

ALDBURY SUSTAINABILITY CLUB



This Meeting - Thursday 16th June 2022 at The Greyhound, 7:30pm

Next Meeting - Thursday 8th September 2022 at The Greyhound, 7.30pm (then Dec 1st)

Attendees:

Alex Irwin	Jill Timms	Sue Justice	Sally Symington
Annie Eggar	Jo Horder	Nick Brown	Ted Bianco
David Demmery	Jont Cole	Neil Timms	
Felicity Aris	Lucy Carmody	Paul Barritt	

Apologies: Duncan Eggar, Jemima French, Michelle Singleton, Tim French

Around 35% of our newsletter list attended or sent apologies. Add: jamespaterson9@hotmail.com

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

Lucy and Jont will be running the **Annual Aldbury Sustainability Club Awards** for the most impressive project/activity in each of our four subgroups. They will each be awarded a Cup (recycled and recyclable!) at our **Winter Event** on **DECEMBER 1st 7.30pm**

- Please could you visit the [Members Page to add your details](#) including your area of expertise in Sustainability. It is really incredible how many experts we have in one village!
- Club minutes and updates will continue to be sent via email; a larger general Whatsapp group was proposed however not all ASC members use Whatsapp and email works better for sharing key information to the group
- Each working group has a WhatsApp group set up - if anyone wants to join, contact the WG leaders (Tim French - Transport, Jemima French - Buildings, Nature - Jont Cole, Circularity - Annie Eggar)
- Each working group will meet when it needs to, while the next general meeting will be held Thursday 8th September
- Our outreach will focus on a monthly half page in the Outlook ("Just One Thing") to communicate our progress, highlighting actions that we can all practically take
 - Aug/Sept –Pond Tracker (Ted)
 - Oct – article by Felicity on recycling/ecological gardening – Tess Alps
 - Nov – article on pond biodiversity by Ted, Paul, Jo

Email aldbury.outlook@gmail.com by the 14th of the month before for all articles

- Online:
 - Village website www.aldburyvillage.com/sustainability
 - needs SEO **Felicity**
 - Facebook - Everything Aldbury, Everything Tring Station
- Offline:

Share articles via Aldbury Outlook	Run educational sharing events at
Announcement/discussion at	the Memorial Hall
Monday lunch club	Show short films at a Film Club
Run 'Open House' events	viewing

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Built Environment (Jo Horder stepped in for Jemima)

- This group will set up an information resource hub to encourage sustainable building options (retrofit, energy, fuel poverty, etc...) in the following categories:
 - High level advice
 - WWF carbon tracker, Energy Saving Trust, etc.
 - Local help
 - Tring in Transition, Aldbury Community Support Grants for insulating homes for the vulnerable?
 - Reading
 - Book and article recommendations
 - Tradespeople to help with moving to low carbon lifestyles:
 - recommended by local residents via reviews
 - Resident's own experiences
 - Jont Cole's eco-house, Lucy Carmody's 'low carbon' barn – anyone with a storage battery
 - Planning
 - Ian Brown talking to PC re. planning regulations for conservation homes
- The group will also focus on the potential for:
 - Collective ordering
 - Set up community ordering for insulation, thermal imaging, low carbon solid fuel
 - Bringing in advisors to help with assessments
 - Supporting with fuel poverty
 - how to support residents who will need help this year following fuel price increases and inflation.
 - Raise awareness of [Aldbury Community Support](#)
 - 1 page leaflet, on village website, the church, the school,
 - Speak to Monday Lunch Club
 - Warm homes discount
 - Council tax rebate - £150 available to people in council bands a-c;
 - £350 fuel rebate available to everyone
 - Tech projects:
 - [Caldera Heat Batteries](#) - Climate Tech start-up running demonstration projects; Lucy has signed up to their proof of concept scheme, 2024 cohort
 - [Tesla Powerwall](#)
 - [Tesla Solar Roofing tiles](#)
 - [Hydrogen blending](#); can be put in gas boilers
 - Community ground-source heat pump (similar pilot in [Swaffham](#) which heats around 300 homes on a heat pump; also set up a community wind turbine) - subgroup including Tim and Jemima looking into this concept

Action Items

- Send someone to talk to members of the Monday Lunch Club about insulation and potential for Aldbury Community Fund availability for those in fuel poverty – **Felicity**
- Add other suggestions made by this convening group to [spreadsheet](#) – **Felicity**
- Set up resource page on Aldbury Village website - **Felicity**

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TRANSPORT (Tim French sent notes)

Priorities:

1. Promoting cycling and walking
2. EV infrastructure (domestic + public)
3. Feasibility of improving the footpath to Tring Station.

Footpath to the Station:

95% of Community Survey respondents said they wanted a proper cycle/footpath to Tring Station.

The [frequently used route is shown here](#)

- Lucy Carmody, Andrew Freeman (County Highways) Tim French and Sally Symington (County Councillor) have now met to discuss project
- Next step is to meet Clayton Rae, Dacorum Expert on Rights of Way to discuss
 - Preferred route e.g. other options from Stoneycroft
 - Preferred width, materials
 - Target user categories (for consultation)
 - Lighting; could be required for an official pathway due to safety concerns however most people carry mobile phones so is this necessary?
 - Designation due to prior use
- The Parish Council potentially has some funding available for a feasibility study
- It is important to prioritise biodiversity in this project
 - protection of hedgerows
 - light pollution affecting wildlife
 - birds nesting - Yellow Hammer and White Throat along the route - in decline and require habitat protection)

Promoting cycling and walking:

- Encouraging cycling, rather than driving, to/from the village by providing bike racks (anything else needed?) for:
 - Children for school and sports
 - Parents
 - Hiking Visitors
 - Visitors to pubs and cafes

EV infrastructure:

Community Survey Report 2021 suggests 13% EV ownership with 220 EVs in the parish by end 2025. 27 respondents said they were buying one in 2023. At least 25 on-street EV chargers required with requests from nearly every street. We will be looking into:

- Public EV charging points – possible locations
 - Recreation Car Park, Church Farm car park, Trooper car park (when renovated).
 - Tring Station is considering EV chargers in 2024. Friends of Tring Station will work with North Western Railway to hasten this as many Tring Station residents are finding charging difficult. Perhaps residents charging from 9pm to 7am where drivers pay for charging but not parking?

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- Older houses with parking spaces but shared electricity supply will need support for EV charging
- Zap Map; useful resource with info on EV charging, funding is available, criteria etc

Friends of Tring Station



This is a new group convened by the Aldbury Sustainability Club – with Aldbury Garden Club, Tring Station Residents Association, Tring in Transition, Tring Peace and Justice Group.

We are **seeking an active Chairperson** for this group who will liaise with the Railway and organise the funding and volunteers for work parties:

In July – to replant and stain the planters

On Oct 2nd – a whole day of action including planting wildflowers

Objectives (in order of priority)

1. Act as liaison between Rail Operator and passengers
2. Keep planters healthy and thriving
3. Improve biodiversity – in line with Tring being a Bee Friendly Town – sow wild areas
4. Improve passenger experience with
 - Shoe lockers in car park
 - Bike racks on car park side
 - Electric chargers
 - Seating by the taxi stand
 - Signage to walking paths to Aldbury, Canal and Tring

Aldbury Garden Club have agreed to help with planting plans and providing plants and seeds where appropriate. We could also work with College Lake to use their expertise in wildflower planting.

We have secured funding as follows:

- £500 per year for three years from Tring Garden Centre (**Lucy** to follow up) as sponsor
- £200 from Aldbury Garden Club

We hope to secure further funding as follows:

- £500 from Parish Council (**Lucy** to follow up)
- £500 from Tring Council
- Potential funding from Dacorum/County
- Additional main sponsor (Huel?)

TRANSPORT ACTIONS

Tim - Add **Alex** and **Jill** to the WhatsApp group

Alex Irwin – to research old maps and designations for the path

Paul Barritt – to identify any species to be protected along the route please

All - Please let **Tim French** know directly if you have any concerns or ideas as we progress towards a project implementation plan

Sally to review possibility of funding for bike racks and location(s) – should not be too hidden due to theft concerns

Sally to review if there might be additional funds available from County

Felicity to promote Friends of Tring Station and need for volunteers and a leader on website and in Outlook (Aug/Sept issue)

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All – Please put Oct 2nd in your diaries for the whole day of action including planting wildflowers

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CIRCULARITY (Annie Eggar standing in for Michelle Singleton)

Refuse, Reduce, Repair, Re-Gift, Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose, etc = Circularity

Priorities

- Promote the new 'Sharing Table' at the allotments to pass on produce and plants grown by residents.
 - People who pick anything up are invited to make a donation to Friends of Aldbury School.
- Work with the village shop to
 - selling plants in the front of the shop
 - sell more products from local producers (i.e. local chocolate, honey, meat, asparagus etc.)
- Recycling
 - Informing residents (and offering help if required)
 - what types of plastic, metal can or can't be recycled
 - what needs to be washed and not
 - investigating other recycling facilities where external company picks up
- Repair
 - Set up a one off Repair café
 - sewing, watch repair, woodwork, bike repair, lawn mower repair were all offered in the Community Survey
 - This could be a one-off event in the Memorial Hall, possibly one Saturday 12-4pm in October (15th or 22nd)
 - Check out
 - Men's Shed groups in Hemel Hempstead
 - Open Door in Berkhamsted as templates

CIRCULARITY ACTIONS

Write up an article on how to recycle plastic (bags/bottles/etc) for Sept Outlook - **Felicity**

Post on Everything Aldbury about volunteers needed for this working group - **Felicity**

Add Sue Justice and Lucy to WhatsApp for this working group - **Annie**

Add Sharing Table to Aldbury Village website – **Felicity**

Create signage for the table – **Felicity** and **Lucy**

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NATURE (Jont Cole)

Objective: To raise awareness of our natural assets and to improve biodiversity in the parish.

Target: To be the most biodiverse parish in Hertfordshire by 2030 – an 8 year goal!

This would involve doing baseline readings (air, water, bioacoustics, etc.) every few years to monitor changes in biodiversity and committing to biodiversity improvement projects. This received unanimous agreement amongst the convening group.

Communications

- A series of articles in Outlook (then featured on the website too) on sustainability-oriented activities that residents are already doing. Titled 'Just one thing', a named person writes about ½ a page about what they have done, the merits/problems, how to, etc.
- Aims to highlight things that people could do themselves and raise awareness of what people are already doing:
 - July/August - **Ted's** article on the pond project
 - September – Plastic recycling – **Felicity**
 - October - **Tess/Tim** article on their sustainable efforts
 - November - Building your own pond at home + biodiversity of ponds - **Paul and Jo**

Other activities:

- Partnership with Wigginton:
 - David Wilde, ex Parish Council Chair of Wigginton, is keen to get involved and do projects together; has run his own rewilding scheme and set up thermal imaging in Wigginton to monitor biodiversity in the area
- Set up a Woodland Trust evening event in October/November to help villagers learn how to promote biodiversity in the local area
- Allotment Seedling Project
 - Ted Bianco is looking into setting up an allotment to plant local tree seed (sourced from Ashridge) at high density to distribute to local residents, schools and landowners across the three counties.
 - Project is based on The Woodland Trust's Free Trees scheme.
 - Aim is to keep it local, flexible, and easy for people to collect the trees.
 - Sapling distribution centre to be managed by the local community through volunteer participation.
 - Planting at high density will make watering easier
 - Group aims to use only recycled plastic pots to reduce waste.
 - Hoping the Aldbury Garden Club will support
 - Funding could be available through the Parish Council for this initiative?

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NATURE Actions

Lucy is looking into working with [NatureMetrics](#) and whether we could propose a competition with two other parishes to achieve this goal.

Lucy to contact Woodland Trust to get a date for an evening event and fundraiser. They will come and teach us how to improve biodiversity in our public spaces and gardens. And hopefully how to dissuade badgers from dancing on ones lawn all night.

Ted - Apply for an allotment (£18/yr, contact parishclerk@aldburyparish.org.uk – perhaps ask for fee waiver for the project and whether you could apply for additional funding from APC or Aldbury Community Support if you need more funding)

All - Volunteers will be needed for sapling project to help share watering duties and soil preparation

Felicity - Advertise for volunteers in the Outlook/village website/Facebook when Ted needs them