

ALDBURY SUSTAINABILITY CLUB



This Meeting - Wednesday 7th December 2022 at The Greyhound, 8pm

Next Meeting - Wednesday 15th March 2022 at The Greyhound, 8pm

Attendees:

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Jont Cole | Tim French | Sue Justice | Alex Irwin |
| Fiona Wilson | Nikki Howells | Andrew Irwin | David Wilde |
| Hugh Wilson | Felicity Aris | Edmund Wilson | |

Apologies: Sally Symington, Jo Horder, Paul Barritt, Annie Eggar, Duncan Eggar

General

- The meeting was fun, friendly and full of great ideas and enthusiasm. And it finished bang on time! Please do join us for the next one and bring your ideas.
- Need to set a date for the next two meetings; this will be discussed post-meeting and a confirmed date sent round

Built Environment (no representative; notes + actions items were read by Hugh Wilson)

- Jemima French, who previously led the group, has stepped down due to time commitments and work on other projects within ASC; no new leader has stepped forth
- People have been busy so most action items from the previous quarter have not been delivered. The broad scope of this group's remit was felt to be challenging and it was felt that we should have a much more focused approach, discussing what actionable things people could personally do to their homes
- A '[Local services and resources' hub](#) has been set up on the aldbury village website which includes information gathered by the Built Environment group about sustainable building options, grants, action groups and local tradespeople
- The Dacorum Solar Together campaign has had some takeup; some villagers are in the process of exploring grant options for solar panels in the village
- David Wilde, a member of Sustainable Wigginton and parish councillor of Wigginton Parish Council, attended and shared information about the thermal imaging camera that he has access to through Tring in Transition. He surveyed over 15 residential properties in Wigginton in 2020 and is happy to offer his services to households in Aldbury and Tring Station on a first come, first serve basis that are interested in investigating heat loss in their homes. David voluntarily offers this service (professional costing typically over £300), however recipients often make donations for use of the thermal imaging camera. Thermal imaging is more effective during colder months so David will be surveying houses during January-March
- Outside of ASC's activities, Nick de la Bedoyere and George Harvey have been exploring ground source heat pump options

ALDBURY SUSTAINABILITY CLUB



Action Items

- **Alex** to write an article/provide photos for the Feb/March Outlook of her experience retrofitting her house (either about insulating or putting in double glazing)
- **David** in Jan/Feb to survey Alex + Andrew's house and Hugh + Fiona's house using the thermal imaging camera; they will provide feedback and hopefully encourage more people to take part
- **David** to write an article about heat pumps (what not to do) for the Outlook

Transport (Tim French)

Footpath to Tring Station

- Tim and Lucy have been progressing this project; a huge thank you to them for driving this project forward
- £20,000 has been secured through the Department for Transport to fund a feasibility study of the footpath including evaluating access points, environmental considerations, material costing and maintenance; currently, Tim is trying to get a contract sorted with West Midlands Trains to help administer the fund or potentially looking to put the funding through the Parish Council's accounts, this is unlikely to be reviewed until the next Parish Council meeting in January
- Tim spoke to business owners on Church Farm and the landowner's daughter (standing in for the landowner) to raise awareness of the project and its potential benefits to Church Farm and its businesses; in principal, there is no issue with looking at the feasibility of the project, however eventually Church Farm representatives will need to be involved
- Tim is exploring leads with Sustrans for advice on establishing a foot/cyclepath, i.e. how to secure funding, long term maintenance considerations, etc.
- The National Trust is also a potential funding resource; the footpath could be of interest considering their recent review of wider infrastructure and its impact on the future protection of the Ashridge estate
- Long term maintenance is a concern that needs to be evaluated; the Parish Council and the landowner are not likely to be interested in maintaining it so alternatives need to be considered

Bike racks

- Sally Symington obtained a quote of £2244 for four galvanised cycle racks and four bollards which has been forwarded on to Aldbury Parish Council to review (cycle rack options include galvanized, polyurethane, or galvanised and polyester powder coated); cost per rack is dependent on what they are made of/their finish but total costing is likely to reduce when installing more than one rack
- The location for cycle racks still needs to be confirmed and a maintenance plan developed as well as who will be responsible for delivering this project and managing it in the short-/medium to long-term

EV Infrastructure

- No progression on EV charging infrastructure
- David Wilde shared that EV charging was explored in Wigginton next to their village shop; complications arose due to the fact that the Parish Council did not want to take on responsibility or maintenance and there were electricity cost issues connected to sourcing it through a commercial outlet

Friends of Tring Station

ALDBURY SUSTAINABILITY CLUB



- A planting work party was successfully hosted at Tring Station on Oct 2; volunteers helped tidy the planters at the entrance, cleared several sites and sowed seeds/plants; a big thank you to Moira Freeman Lea and Margaret McHugh for organising equipment and running the working party on the day, and Tess Alps for sourcing plants
- Nikki Howells has volunteered to lead this project moving forwards and is keen to build up the group and its activities; anyone interested in supporting this project, please get in contact with Nikki at nikki.howells@live.co.uk

Action Items

- **Tim** to talk to Jill Timms regarding EV infrastructure options and whether she would be interested in helping with this project
- **Felicity** to send a project update on Friends of Tring Station along with additional resources to Nikki to help clarify project specifications and activities
- Need to confirm with Sally regarding cycle racks

Waste Reduction (Sue Justice)

- This group has been very active over the past few months, meeting up once every month and a number of small projects being set
- A new email has been set up specifically for this group - aldburywastereduction@gmail.com; people can now get in touch with members of the group directly regarding queries about Olio, the Sharing Table, the Baby and Toddler Group, etc.
- Sue Justice wrote an article for the November issue of Outlook about places in the local area where people can recycle soft plastics; useful information from this article has been added to the village website
- Sue and Michelle put up a poster by the village shop to promote repair cafes based in the local area
- A potential small project in the works: sending round a survey to local businesses to review their recycling methods

The Sharing Table

- During the winter months, this project has become very quiet; plans are to start it back up in the spring when people will be growing young plants and can share seed donations
- Jo Stone plans to publicise produce and plants on Facebook more regularly when they appear to keep people in the loop about what's available

Baby and toddler group

- Michelle Singleton has helped expand the Baby and Toddler group by setting up a Whatsapp group for parents looking to donate or buy second hand equipment; parents can get in touch with the waste reduction group at their email

Olio

- A few people from the village have signed up to Olio, but it will prove more effective once more people sign up and start using the app

ALDBURY SUSTAINABILITY CLUB



Action Items

- **Jo** to publicise produce and plants on Facebook when the Sharing Table gets busy again in the spring
- **Felicity** to put up information about repair cafes on village website
- **Waste Reduction group** to look into running the business survey and conducting a repeat campaign to encourage more Olio users

Nature (Jont Cole)

Pond survey

- Ted Bianco's pond survey revealed that around 15 households have a pond on their property; the survey provides valuable insight that can help identify the potential for wildlife corridors and opportunities to support wildlife in these habitats; people can still get in touch with Ted to provide information about their ponds at tedbiancoconsulting@gmail.com

Seedling project

- Ted Bianco was given a former bonfire site in the allotments which would require a lot of work to renovate so is waiting until a better site becomes available; in the meantime, Ted will start seeding anyway
- Ted has now collected lots of pots for the project

Action Items

- **Ted** to produce a map showing the location of the existing ponds in Aldbury and to identify other places that would benefit from a pond