

## **Abingdon Green Forum 2022: First Official Meeting 6 January 2022**

**Present:** Gabby Barody, Anne Smart (Chair), Caroline Townsend (notes), Sally Reynolds, Harriet Mogridge, James Wigmore, Hester Hand, Pete Narramore, Michelle Charlesworth, Nadine Matough, Clive Elsmore, Daniel Scharf

**Apologies:** Sue Davies

**Introduction:** The idea of a Green Forum was initially suggested by Gabby on behalf of the Town Council Green Committee. The idea was to have a collaboration of Abingdon green groups who would feed ideas back into the Town Council's committee structure and enable collaboration with them and support from them. Gabby or Jim from the Town Council would attend Green Forum meetings. Following previous meetings between Gabby, Caroline, Anne, Sally and Sue, it was suggested that we have 3-4 green drives per year, each having a different focus, for example:

- Active Travel and Sustainable Travel
- Biodiversity
- Plastic Reduction

### **Additional ideas:**

Pete: The forum must not just preach to the converted. Good way of championing ideas back to the council

Nadine: To involve the public, we need an on-line presence eg webpage and chatbox. We collect ideas in advance of a meeting. The webpage would give links to documents, eg LCWIP, Neighbourhood Plan

Michelle: Use the CEC website as a portal for webpage

Pete: Long Wittenham have a village website to inform villagers of local sales, events – webpage could be advertised on local websites and social media

Daniel: Concerned that work carried out by the Forum is consistent with the Neighbourhood Plan. Suggested that a citizens' assembly might be preferable to a public meeting (supported by Michelle who explained the difference).

Gabby: The Town Council have an annual parish meeting on 16 March – the webpage could publicise that.

**Action:** Nadine will design a webpage on the CEC website to interact with the residents of Abingdon. Different people can contribute fragments wrt different groups' activities. Nadine will gather content from the various groups. The chat/feedback of ideas functionality will be implemented by Anne. When finalised the webpage to be shared by links with : ATC website, ACC, Sustrans, ALS, and any other websites/socials that are represented on the page.

Also said that ATC might not be able to afford a citizens' assembly

### **First Drive: Active Travel and Sustainable Travel**

#### **Links:**

- Neighbourhood Plan – James and Gabby
- Abingdon Liveable Streets
- LCWIP (local cycling and walking infrastructure plans)

## **What will the Green Forum do wrt the first drive?**

Sally: Selling ideas to the public on active travel

Anne: Publicise what is going on already and have some ideas to work on in the group eg organise a Green Festival in the spring

Daniel: Take away free parking in Abingdon (also suggested by Robin Tucker). Abingdon road schemes (ie deleting the Lodge Hill slips and Southern by pass) to reduce traffic are very political – the forum could discuss ideas openly that politicians cannot say publicly

Michelle: **Car club** is important. Harriet very interested in this.

Daniel: **Car-sharing** can be facilitated through HIYACAR – you sign up and a free app lets you hire cars direct from people in your neighbourhood instantly, using keyless technology. Users can be restricted to say within a few roads of your house as users need to be able to walk to the car and can be known by you.

Sally: **Lift-sharing** is being promoted by FoE. 92% of workers live close enough to workplace to lift-share. Clive said that lift-sharing had minimal impact at AEA Culham as people liked the independence of their own car.

Nadine: Sustainable transport is important eg public transport, car sharing as well as active travel.

**Steering Group members will be:** Gabby Barody, Anne Smart, Caroline Townsend, Sally Reynolds, Harriet Mogridge, James Wigmore, Pete Narramore, Michelle Charlesworth, Nadine Matough, Daniel Scharf

**Meetings:** Thursday 20 January to continue discussions. The “final” meeting on this drive will be on Wednesday 30 March

### **Thursday 20 January meeting points to discuss:**

- WRT to the webpage, we need to agree what happens with those suggestions we receive from the public - perhaps we could create a googlegroup to whom suggestions could be forwarded so that all can see and we can then respond to them? Perhaps have an automatic response to say thank you and we will get back to them?
- Do we add the date for the Forum meeting in March as a 'save the date'?
- Anne S, Michelle (and others) could assist with drafting an introduction piece as to what the Forum is and what we are trying to achieve? Drafts to be shared with Anne/Michelle before publication