

Shoscombe Climate and Nature (SCAN) Group Meeting 29/05/22

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:

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

We worked through the minutes of the previous meeting, then discussed Great Big Green Week (GBGW 24th Sept- 2nd Oct) ideas.

Highlights:

NATURE

BEES/POLLINATORS

SB has successfully planted various locations around the village, and her work continues.

BIRD/BAT/BEE BOXES

DW brought excellent homemade bat box to show the group.

Action: CC to organise bird/bat (and bumble bee?!) box workshop for GBGW.

WILDLIFE & HABITAT MAPPING

iNaturalist and LandApp identified as potentially suitable apps to map Shoscombe.

Actions:

AL to look into setting up a iNaturalist project, but first gain advice from a wildlife group/trust about protecting rare species and their whereabouts.

VB to consult land management professional (a friend) about app use.

WELLOW BROOK

Himalyan Balsam

DW outlined the issues and potential solutions, referring to the work of Mark Spencer at the Natural History Museum and the River Restoration Centre – but acknowledged the difficulty of successfully removing balsam from the river bank.

Action:

SCAN to consider setting up a group to assess and monitor balsam extent and spread. Perhaps this could be part of a general river monitoring group (see below)?

Litter

Much discussion about how vital the river is – and the river litter pick: what can we do to stop litter ending up in the river in the first place?

Action:

AL to let BANES litter pick contact know about what was found (22 bags of rubbish – mainly plastic bottles and balls) and to ask views on where it might be coming from/what could be done.

AnL to approach Radstock Town Council to discuss the issue.

VB to coordinate another Wellow Brook clean-up for GBGW/World Rivers Day.

Depending on outcome of AnL research, VB to investigate who/which body is responsible for water quality, and to ask for support and advice.

VB to investigate current education practices in school re litter.

CC to investigate access to water quality testing kits.

SCAN to consider setting up a river monitoring group (see balsam above).

EDUCATION & INFORMATION

Discussion about what might be of interest to the village.

Action:

AL to organise GBGW talk at the Village Hall.

SCAN to put together an 'energy special' for the newsletter.

TRANSPORT

Electric vehicles

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

Action ongoing: CC investigating.

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

Action ongoing: TW investigating.

Cars/Travel

We are still investigating how we could do more car/journey sharing – and how we can include villagers without smartphones/tech.

Action ongoing: CC investigating.

Cycling/walking

Action: DW to approach Sustrans to investigate viability of a Shoscombe-Peasedown branch of the National Cycle Route so that pedestrian and cycling villagers have a safe, off-road route to Peasedown.

CONSUMER/HOME AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

Renewables

Discussion including re Wellow 'show & tell' villagers' tour of properties with solar panels, air/ground source heat pumps. Could we do the same thing in Shoscombe – or would a general 'green' show & tell be a better option? (eg homeowners could offer to show compost or pond management/techniques.)

Action:

CC to put request out in next SCAN newsletter pages for villagers who might be willing to 'show & tell' (for GBGW?)

Allotments

No one has come forward to garden share. A possible allotment site in the village is being investigated.

Action: TW to report back.

Funding

No one has come forward to offer to research sources of funding. Item to be put on hold – possibly put out another request in the autumn?

Shopping

Action: TW to write post about how villagers can access magazine subscription to Ethical Consumer (<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org>) for next newsletter.

GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK (24th Sept – 2nd Oct 2022)

Discussion about what we can do! One day of events proposed for Saturday 24th Sept.

Top ideas . . . a talk – or preferably a village tour of renewable energy/insulation projects; a bird/bat/bee box workshop, a family-friendly foraging expedition – and a bake/brew-off. . . could we have a village competition for the best cake/brew featuring organic, home-grown or foraged ingredients?

Ideas/actions:

AL/VB to investigate possible village tour of renewable energy/insulation projects. (VB to write request for villagers willing to share experiences for next newsletter.)

CC/DW to organise bird/bat/bee box workshop.

VB to contact possible foraging leaders.

SCAN group to consider bake/brew-off categories and who to judge? (Is anyone making dandelion wine?!))

AL to contact the primary school re students doing an event for GBGW.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 24th Sept - GBGW day at Village Hall. Talk or village tour, bat/bird/bee box workshop, family forage fun and cookery competition at Village Hall.

Sunday 25th Sept: GBGW river litter pick.

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY 4th Sept, 5pm @ 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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