

Green Forum Zoom meeting notes 20 Jan 2022

Chair: Anne Smart Notes: Harriet Moggridge

Present: Anne Cossutta, Caroline Townsend, Michelle Charlesworth, Daniel Scharf, Simon Greenland, Sarah Leeming, Nadine Matough, Peter Narramore

Apologies: Robin Tucker, James Wigmore, Gaby Barody

Points sent for consideration

Robin- possibly the Traffic Advisory Committee better able to help us (rather than the Environment and Amenities committee). Sam Larkin, OCC Transport Planner officially starting work on LCWIP now. Which activities are remit of which group? - ALS, Green Forum and others.

Hester Hand - what is the role of the Green Forum; the public could be confused by the different groups and how they overlap each other

1. Webpage

- Many thanks to Nadine and Anne C for creating a webpage. **Nadine to send Google Form to all for comments.**
- **Anne S request Gaby to write a summary of what the Green Forum is, for the webpage (by end Jan)**

2. Google Group (part of the webpage) to collect public views

Anne C explained that this is a single email address distribution group. Anne will get notified and any of us can reply directly to the comment/query. Costs all absorbed by One Planet Abingdon.

3. Stall at Abingdon Excellence Market, Saturday 29 Jan

- Thanks to Anne S for booking and to Anne C for excellent poster.
- **ACC to pay £15 cost of gazebo hire and to ask for refund from Town Council.**
- **Nadine and Sarah to create a generic online survey to gather public thoughts about local transport. By 29th, so we can use the stall to publicise it.**
- Agreed that the aim of having the stall is to talk to the public about what we're doing and what's in the pipeline. We being all the various groups involved with sustainable transport eg Peter willing to talk about ALS and Sustrans. We don't all need to know about everything. We'll have Hiyacar fliers and Pedal Power leaflets about Cycle to Work scheme and bike rental. **Caroline to find out if Behind Bars want to publicise anything. Anne S to ask Pat Lonnegran of the Ramblers, if they want to be involved.**

- **Michelle to create a summary of common points to give some unity of purpose and confidence to those on the stall.**
- **Caroline to create A3 posters and ask Clive about borrowing his poster boards.** Posters to be *did you know?* followed by 3 brief facts about each topic. Group to provide material for Caroline eg
 - 1) 20 mph speed limit **Anne S to ask Robin.**
 - 2) School streets **Nadine**
 - 3) 15/20 min neighbourhood **Nadine**
 - 4) Bike hire
 - 5) Peer to peer (P2P) car sharing **Harriet**
- **All to email Anne S the times they are available on 29th. Setting up from 8.30am, manning stall 9am - 2pm then pack away.** So far, Caroline 8.30 - 10.30, Nadine 10 - 12, Dan and Harriet 9 - 2, Michelle able to help beforehand but not on the day.
- **Anne S to check Covid protocol**

4. Leads/small group ideas on various topics

a) Car sharing - Harriet to work with Michelle and others interested to create online questionnaire and to research where to set up a closed loop P2P car sharing loop

b) Cycling - Caroline discussed a study about what got people out of their cars in London - one thing was Boris bikes. Cars give social status - how can we raise the social status of cyclists? Perhaps a sign as you approach Abingdon that welcomes cyclists, with an image eg. leaf to show green status. Idea postponed for now due to nervousness of welcoming cyclists to a town that currently has inadequate cycling infrastructure. Sarah said three factors that have reduced car transport in London are the Congestion charge, Boris bikes and segregated cycleways. Simon felt people won't cycle without these (he was happy to cycle on such lanes in Melbourne, Australia). Abingdon has high cycling rates including children cycling to school but a Catch 22 situation: more people would be happier cycling if there were fewer, slower cars....LCWIP underway addresses infrastructure. **Harriet to produce an explanatory leaflet about changes, due on 29th Jan, to the Highway Code, which give higher priority to cyclists and pedestrians.** Caroline highlighted the climate emergency as an imperative to cycle not drive. **Decision to promote cycling by giving away/selling backpack covers that have our design/logo on.** Dan suggested backpack covers should be able to be worn as a hi viz jacket as not many cyclists use backpacks. Design to be chosen from a competition in schools. Cost £3.79 each for a min of 50 from [Total Merchandise](#)

c) Public transport promotion & d) Delivery vans - not discussed due to lack of time.

5. Ideas and proposed actions- prioritise using a 'traffic lights' system

Not done (lack of time)

6. Funding

Anne S to research funding (CIL money? CAG grants?)

7. Publicity

- Webpage underway
- Items in *Town Crier, Round and About* (by 1 Feb for March) **Anne S & Nadine**
- **Anne C's poster to be displayed in library**
- Who is the new Comms person at Town council - **Anne S to email contact details to Nadine**

8. Environment and Amenities committee

- Anne S to report on Green Forum at the next E & A committee meeting on 8 March.
- Dan commented that he had expected every Forum mtg to be attended by a councillor. Also requested **clarification from the Town Council about how the Forum relates to the Neighbourhood Plan- need to know this by 29th (as members of public may ask us) and as an agenda item for next meeting.**

9. AOB

- **School Streets** Simon commented that the St Nicolas School Street was heavily led by the Headteacher. He suggested spreading enthusiasm by getting lots of School Heads together and pushing the idea. Sarah pointed out that not all school sites are appropriate for a school street (eg schools on Radley Road which public buses use) and that funding is needed from Oxfordshire County Council. Funding is for background work, Traffic Regulation Orders, signage, barriers...Sarah and Nadine are working towards the next School Street being Caldecott as the school is interested, the site suitable and Local Councillor Fawcett supportive.
- Dan suggested that driving children to school could be considered abusive as it is unhealthy for children and planet. **Others cautioned that expressing strong critical opinions at the stall on 29th may turn people against us and be counterproductive.**
- **Future stalls** Sarah commented that the date of next one - **26 March** - would be a good time to reach out to the public about LCWIP and the re-design of East St Helen's junction.

10. Next meeting

Thursday 3 Feb 7.30 pm Zoom. Anne S to chair, Harriet notes.