

Minutes of TVEG Meeting Sept 09 2009

Present: Christine, Tom, Sheila, Penny, Hilary, Pam, Adam, Angie, Martin, Mick, Phil, Pete

Chair: Anne Mary

Minute taker: Pam

Apologies: Ziggy, Val, Evie.

Agenda

- Climate Change Demo
- Farmers market
- TVEG
- Allotment
- Tidy Towns
- HES

Climate Change Demo

Pete Hudson who works for a charity; Rainbow Development In Africa, (who work with farmers in Africa), talked about whether TVEG could help in organizing a coach to go down for a demo/ march in London Dec 5th called 'Stop Climate Change Chaos' to lobby the govt. to take notice of the demo in Copenhagen on 12th Dec. (which aims to put pressure on govts. to set realistic targets in the Copenhagen meeting). It is called 'The Wave' and the idea is to surround Parliament.

It was agreed we could certainly help to publicise it in Knighton, Penny suggested there may be a list of possibles among the 'Peace and Justice' group. Mick could email everyone. Discussion on greener methods of getting down there ... train? Pete thought it would be £24 each however coach would be cheaper. No firm info as yet on itinerary of march when more details known, Pete will contact via email through Anne Mary. Certainly Knighton group could contact various lists of people, e.g. Wasteless soc. in Clun, Bishops castle, to team up with Presteigne, either getting a coach load or team up with the Presteigne coach.

Farmers Market

Next Saturday, 12th Sept there will be a Zero Miles Stall, selling veg grown in and around catchment area of Knighton, (Mick and Alice included). This will be happening each time now but it was felt there should still be a stall each week publicizing various issues as well. Tom is arranging Ready Steady cook for Sat 12th Sept, 24th Oct and 14th Nov.

Will and Penny will have their cookery demo on 26th Sept

Another idea for Oct, Christine with her group of teenagers may be able to do a workshop on making things with recycled materials. She will get back to AM about the date, possibly 24th Oct, Angie also has some ideas about a workshop to make musical instruments from vegetables, these could possibly join up.

10th Oct could be good for a promotion of the allotment
Info on Climate change, books, resources, banners, promotion of
demo? 14th Nov

To summarise:

12th Sept: Zero Miles Stall start and each week, and Ready Steady
Cook

26th Sept: Will and Penny cookery demo

10th Oct: Promotion of Allotment

24th Oct: Possible workshop Christine? and Angie?

14th Nov: Info on Climate Change

TVEG

Next meeting of TVEG is 18th Nov

Membership, how to broaden it and publicise. AM to find out if there is
a directory of groups in Knighton. Flyer needed, what we do, how to
get involved and who to contact. Town web sites, e.g. Visit Knighton
AM will come up with the wording, Mick Green to design flyer? To put
in our essence – carbon neutrality, energy, local produce, transport,
environment, self help etc. all ideas, wording to be brought at next
meeting.

The only money we have in TVEG is allotment money. The issue is that
we have now got an account in the Co-op bank which is in fact
allotment money.

We need TVEG money. Tidy Towns may yet give us a grant.

Allotment

We have had a disorganized but very successful year. The next
allotment meeting needs to be held at the allotment to discuss plans
for the next year and to air any differences, e.g. about the old pea and
bean plants. AM to email people give them a choice of two dates.

Tidy Towns

Sheila has received correspondence from Rachel via email inviting us
to apply for a free pack because they are running a promotional pack
Sept and Oct. She asked, do we want to apply for a grant for
equipment, bags, bands, long handled litter pickers, gloves, etc. The
equipment we have at present is on loan. It was agreed we wanted to
apply SC to do this. Another litter picking event was set for 17th Sept
at 6.00 meeting at the Offa's Dyke Centre.

HES

Standing for Home Energy Survey.

Adam explained that HES began in Bishops Castle to give advice on
energy use etc. in people's homes. It has developed into a professional
service. Householders get a full blown survey backed up with info and
advice. The local co-ordinators recruit volunteers to find householders
who want that service and also provide support and quality control to
the volunteers/surveyors.

Adam said that both local co-ordinators in Knighton and Presteigne, (Gary and Rachel), are relinquishing their jobs.

He said that during this year more emphasis has been placed on extending the influence of HES rather than in reinforcing the local issue of surveys in Knighton and Presteigne. The Big Green Challenge, a competition has distracted them and the local co-ordinators have been given other things to do. There is also a challenge within the organisation of staying community based as it grows.

He felt they have fallen down on managing the whole process, lost focus, less clients, less surveys and wants to focus on a more simple service. In some areas 1 in 15 have signed up, in Bishops Castle 1 in 3 have signed up which shows what can be done given the resources and effort in one place. In BC the punters are having re-surveys and are regularly saving 30% -40% of fuel bills. The info is meaningful and is supported. Ideally you need to persuade a critical mass of people to tip the scale in a community so that it becomes part of the culture and makes a difference. In Knighton we have 8 surveyors.

Local co-ordinator role is crucial to keep momentum, get punters in and give a level of confidence and competence to the volunteers. In Knighton and Presteigne there is money for a co-ordinator to work one day and a half. This job could be advertised but Adam wanted to involve the local community in this process. The person would need to know the local groups and networks. That person will need to get back to talking to other relevant groups in the towns have enough local community knowledge to be able to engage with them. When Rachel went to the WI and the schools etc. this was really effective. The group felt strongly it was a shame there was not enough money for 3 days a week to make it a real job for someone but Adam said that as yet financially HES cannot afford this for Knighton and Presteigne. At moment the person would do 1 ½ days on each town or concentrate on one town for a couple of weeks and then the other.

Anyone from TVEG who would want to be on the interviewing panel or who are interested ? Contact HES AM has email address. Anyone who wants to engage in a discussion about how we keep HES in contact at grass roots while it grows (not becoming pyramidal? How we own it? Contact HES. AM was interested in joining this discussion.

It would be a good idea to have the list of surveyors up somewhere. Perhaps an offer of paying TVEG £10.00 a survey would incentivize people. Groups like the Mums and Toddlers, if they share our beliefs perhaps they could recruit people and gain £10.00 for their group. The training of surveyors has changed from 1 day to 3 modules. The first about understanding/ communication, the second about data collection and the third about understanding the whole process. These

modules are being written now. There will be a rehearsal late Oct.
Current surveyors can have this input.

AOB

Sat 19th Sept Conference on Low Carbon Community Network
Birmingham. If interested email AM