

## Transition Cambridge AGM 10/Oct/2018 (draft)

Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane 7.30pm. There were approximately 25 people present. Jacky Sutton-Adam chaired and Nicola Terry took minutes.

The minutes from 2017 were accepted.

### Accounts

Judith Rattenbury presented the accounts. Judith is acting Treasurer since Kate Gandee stood down during the year for personal reasons.

The accounts were approved with no objections.

### Election of Officers

The three officers agreed to stand another year and the board was nominated and accepted unanimously.

- Chair: Jacky Sutton Adam
- Secretary: Nicola Terry
- Treasurer: Judith Rattenbury

### Announcements

#### **Growing Spaces new project leader**

Sandra is standing down from running Growing Spaces and we are grateful to Wojtek Bazant for taking over.

#### **Possibly revival of Transition Cafes.**

There are a couple of spaces potentially available for a resumption of the Transition Café project. This used to run twice weekly with a different topic, film or activity each time. The spaces available are a community room at the K1 co-housing association (but not quite yet as the group has not finished moving in yet, probably from Easter) and a room in the 'Engineer's House' at the Museum of Technology. The latter could be used by us on Thursday evenings. Oscar, Charlotte and Liz offered to help as core organisers volunteers for different topics..

#### **Review of Transition Strategy**

TC has been going for 10 years - Jacky will set up some meetings over the winter months to take stock and plan the direction TC should take in future. One issue that needs to be addressed is succession. We need to ensure that TC makes good use of new people and does not put too heavy a burden on any individuals. There will be probably be three meetings but no deadline is set. These could be café evenings.

#### **Question – is TC in contact with other organisations.**

The answer is yes to an extent. Some people (not from TC) have tried to set up a regional network, however there seems to be little capacity to maintain links. It was suggested we could do more to advertise each other's events.

#### **Sustainable Growth is possible.**

This year the Nobel Memorial Prize for economics went to William Nordhaus and Paul Romer for their work on adapting economic theory to incorporate environmental issues and technical progress. They have shown that sustainability does not preclude economic growth. They propose carbon taxes.

## Short presentations

### CleanWheels

Peter Pope told us about this project which was first proposed at Pitch Up Pitch In in late 2017. The original idea was for car clubs where the cars were charged from solar panels on site – but over time the project was simplified to promoting car clubs as a first priority. Car clubs reduce cars on the street, thus leaving more room for other road users (like people and cyclists). Also, because club cars tend to be newish and well maintained they are less polluting than many of the cars they replace. Finally car clubs encourage people to give up owning their own cars and make more use of a variety of transport modes including public transport.

CleanWheels connected with other groups to learn about the market. In Cambridge, the main car club has been ZipCar but this has not grown as fast as other clubs. For example Norwich has been doubling in size every 2 years. In Nottingham it is estimated that one club car replaces 17 privately owned vehicles.

Cambridge City Council, Cambs County council are all involved in a new procurement of car clubs in Cambridge. One of the things CleanWheels did this year was to organise a public meeting where council officers met with some enabling organisations. They heard from Carplus Bike plus (now Co-operative Mobility) about the benefits of car clubs and how to make them work. Also, from Ubitricity who have a product that turns lamp posts into electric car charging stations and have been involved in trials of electric clubcars.

Finally Peter showed us a smart card that is available in Norwich for integrated payment for transport services. It can be used for buses, the park and ride and the car club.

There was discussion around changes taking place in Cambridge to support electric bikes and cars (for example new rapid charging points for taxis). There are new car parking zones planned for the city which will each have at least one car club bay.

### Refill

Oscar Gillespie told us about Refill programme in Cambridge. There are now 70 or more shops in Cambridge on the Refill map, which means they have agreed to fill people's water bottles for free on request. The aim is to reduce the need for people to buy plastic bottles of water, reducing waste. Refill is sponsored by Chilly's bottles.

Oscar, James, Annuscha, Jacky and others have all been involved in recruiting businesses to sign up and there is still a need for more as there are some parts of the city that are not very well covered.

Also, the council has promised to trial a water fountain on Parker's Piece. This will be funded from section 106 money,

## Films for our Future

Jacky told us about the Films for our Future season that we ran in February 2018. This was a community collaboration between several local environmental and sustainability groups: each group chose a film to screen with some kind of discussion or workshop afterwards. The aim was to capture the energy generated from seeing a film, and give people an opportunity to connect with each other and their local sustainability group and hopefully take a next step towards getting involved.

The festival was launched in November 2017 with a showing of TaiWei: a voice from the Forest. This is about Bruce Parry's experiences living with an indigenous tribe in Borneo. This was extremely popular (130 seats all sold out) and very effective at getting publicity for the main festival in February.

In total there were 540 attendances over the 2-week festival, and there was media coverage on the radio and in the press. Jacky surveyed the coordinators afterwards for their feedback. Most agreed that the events they ran were effective at raising awareness of their group and also at building connections; much more was achieved than could have been done by each acting alone.

Some aspects of the planning did not work so well. In particular trying to use google groups for organising things via email did not do well. Face to face was more effective, but also more time consuming. Overall the project made a small financial loss. It would have been better to have someone specifically responsible for ensuring that a donations bowl was always prominent!

Jacky found that it was very important not to be too rigid in sticking to plans when they clearly were not working. She found that ARC principles (Autonomy, Relatedness and Competence) was a good model to. For example, groups had autonomy to choose their own film and follow up event, and were supported with a facilitation training workshop to help them design good follow on events.

Nicola Terry  
14/10/18