

Transition Black Isle

Draft Minute of Meeting held at 7.30 pm on 21st Sept 2009 at Clachbeg

Present: Anne, Frank, Tommy, Maggie, Bob, Vanessa, John, Martin, Penny, Wendy, Ken, Denise, Peter

Apologies: Teen, Sue, Hugh, Tracy Barbour, Mary Clusden, Helen, Agric.

1. Review of Greening Homes and Gardens

The huge success of the event was noted and Martin's paper was discussed. Ideas that were discussed in addition to those set out in the paper were:

- We could run another similar event in the future – possibly in September next year
- The need to consider how a further event could have a different slant in order to develop the agenda further
- We could try to piggy back another EST mailing to a different part of the Black Isle
- We could follow up the event with a Greening Homes and Gardens Gathering

It was agreed that the Energy Group will be asked to prepare recommendations on how to take forward this area of work including capturing advice from home owners and local suppliers.

Action: Energy Group

2. Review of house to house visits

Anne reported that, following the mail out and door knocking, 140 homes require work. There are 45 homes that have indicated that they do not know how much insulation they have. EST Advice Centre have asked if we would be willing to visit homes to check. After some discussion it was agreed that we will decline. Anne will inform EST.

Action: Anne

3. Black Isle Gathering

This will take place at Fortrose Academy next Saturday (26th Sept). Set up starts at 10am and the public are admitted at 11am. Doors close at 4pm. We have a slot to give a talk in the early afternoon. It was agreed that Wendy and Martin would give a talk similar to the one given at the Black Isle Forum. Penny will work up a quiz that might be used on the stand and at the talk. Wendy has ordered George Marshall's Carbon Detox to be given as a prize. Wendy will transport display material and Anne has supplied books for sale. Wendy, Martin, Penny John, Tommy and Ken have all indicated that they will be present for all or some of the day.

Action: Wendy, Martin, Penny

4. Eva's Visit

Eva from Transition Scotland has offered to visit on 15th October. We agreed that this would be useful and we will invite her to come to Clachbeg to meet

us in the evening. We will send her a briefing about our group in advance. Questions we wish to put to her are:

- What is going on in the Transition world in Scotland?
- What services can Transition Scotland offer?
- How do we become an official group? Is it connected with an 'unleashing'?
- Energy Decent Plan – is it a requirement that we do one?

The following people indicated that they would attend: Anne, Frank, Tommy, Maggie, John, Martin, Penny (maybe), Ken, Denise and Peter (probably).

Action: Anne and Wendy

5. Sustainable Scotland Conference

We have been offered 3 free places at this conference on 28th October which takes place at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. It was agreed that Martin and Vanessa will attend. Peter and/or Denise may be interested. Anne will coordinate.

Action: Anne

6. Age of Stupid and 10:10 Campaign

Anne reported that FOE hope to purchase the film Age of Stupid which could potentially be used by other groups in conjunction with FOE.

It was agreed that one of the main aims of our awareness raising campaign is to raise awareness about TBI itself as well as about peak oil and climate change. It is important that our identity is not confused with another group. Some members felt that the agendas of the two organisations are different and it is important that our message is kept clear. It was agreed that, for the time being at least, TBI will act independent of FOE for screenings.

7. Awareness Raising

Maggie updated the group on the last meeting of the Awareness Raising group. In the period before Christmas, 4 film screenings are planned as follows:

- Film 1 – Age of Stupid Cromarty Brewery, 6th October. Teen to host. Martin, Maggie, Vanessa and Bob to attend.
- Film 2 – to be decided. Culbokie 27th October. Penny and Tommy to host. Maggie, Wendy and Bob to attend.
- Film 3 – Age of Stupid. North Kessock – date to be confirmed.
- Film 4 – The Power of Community, Resolis, 27th November. Maggie, Vanessa, martin, Penny Anne and Wendy will attend.

Those present will be needed to help set up the room and equipment and to help stimulate discussion if required,

In addition there will be a 'Question Time' format event during the Copenhagen week featuring Louise Bachelor. Charles Kennedy has indicated that he might be available, along with James Curran and possibly Isobel McCallum. Louise's fee may be £500. It is hoped to fund this from the

Highland Council funding (see below). Maggie, Vanessa, John, Martin and Wendy will attend.

Action: Awareness-raising group

There was discussion about how to progress the web site which has been a fantastic resource in our early development but is maybe not as 'public facing' as we would like at the start of a major awareness-raising campaign.

We all agreed that we wish to end up, as soon as possible, with a new web site that is well structured and includes all key information in a clear and easily navigable way. Given the short timescale to our first event (2 weeks) we agreed that a major change would not be possible. In addition, John has recently done some work on the current web site and this has been a big improvement. A further improvement (to take the calendar off the front page and replace with a picture) was agreed.

It was finally agreed that work should start as soon as possible to design a new structure for our web site and to gather content. Unless this can be done through volunteer effort this is unlikely to be progressed significantly until the Climate Challenge Fund money comes through later in the year. If we make rapid early progress before CCF funds become available, this can be put onto a Spanglefish site on a test basis but we should not rush to go live with it if it means compromising quality or wasting effort. Meanwhile, we will make a special effort to keep the current site fresh during the early stages of our campaign.

Action: John, Teen, Awareness Group

Peter raised the issue that some members of tbi are not on the internet or only have a slow dial-up connection. It was agreed that we need to have a method of communicating with these people. Peter volunteered to write a paper looking at how our communications could be developed to take account of this. This will be sent to Wendy for circulation.

Action: Peter

Maggie reported a positive phone discussion with Fortrose Academy. They are happy to promote our events eg space in monthly newsletter, time for someone to talk to pupils at morning assembly and announcements on the days of film shows. This was welcomed. Vanessa and Anne volunteered to do talks.

Action: Maggie, Anne, Vanessa

8. Finance

The group recorded their thanks to Penny for fund-raising work. The support of Highland Council was also welcomed.

In summary TBI have applied to CCF for £12,600 and to Highland Council for £2,000. In addition Wendy reported that Chris Lister of CLH Solar (Muir of Ord) has agreed to sponsor the group for £250.

The group agreed the need to work towards a further funding application for the year starting March 31st 2010. All sub-groups will make forward planning a priority on their agendas. A fund-raising subgroup will then be convened to pull together an overall plan for submission.

Action: Energy Group, Awareness Raising Group, Hearts and Souls Group, Food Group, Penny

It was suggested that members should be invited to make a regular voluntary contribution to tbi by setting up a standing order. It was agreed that pledges need to be possible for everyone, whether or not they use internet banking.

Action: Wendy/ Penny

Bob volunteered to convene a new Food Group. This was supported by all present and several people volunteered to join (Tommy, Vanessa, Ken). The food group will also think about a future programme to feed into the fundraising plan after 31st March 2010.

Action: Food Group

8. North Kessock Market

Anne introduced the item and requested help to organise. After discussion it was felt that it is really important that local people are involved and that the North Kessock film night might help to kick this off. The involvement of the Community Council might also be of value. This led to discussion about the potential for Village Working Groups as well as topic working groups as a process for gearing up tbi action.

Action: Anne

9. Ward Forum on the Highland Wide Local Development Plan Consultation.

The deadline for responses is 9th November. There was some discussion about the issues paper and some people voiced the view that the premise of the plan, based on economic development and population growth, is flawed. A key issue we should raise with them is their obligation to the electorate to consider the impacts of peak oil and climate change in the plan. It was agreed that we need to make a response from a Black Isle perspective. John will co-ordinate and anyone interested should feed comments to him. A meeting may be convened to discuss the issues.

Action: John and All

10. Netherton

Insurance is now in place and Community Service Volunteers are helping. Further volunteer input would be welcomed. Workdays are Mondays and Thursdays at 2pm.

11. Membership

Wendy tabled a potential application form which could be used to formalise our membership. The form would include a section asking for voluntary contributions to tbi. Peter pointed out that, as we are an unincorporated association, anyone who joins is financially liable. This is, in fact, already the case. Wendy will look into this through CVS. It may be that we need to become a company limited by guarantee.

Action: Wendy

Date of next full meeting

7.30 Thursday 22nd October at Glachbeg