

## **Transition Town Reading AGM**

21 May 2015 at Reading International solidarity Centre, Main Room, 7:30pm

- 1) Chairperson's report
- 2) Treasurer's report
- 3) Project reports
- 4) Tony Cowling on PV project and Reading Energy Pioneers
- 5) Election of Steering Group Members
- 6) Purpose of TTR and organisational structure
- 7) Change of Monthly TTR meeting from Monday

Present

Chris Rhodes  
Karen Blakeman  
Alan Clark  
Richard Bradbury  
Pete Wheat  
Chris Burden  
Tanja Rebel  
Paula Knevitt  
Nick Mercer  
Alex Goater  
Rachel Goater  
Tony Cowling

### 1) Chairperson's Report - Chris Rhodes

Chris as chairperson, had given many talks over the year relating to fracking and peak oil. He has provided advice to the Kazakhstan government in a work capacity, is environmental insight adviser for Reading Sustainability Centre, spoke at Braziers Park and is on the Reading Climate Action Network as representative of Transition Town Reading. With these many roles, TTR has been well represented through a range of local initiatives and networks (and abroad!).

Chris gave a vote of thanks to the whole steering group for all their efforts and thanked Rachel and Alex for their ongoing commitment.

Chris highlighted the visit of Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition movement, as a great opportunity for local TTR members (and non-members) to hear him speak, invited by Symantec - an international company with a base at Green Park.

Since then, Tony updated that as a result of the event, Reading Sustainability Centre has been offered free legal advice by an employee and the company green team are interested in getting involved with community initiative 'Reading Soup' (see

<http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/local-news/detroit-soup-bowls-reading-raise-9314522> for more details)

## Treasurer's Report - Alex Goater

The bank balance is currently healthy, mainly due to grants for Repair Cafe from Community First and Skipton Grassroots grant. Much of the core funds (unrestricted) have come from Localgiving through direct debits that members have set up. Alex thanked those that had donated for some time. We have benefited from the Localgiving donation match schemes that have been available from time to time. Summary of accounts are attached to this email and full accounts are available on request.

## Project Reports

### Repair Cafe - Rachel

Has gone well over the past year. had a bit of a slump after Christmas Jan - March but has picked up since. General feel was that this is pretty typical for any events. Pete Wheat suggested starting to focus more on the cafe element now that the repair side is going well.

### Draught busters - Tony cowling

Is going really well this year. Additionally to the core project of draught proofing the homes of people in fuel poverty, Tony has been asked to carry out consultation work, advice for other draught busting projects and people not in fuel poverty have asked for his services and have paid for them, which is going back into the draught busters fund to keep the project going.

### Orchards - Led by Rich Waring, reported by Pete Wheat

25 trees planted at Willowbank School

Pruning has taken place at existing orchards

A grafting event took place in March with 60 trees grafted.

There are trees still waiting for a long-term home on an allotment at Waterloo Meadows

We weren't able to plant on Thameside Promenade, despite an agreement last year, as there were significant staff changes in the council and confirmation of the agreement made last year couldn't be sought. This will be planned for 2016.

### Abundance - Reported on by Alex

TTR supported the Reading Food Growing Network Harvest event - picking fruit for apple pressing, lent the apple press, ran an cider making workshop, had a stall.

We also worked alongside community work on the Amersham Road Estate to run a fruit foraging and jam making day on and around the estate.

The apple press was lent / hired out several times over the season.

### Transition Streets

This is a project that several people were trained in, was trialled on Rich Warings street and hasn't moved beyond that, but has the potential to be rolled out further.

### Growing Together - Pete Wheat

Pete has an allotment, which he has opened up to a community growing space and invites others to get together and grown on. Several TTR members participate in this.

### Solar PV and Reading Energy Pioneers - Tony Cowling

Looking to set up PV projects in Reading through the Urban Community Energy fund. RVA have provided support to Tony and Reading Borough Council are keen on this developing, as are Wokingham Borough Council. Other similar projects have offered support in getting set up as a Ben Com Society.

Still looking for roofs for solar PV - RBC has money available at the moment and seeking roofs of community buildings - worth talking to the churches network among others.

### Election of new officers

Rachel Goater and Eva Szucs are stepping down as Communications Officer and Secretary. Chris thanked both officers for their work over the past year.

Alex Goater and Chris Rhodes offered to remain on the committee as Treasurer and Chairperson respectively. All were in agreement.

Chris Burden stood for secretary - unanimously voted in.

Karen interested in getting more involved from January, but not before due to work commitment - everyone agreed this would be good. [to be co-opted by committee at that time]  
Paula Knevitt interested in supporting with digital comms, esp around website and social media - not to be voted in as committee member - currently offering support through her business. All welcome this offer of support and expertise. Rachel Goater will meet to discuss this further.

Non-officer members of steering group: Alan Clark, Tony Cowling and Nick Mercer. All unanimously voted in.

### In summary - new committee:

Chairperson: Chris Rhodes

Treasurer: Alex Goater

Secretary: Chris Burden

Steering Group Members:

Alan Clark

Tony Cowling

Nick Mercer

[ed notes lack of females... :( ]

### Structure of Transition

Agreed this is a longer discussion to be had as a separate meeting.

RG briefly outlined the pros and cons of becoming a registered charitable incorporated organisation (if income remains above the £5000 mark, we will have no choice). All agree this is definitely something to explore soon in separate meeting.

Chris B observed that quarterly socials may be a nice way of getting together, where there is no agenda, it's simply about getting together and celebrating what we've achieved.

Change of day

All agreed to change monthly meeting to Tuesdays so those who can't do Monday can attend. It will be 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Next meeting will be Tuesday 9 June, 7:30pm. Venue tbc (used to be at Great Expectations, so this is possible)

Chris R thanks everyone for attending, the old steering group and the new and declared it time to eat drink and be merry!

Thank you Will Alliston and friends who joined us to play some music.