

## Abingdon Carbon Cutters AGM 2017

Weds 19th July 2017, 7.30pm in the garden of St Ethelwold's House, 30 East St Helens St

**Present: 16 adults & 1 child** : Cliff Marshall (chair), Sally Reynolds (minutes), Sharon Betts, Sam Bowring, Charley Bowring, Janet Davies, Andrew Gore, Fiona Habermehl, Richard Howard, Susie Howard, Pauline Marshall, Richard Riggs, Lucille Savin, Daniel Scharf, Anne Smart, Richard Smart, Christine Whild.

**Apologies:** Linda Coker, Robert Longstaff

**Minutes:** Minutes of the last AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were agreed, with the alteration of the dates for future plans to 2016/17.

### **Accounts for period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

The accounts were sent by Linda who was unable to be present. We have a healthy balance of payments and an available surplus of just over £2000. We recommend that a 3<sup>rd</sup> shark and press are bought to keep as reserves, to allow resting and maintenance between users. CAG provide insurance for £50 for which they give us a grant. The accounts were accepted and thanks given to Linda for her work and for agreeing to continue as treasurer.

### **Appointment of officers**

**The officers** who had served last year were: Co – chairs: Richard Howard, Cliff Marshall

Treasurer: Linda Coker, Secretary: Sally Reynolds.

Cliff and Richard Howard both tendered their resignation and were thanked for their work as co-chairs over the years. It was left to the Core Group to appoint a chair from among their members and a request was made for new Core Group members, and a general invitation to Core Group meetings which are always on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month except August at 7.30 in St Ethelwolds House. Sally is willing to continue as secretary but would be very grateful for assistance in some of her roles such as website updating, social media etc.

**Core Group members for 2016-2017** were Samantha Bowring, Paul Buckingham, Linda Coker, Fiona Habermehl, Richard Howard, Susie Howard, Cliff Marshall, Sally Reynolds, Richard Riggs, and Lucille Savin.

### **Annual Summary of Activity July 2015 - June 2016**

**Review of the year.** Cliff presented a written review of the year (attached below).

### **Suggestions for Activities for 2017-18**

- Community Led Plan Process
- Sustainability of Housing Developments
- Oxford – Abingdon Sustainable Transport Study
- Work on themes dealt with in '*Tomorrow*' film:  
Agriculture, Energy, Economics, Education and Democracy.
- A formal approach to Abingdon School and perhaps St Helen's and OLA, to engage them on issues of consumption.
- Revisiting the idea of imagining our lives in 2030 now that we are more than ½ the way there.
- Looking at the Sustainability goals
- Promoting electric cars, making Abingdon friendly for e-cars.
- Population
- Patrick Barkham in today's Guardian – 30% of the population are aware of Green issues, but don't take action, ? because of cliquy campaigners, and the need to offer family-friendly activities.

**Date of Next Core Group Meeting:** Weds 6th Sept, 7.30pm at St Ethelwolds.

**Next AGM - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in July 2018: Weds 18th July 2018**

Meeting closed at 9pm and was followed by a walking tour of Edible Abingdon's Veg beds..

Attachments below:

1. Abingdon Carbon Cutters Annual Summary of Activity July 2016-June 2017
2. ACC accounts inc-exp 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017



### **Abingdon Carbon Cutters Annual Summary of Activity July 2016-June 2017**

During 2016-17 the continual focus of ACC activities has been on developing Abingdon's involvement in the Transition Initiative aimed at improving the community's sustainability and resilience in the light of the effects of climate change.

A central core of activities has been linked to food. The Edible Abingdon sub-group has added a significant new public growing space to supplement its existing plot by the refreshment kiosk in Abbey Meadow and the container-based vegetable garden at Old Station House. The new bed, in Abbey Gardens beside a path to the rear of Abbey House, makes a stimulating impact with effective signage explaining why it is important to 'grow your own' food. Alongside this focus on home-grown food crops, the perennial pollinator-friendly flower border in the new Abbey Meadow Play Area together with the wildflower maze, have continued to develop helping to demonstrate the vital importance of encouraging bees and other pollinators to aid sustainable food plant growth.

Links have continued with primary and secondary schools to promote children's awareness and engagement with growing plants. ACC has also offered support to the Stonehill Community Garden at Oday Hill and promoted the permaculture and forest garden courses offered. We were pleased to be able to make a financial contribution towards the costs of the garden following a well attended showing of the film, *'Tomorrow (Demain)'* in Stonehill House Barn.

Once again, apple juicing was a major activity during the autumn with two juicing kits being heavily used by ACC members and the wider public, including juicing being the major focus for our time in the Community Shop in the Bury Street precinct. This activity requires the dedicated hard work, mainly of Susie Howard, and as a result a healthy financial contribution is gained which not only provides for equipment repair and renewal but also helps to fund activities such as Edible Abingdon.

Continuing work with Student Consultancy Teams from Oxford University has helped to take the transition themes forward. A pilot study of residents gave useful insights into local awareness of climate change issues. This awareness seemed to be good but it was suggested that there was a need for guidance on how individual and household behaviour might be significant in reducing the town carbon footprint. One area of action identified was transport and a recent STC has been researching school pupil transportation.

Alongside these enquiries it was good to make contact officially with the recently appointed Air Quality Officer for the Vale of White Horse District Council. A discussion in an open meeting suggested some wider implications for local transport if the current good results of air quality testing are to be maintained as the number of households in and around the town increase over the coming few years.

A major event this year was the well attended Day Workshop on the politics of sustainability, ably led for us by Dr Lucy Ford of Oxford Brookes University. This and other monthly open meetings have enabled members of the public and ACC contacts to examine some of the wider implications of striving to become a sustainable community in the era of changing climate.

Topics such as how to achieve an effective way to achieve appropriate carbon pricing, developing local food plant growing projects, and supporting the local wood recycling business have been explored. Films

such as 'Before the Flood', 'Planet Ocean' and 'Tomorrow' have served to stimulate discussion. The themes depicted in the latter film have inspired a series of focused meetings for the coming year.

During last year, ACC was represented on the Town Council's Environment Working Group and this has now been superseded by the new Community-led Plan process. ACC needs to be fully engaged in the development of a Community-led Plan for Abingdon so that sustainability and resilience issues can be kept to the fore through, *inter alia*, a focus on low carbon initiatives across the community as it grows in the coming years. The recently announced Abingdon – Oxford Sustainable Transport Study will also give an opportunity for ACC members to have a voice in making the case for sustainable approaches to transport in the coming years.

Once again ACC is very grateful for the collaboration and help given by groups such as Green Gym, Abingdon Horticultural Society and Larkmead School Foundation Learning pupils. Also, it has been good to develop our links with other Community Action Groups in the area in a variety of ways, including our representation on the Oxfordshire CAG Network Forum.

It is pleasing to report that our 'contact list membership' increased once more, almost 10% up at 479, during this year with a clear increase in members taking an active role in activities – most notably through Edible Abingdon projects.

We are pleased to record our thanks to the CAG Network for its financial support in, for example, facilitating public liability insurance and making grants for particular projects available. Abingdon-on-Thames Council has also generously provided a grant towards the cost of interpretation signs for the wildflower maze.

As ever, the officers are very grateful for the hard work and support of the members of the core group who meet on the first Wednesday of each month to plan activities and the wider group of other members who are involved in looking after the bee beds, the Wild Flower maze, Edible Abingdon beds, Caldecott Meadow, juicing apples, etc.

Cliff Marshall July 2017

### **Abingdon Carbon Cutters accounts summary for April 2016 – 31 March 2017**

<b>y/e March 2017</b>		<b>y/e March 2016</b>	
b/fwd	<b>2,258.97£</b>		<b>2,509.65£</b>
Income Received	<b>1,979.49£</b>		<b>2,032.63£</b>
Diff. written off/back		<b>8.92£</b>	
Insurance Grants	<b>50.00£</b>		<b>50.00£</b>
<b>2,029.49£</b>		<b>2,091.55£</b>	
Expenditure Paid Out	<b>1,914.47£</b>		<b>2,292.23£</b>
Insurance deducted from grants	<b>50.00£</b>		<b>50.00£</b>
<b>1,964.47£</b>		<b>2,342.23£</b>	
c/fwd	<b>2,323.99£</b>		<b>2,258.97£</b>
Natwest	<b>2,153.38£</b>		<b>2,156.06£</b>
Nationwide	<b>-£</b>		<b>-£</b>
Petty Cash	<b>170.60£</b>		<b>102.90£</b>
<b>2,323.98£</b>		<b>2,258.96£</b>	

	Net			Net
	Gain/Loss	Income This	Expenses This	Gain/Loss
	Bfwd	Year	Year	Cfwd
<b>Restricted</b>				
CAG Grant_ Insurance	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Station House Edible Abingdon Donation	0.00	100.00	73.44	26.56
AbingdonOnThamesTownCouncilGrant	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Mobile Kitchen Equipment (Grant)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>123.44</u>	<u>276.56</u>
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
Apple Press & Juicing	1,669.75	945.78	835.18	1,780.35
Misc	1,386.69	0.00	176.20	1,210.49
Other Donations	243.22	295.35	0.00	538.57
Environmental Development (Abbey Meadow & Edible Abingdon)	-602.02	0.00	46.25	-648.27
Monthly Meetings/Events	-293.65	388.36	712.00	-617.29
Website	-145.03	0.00	71.40	-216.43
	<u>2,258.97</u>	<u>1,629.49</u>	<u>1,841.03</u>	<u>2,047.43</u> available surplus
	<u>2,258.97</u>	<u>2,029.49</u>	<u>1,964.47</u>	<u>2,323.99</u>
per combined bank acs & cash	<u>£ 2,258.96</u>			<u>£ 2,323.98</u>