to support as availability allows)
* Comms: open

**THANK YOUs**

* Sustainable Transport Forum (STF)
* Hastings Area Bus Users Group (HABUG)
* Stu & Danielle at Stooge Coffee
* Fergus Garrett & Great Dixter House & Gardens
* Rhod Jones, Gardening Our Streets and Learning to Grow
* FUNDERS
* Making it Happen (Su Barnicoat & HVA)
  + Jess Steele and Heritage Action Zone
  + ESCC Public Health / Terry Hume (Community Resilience)
  + HBC Safer Streets (John Whittington) for funding the Wildflower Paths
* Hannah Robbins and Sarah Macbeth for comms
* Andrea Corso for continuing as TTH Treasurer, newsletter and invoice paying
* Ursula McLaughlin for graphic design
* Anna Sabin for the contribution to the transport policy
* Nicole Collomb and Julia Hilton for ongoing contributions to the Garden Town project
* Sherry Clark for the very generous and committed contribution to so many of the projects

**2024 PROJECTS**

**LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS**

* Central government money
* £20m over ten years, specific guidance for how it’s to be spent
* Outline plan for first 3 years to be submitted by 1st August
* New Town Board set up; HBC accountable body
* Andrea Corso, Ian Sier and Anna Sabin on ‘Transport and Connectivity’ thematic sub-group
* Sherry Clark and William Ackroyd on ‘High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration’ thematic sub-group

**NEW FORMAT FOR GREEN DRINKS** – details to come

Notes / 2 July 2024 / AC