

Transition Town Reading (TTR) Meeting – November 7th 2018 in the Christmas Room at Great Expectations

Present : Chris Rhodes (Chair), Karen Blakeman, Pete Wheat, Bethan Chant (Treasurer), Tony Cowling, Alan Clark, Chris Burden, Marta Rossato (Communications Officer) and niece Emma, Nathan Perrin, Costanza Talavera, Pelayo, Montse and Laura Ross Gakava (Secretary).

Points to be acted upon, marked in green.

1. Welcome and around the room

Chris Rhodes welcomed everybody to the meeting followed by an “around the room” to tell everyone who they were and to introduce new members.

2. Acceptance of the minutes from TTR meeting on 3/10/18 (circulated by Chris R via email on 4/10/18).

All accepted the Minutes as accurate.

3. Bank Account Update

The bank account balance was £5530 with the majority belonging to the Repair Café (£3680).

Laura had been confirmed as a signatory on the bank account – but both she and Pete Ruczynski still needed to be set up online. Bethan would work on this when she had time.

4. Community Orchards (fruit growing)

Beth and others had gone to look at Prospect Park Orchard on 2/11. Chris R agreed to contact Alistair by email to ask if he would like the lead role in the Orchards Project. A list of orchards provided by Alan was circulated. Karen would contribute some additional ones to the list.

5. Contribution from TTR towards the use of TTR Rotivator at Food for the Hungry Garden at Reading Road allotments

This had been discussed at the previous meeting but without the Treasurer being present. As she was at this meeting it was therefore discussed again and it was agreed by all that £100 should be allocated to this, for the purchase of tools for the project.

6. DraughtBusters Report

Tony said that the work was going well and there was a good website with more information: <http://readinguk.org/draughtbusters/>

7. TRSC Report

TRSC was going to become part of TTR. There would be an exhibition from 14 Feb to Easter next year at Reading museum. There were a number of existing volunteers who were working hard but others are welcome to join.

8. Refill and Plastics Action Report

Refill Reading (refill coffee cups) had almost come to an end. There were 37 places in Reading where water bottles could be refilled. Work was still going on to reduce the use of plastic straws through volunteers targeting businesses and encouraging them to either stop using plastic straws or to use biodegradable alternatives.

9. Possible Future Projects

Reading Community Energy Society – were doing a second phase of solar installations on social buildings. It was agreed to make “Future Projects” an Agenda item for the next TTR meeting.

10. Joint film with RFGN/RISC Film Club “In Our Hands”

There was going to be a preview on 13th November at 7pm. Pete W would probably go and would forward details.

11. TTR Christmas event

The event would be on 19th December at RISC. It was agreed that the format would be a short 40 minute film followed by a party (bring and share food).

Living the Change was a longer film (1 hour 25 minutes) and would be shown on another occasion – Monday 21st January 2018 at the Bicycle Café from 7.30-10pm was agreed. Chris B would book and let Chris R and Nathan know.

12. TTR Website

In order to keep the website up-to-date Nathan asked those involved in projects to review the website content. Where possible he encouraged them to update the content themselves and would help them learn how to do this. If this wasn't possible they should let him know what needed to be updated so that he could make any changes.

13. Any Other Business

(i) Opportunities for involvement in TTR projects:

All of those involved in projects were asked to send any dates of meetings to Nathan to publicise.

(ii) PAWS event on 17th November – Beeswax Wrap Workshop and 29th Nov “ The Bentley Effect” with Prof. Sir Brian Hoskins about a community in Australia, who stood up against “Fracking”

The details for both can be found on the following website: <http://www.pawsg.com/>

(iii) Chris B suggested it would be useful to learn more about what it's technically feasible to do with plastic. Chris R said that he would give this some thought.