

Shoscombe Climate and Nature (SCAN) Group Meeting 12/03/22

SCAN is a community action group. We aim to work collaboratively with village residents/landowners and BANES Council to improve our local environmental issues. We aim to act with consideration, consulting all parties that may be involved in/affected by SCAN Group projects, and build on what has gone before. We welcome and work with all who wish to help.

email: hello@shoscombeclimateandnaturegroup.co.uk

Summary:

12 villagers gathered for discussion – and tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits!

We now have four coordinators: Angelina Lewis (AL), Tricia Wastvedt (TW), Cathy Cooper (CC) and Virginia Bergin (VB).

We worked through the current Action Plan (posted as a separate document), focusing on items that have already been started and discussing how to progress.

Highlights:

NATURE

BEES/POLLINATORS

Action: TW and SB to identify verges and roadside micro-plots for wildflower planting/seeding with owners' permission.

BIRD/BAT BOXES

Action: CC to organise bird/bat (and bumble bee?!) box workshop, and arrange assistance to install.

MAPPING

A map of the area, recording different environmental habitats and the creatures and plants that live in them would be a wonderful resource so we can understand and monitor changes . . . but could be a lot of work.

Action: DW and AL to investigate whether there are existing apps/methods that could be used.

Meantime, SCAN pages in Newsletter to invite TOP SPOT suggestions – ie what creature/plant has been seen where.

Action: Next SCAN member to write Newsletter post (VB) asking for Top Spots.

WELLOW BROOK

Himalyan Balsam

Is it an invasive problem to be tackled, or a needed food for pollinators?

Action: DW and SB to investigate

Litter

Pollutants – particularly plastics – mass up in Wellow Brook . . . but could the fallen trees that cause this be a good thing? (ie is it better that we can see and scoop out what would otherwise end up in the sea?)

Action: VB to investigate and coordinate Wellow Brook clean-up.

EDUCATION & INFORMATION

Action: AL to organise talks at the Village Hall. Anyone with suggestions for topics please do get in touch via the coordinators or email hello@shoscombeclimateandnaturegroup.co.uk

TRANSPORT

Electric vehicles

Could we have communal electric bikes? Shared or local owners hiring out . . .

Action: CC to investigate.

Could we have communal electric car charge points – or could existing electric car owners hire out charge points?

Action: TW to investigate.

Cars/Travel

Could we do more car/journey sharing? Could there – for eg - be a WhatsApp group to state when going to MSN/Bath/Bristol/Frome and offer a lift - for random trips and regular commutes? How can we include villagers without smartphones/tech?

Action: CC to investigate

Cycling/walking

Could we improve access via a safe off-road cycle/walking route to Peasedown? Would this be wanted – so we can get to shops/post office without using cars?

Action: DW to investigate

CONSUMER/HOME AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

Renewables

Discussion re feasibility and cost of solar panels and domestic-size turbines.

Actions:

AL to investigate schools generation scheme.

CC to arrange Village Hall talk on domestic renewable energy.

Allotments

Discussion re continuing Parish Council search for land for allotments raised the possibility of garden-sharing – such schemes exist elsewhere in the UK.

Actions:

VB to post request for land for allotments in next village Newsletter.

AL to write article on garden-sharing for Newsletter.

Funding

Discussion re availability of local and national grants for environmental and village improvement works. Two approaches to this: deciding on works, then seeking sources of funding, versus actively seeking out funding schemes, then actioning works on the basis of what funds are available. We wondered whether there is anyone in the village who might be interested in taking on the role of actively investigating what funding is already out there.

Action: VB to post a request for a funding researcher in the next Newsletter.

Shopping

TW has magazine subscription to Ethical Consumer (<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org>) and will consider how to make the magazines available to people who would prefer access in that format rather than using this online resource.

Action: TW to devise access system; info to be posted in the Newsletter (VB?)

UPCOMING EVENTS

23rd April 2022 – Table Top Sale @ Village Hall

Action: VB to enquire whether SCAN could have a table to share info – esp about Share & Repair (<https://shareandrepair.org.uk>)

14th May 2022 - Plant Sale @ Village Hall

Action: VB to enquire whether SCAN could have a table to share info.

18-26th September 2022 – Great Big Green Week (<https://greatbiggreenweek.com>)

Last year, SCAN organised a Great Big Green Week event at the Village Hall that was very well supported and attended (despite Covid!) – it was wonderful! Should we do this again? We'd love to – but it is a lot of work. Would it be better to do a Great Big Green Week of village activities?

Action: on-going discussion.

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY 22nd MAY, 5-7PM @ Village Hall

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? YES PLEASE – AND WELCOME!

If any of the items above spark your interest, or if you have an idea you'd like to action and would like community support, do get in touch.

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