

The Environmental Group meeting with Great Bealings Parish Council 12th November 2008. 7.30 pm

Present

Mr Eric Barnett
Mrs Tabitha Jones
Mrs Jenny Cavell-Shaw
Mrs Sarah Cartwright

The discussion centred on how to get the village interested in making us all more environmentally friendly. Mrs Tabitha Jones and Mrs Jenny Shaw have been key in researching this having attended various events/talks on Climate Change and having set up an Environmental Group in the village. Introductory topics for discussion:-

Local Food Production & shopping.

1. Table Top sales where villagers could bring their excess apples, raspberries etc.
2. Swap Shop. Items do get swapped/recycled eg. Children's clothes. Needs to be better publicised.
3. SUMA – bulk buying dry food. Both Mrs Tabitha Jones and Mrs Jenny Cavell- Shaw subscribe to this service. Would be good to get other villagers on board. SUMA have a website. Benefits: wholesale so cheaper than Tesco for instance - however larger purchase quantities are required. Bealings Account discussed.
4. “Growing Communities” – A Little Bealings School Project where funding is available for setting up of poly tunnels, for example to grow fruit and vegetables. Little Bealings School is interested in getting involved and would be happy to feed in on the back of the “Green” Group once it got up and running. Once more the school might be able to raise grants.

Energy

1. Buying energy saving light bulbs in bulk was suggested and having a lightbulb library so that villagers could test the lightbulbs and see what is available.
2. Wind and Solar Energy.
3. Having a Carbon Footprint done of the village. Mr Eric Barnett reported that a substantial amount of interest had been shown in Carbon Footprinting. (It was one of the areas raised in the Parish Plan Questionnaire) Great Bealings Parish Council would help to get this off the ground by distributing the surveys/questionnaires – (to be discussed at Parish Council meeting on 18th November) -.
4. Advise on Home Insulation. Suffolk Coastal District Council's Energy Officer - unbiased and able to present to people what is available.

- Mrs Jenny Cavell-Shaw mentioned geo thermal heating for the Village Hall. Whilst the car park is going to be dug up anyway would it not be worth putting in the basics for this to take shape? Cost would obviously limit at present the full procedure.
- Mr Eric Barnett informed all that the windows are going to be replaced to make the Hall more energy efficient.

Transport

1. Cycle Paths and footpaths to be improved to stop traffic. 70% of villagers who filled in the Parish Plan questionnaire commented that more of these/improvements were needed.
2. Suffolk Care Share. It was felt that awareness of this could be improved. Mrs Tabitha Jones has registered with them as being able & willing to give anyone needing transport too and from Woodbridge a lift on the days she goes in.

Transition, Woodbridge From Oil to End of Oil.... This is a nationwide movement that was started to raise awareness of the Environment. It wants to encompass surrounding villages improving knowledge and doing practical things to combat climate change, for instance they have helped dispense with excessive plastic bag use in Woodbridge. Mrs Jenny Cavell-Shaw and Mrs Tabitha Jones met with them. Transition is becoming increasingly pro-active – running events etc. Mrs Jenny Cavell-Shaw will give Mr Eric Barnett a copy of their handbook. Since they are running events it is imperative that we don't clash with them by holding events on the same nights as each other.

Publicity

Mrs Jenny Cavell Shaw said Mr John Midwinter had written a piece for the Benefice Newsletter. This was in cyberspace at present. But perhaps it would not be such a bad idea to have a bit in the Benefice newsletter every month on "Green" issues. The Parish Council's do after all pay £100 a year towards the running of the Benefice costs. Good idea to have a dedicated page on Green issues. In addition the Benefice Newsletter should be used as a means to publicise forthcoming events such as Swap Shop, Table Top Sales, Green Day. Mrs Tabitha Jones said this was great but that we need a "face to face" event to get things up and running:-

An Introductory Evening – End January

It was established that having an Introductory Evening on Environmental Issues to include talk by Mr John Midwinter (yet to be asked!) and 10 minute presentations by villagers influential in climate change would be a positive way forward. Great Bealings Parish Council would be happy to fund the hire of the Village Hall/provide tea and coffee and also to distribute flyers around houses publicising the event. Mrs Tabitha Jones and Mrs Jenny Cavell-Shaw will give Mr Eric Barnett a list of topics for speakers to discuss and also some name of appropriate people who would make useful contributions to give 10 minute presentations. This one introductory lecture in the village would give trailers for introductory topics and also, on a practical level get people who may have time to develop ideas on board. For instance, someone to concentrate on transport. Someone on Energy. Someone on Food. And someone to do basic research to find out about grants that might be available. They could also be made aware of SUMA for instance, Swap Shop event and summon up interest in a Green Day scheduled for the Spring with fun events for children. The end of January would give plenty of time for attendance. Mr Eric Barnett would find out available dates of Village Hall, Mr John Midwinter etc but forecasted for end January. Mailshot and article in Benefice Newsletter giving date and content before then.

Perhaps Little Bealings and Playford would be interested in getting involved too. Mrs Sarah Cartwright would inform Playford and Little Bealings Parish Council and bring to light ideas discussed and the Introductory Evening scheduled for the end of January.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 pm