

Sustainable Villages Steering Committee Meeting 25th April 2015

at Greenham Reach, Holcombe Rogus.

Present: Sally Chapman, Neil Dennis-Purves, Gill Gale, Derek Thomas, Jeni Lupton, Ruth O'Brien, Sagara Vajra, Rosalie Chamberlin

Apologies: Richard and Tess Wiltshire, Pat Bell, Peter Bowers

Item	Comments	Action
Welcome	We were welcomed to Greenham Reach by James, Ruth and Helen who had thoughtfully provided a marquee, tea and delicious cake for us.	
Matters Arising	All on agenda	
Give or Take and Plastic Recycling	Very successful event held over three days in Tiverton. Smooth flow of goods in and out. Not much plastic taken. We may use the Tiverton Town Team Pop-up shop for the next Give or Take.	
Repair Cafe	The number of goods for repair was a little less last time so new options for publicity discussed – may include a volunteer with a sandwich board. The insurance costs £30 for each two hour session and this has been covered by grants and donations this year. Derek suggested trying NFU for insurance.	
Parliamentary hustings	Neil, Ann, Pat and Sally went to the event in Dunkeswell organised by the Blackdown Hills Transition Group and covering environmental issues. Jeni and Gill went to a similar event in Tiverton that covered more general issues. Both events were attended by more than 100 people and all found them very interesting.	
Brendon Energy	Sally – her church is interested but cannot commit until other work on their roof is completed.	
Greenham Reach	Helen and Stuart have now moved onto Plot A with their family. The other two plots are preparing to take their produce to Exmouth Farmers market. A crowd funding bid will be launched through Buzzbank soon to improve infrastructure for visitors to the site. The first £4,500 raised will be matched by Funding Enlightened Agriculture. Ruth will let us know when the launch date and the work weekend dates are finalised. The Ecological Land Co-operative that developed the Greenham Reach site are launching a community share offer to fund the development of their second cluster of affordable ecological smallholdings. Information can be found on their website at ecologicalland.coop/	<p>Ruth – confirm dates of crowd funding launch and work weekends to Sally</p> <p>Sally - will send crowd funding details to SV mailing list when available</p>
Junction 27 development	The MDDC Consultation deadline on this development is on Monday 27 th April and all were encouraged to send a response.	Jeni – will send email reminder today to mailing list
Bridgezone Cafe	A member of the Canal Committee informed Sally that a benefactor is prepared to buy the former scout hut in Sampford Peverell for use as a community resource. It will be run either by the Parish Council or the Canal Trust and could provide a venue for a tea room, exhibitions, markets etc.	

Uffculme Green Team	The Uffculme Show and Country Fair will be held on May Day Bank Holiday Monday 4th May from 10am to 4pm. SV will be sharing a stall with the Uffculme Green Team and a pre-meeting has been held with those involved. Ideas for the stall were discussed and included display boards, leaflets and possible input from Greenham Reach to publicise their crowd funding launch.	All – Let Gill know if available to help on the stall
Pop-up shop	The Town Team in Tiverton have a Pop-up shop in Fore Street. We agreed to try and book the shop for two weeks in the autumn for a Give or Take event, possibly combined with promotion of green energy/Open Homes/Repair Cafe/Greenham Reach etc.	Sally – Book dates for Pop up shop Gill - contact Devon Association for Renewable Energy for information
Beekeeping	All three colonies have come through the winter well. Several new people have expressed interest in joining the group, some who want to be directly involved and some who have their own bees but would welcome support. We agreed we need to clarify what we can offer people who contact us. We will then produce a leaflet with Jeni's help that can be given to those interested.	Rosalie – agree leaflet text with Bee group
East Devon Forest Garden	Sagara told us about the 3 acre Forest Garden that he started 5 years ago. By substituting the components of a natural forest ecosystem with edible and useful plants you potentially have a food production system that dramatically reduces the work involved in producing food. It is designed to mimic a natural forest and has a vertical dimension so the yield can be stacked vertically. He has also built a 30 foot natural swimming pool and is planning to run various courses e.g. forest gardening, making thermal mass stoves, steam wood bending, solar furnace making. He asked that we save aluminium cans (not crushed) that he can use in making solar furnaces. He would also welcome help with steam wood bending to repair his yurt. He invited the group to visit his Forest Garden and will contact Sally with suggested dates.	All – save aluminium cans for Sagara and contact him if interested in steam wood bending Sagara – send Sally suggested dates for visit
New events	A seed, seedling, plant and produce Give or Take was suggested and it was agreed that Sally would see if it would be possible to hold this in the Bridgezone Cafe if electricity and water would be available. As a backup she will also try and book Sampford Peverell Village Hall. The date of 30th May was suggested. Peter Smith has offered to give us a free copy of the film 'The Fourth Revolution - Energy Autonomy'. He knows the maker of this documentary about living in a world where 100% of energy is produced from renewables. We agreed to see if it would be possible to show it at Petroc's film club, possibly with Peter Smith answering questions at the end. Sally will ask Richard to approach the film club.	Sally – try and book Bridgezone Cafe/Village Hall for 30 th May. Ask Richard to talk to Film Club Jeni – organise Apple

	<p>Jeni confirmed that Magelake has now been booked for the Apple Day on 24th October.</p> <p>Sagara suggested having a regional meeting of Transition Towns, with us inviting TT Wellington, Crediton and Blackdown. Ruth also suggested Wiveliscombe and both Greenham Reach and East Devon Forest Garden would be happy to host with us. Possibly Wellington and Wiveliscombe at Greenham and Crediton and Blackdown at EDFG.</p>	Day meeting
Website/Advertising/Promotion	<p>It was agreed that we need to improve on our publicity for events and that ideally one or two Publicity Officers should be identified. They could compile an up to date list of contacts, deadlines for newspapers and newsletters etc. Ruth offered to forward a list of local press contacts she has been offered. No volunteers as yet so, for now, all were asked to email their useful contacts to Sally. Suggested new places to display posters for Give or Take etc were CHAT and Ashley Tip. It would be helpful to have a leaflet to hand out that gave details of the SV activities. Jeni offered to compile one (ideally before Uffculme Fair on 4th May) and will take text from our website unless she is given more up to date information. The group were also encouraged to use their existing contacts to spread the word.</p>	<p>Ruth – Forward press contacts to Sally</p> <p>Jeni – put together a leaflet using text from website.</p> <p>All – volunteer Publicity Officer needed</p>
AOB	<p>The Transition Network conference will take place at Seale Hayne, close to Totnes, on 18th-20th September 2015.</p> <p>The free “From Cowboys to Astronauts” art from waste exhibition will take place from 27th April to 22nd May at the Enviro Hub, Devon Contract Waste, Marsh Barton Road, Exeter EX2 8NU.</p>	
Next meeting	Tuesday, 26th May 2015, 7pm at The Barn, 3 Lower Town, Halberton. EX16 7AU.	