

Meeting Notes: Malmesbury CAN Committee

27th January 2020

Present

Janet, Ade, Gavin, Fiona, Martin, Katie, Janinka, Laura, Chris, Campbell, Ana, Fred and Chess
Apologies: Val, Joy, Fran

Event Debrief

Everyone agreed that the day was a great success and gratitude was expressed to all on the team who worked so hard to pull it off. Some thought it could have been longer with space for breaks, others thought the timing was just right. Some thought we didn't have enough time for each speaker, others thought it was enough to give a little taster of the subject! On balance, feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Key feedback for next event:

- We could have used the opportunity to collect info on attendees e.g. who they worked for/groups they represented (we can retrospectively ask)
- We needed to find a way to better support/guide those who didn't know what to do next
- We needed to find a better way to engage young people, teenagers and families
- We could have used it as an opportunity to gain people's feedback about the event and what they wanted next

What next?

Out of the feedback and post event notes from the day, 7 key work streams emerged. It was agreed that two+ volunteers from the central MCAN committee would act as Initial Team Leads, pulling together those who put their names down for a first meeting.

These streams are:

1. Tree Planting/Biodiversity ** (with expertise from Nick Murray)
 - a. Tree Planting
 - b. Biodiversity/Conservation/Wildlife Protection
2. Community Energy – **Martin, Fiona (with expertise from Lesley Bennet/Nick Murray)**
 - a. Renewable Energy Project
3. Transport – **Janinka, Chris G**
 - a. Cycling Network
 - b. Electric Cars and Charging
4. Resource Sharing – **Ana, Fred, Sam P**
 - a. Upcycling/Recycling/Repair
 - b. Library of Things
5. Overall Strategy – **Campbell, Gavin, Chris G, Katie P**
 - a. Transition Malmesbury
 - b. Sustainable Sherston
 - c. Network Building and Partnership Working
6. Education/Lobbying – **Katie P**
 - a. Lobby Group
 - b. Education Policy
 - c. Eco-School/Forest School
7. Community Agriculture - **Laura, Fran V(?)**
 - a. Food Growing and Consumption (lottery funding)
 - b. Food Waste and Community Composting

- c. Permaculture Project
- d. Community Allotments and Agriculture/Grown Your Own

** Julie Taylor and Ben Thornbury currently have over 200 trees they are looking to plant at an event on 29th March 2020. It was suggested that going forwards, they might want to act as Team Leads. Campbell and Gavin made the group aware that Julie and Ben are having ongoing discussions with the Town Council about land available for planting. Julie is setting up an event for this, which Chess will distribute once she receives a link.

The Town Council has an ongoing project which is looking into the sustainability of the town with upcoming information sessions planned. Those on the Overall Strategy team will be invited to take part in these sessions.

Action: Gavin to email Chris G and Katie P with the dates that these sessions are taking place

The working timetable:

1. Campbell will be asking the Town Council for each working stream to be offered 2 free meetings in the Town Hall. Once this is confirmed, he will then email a set of dates to the MCAN Committee. We hope to have this information by early February.
2. The Initial Team Leads should pick a date that works for them. The dates offered would ideally be within the next month/month and a half.
3. Chess will send the Team Leads the email addresses of those who put their name down for that stream.
4. The Initial Team Leads should email their stream with the date and time information and location
5. This information will also be put on our website (www.malmesburycan.co.uk – kindly set up by Campbell and run as part of the Vibrant Malmesbury project) so that everyone will be able to see which groups are meeting when.
6. These streams are just initial ideas and could change after the first meeting, depending on the feedback from the representatives of the MCAN Committee (new/different/refined streams might need to be developed).
7. Further guidance will be provided for the Initial Team Leads about these meetings

Action: Campbell to ask the Town Council for room use and report dates back

Action: Chess to provide Team Leads with email address list of those in their work stream

Action: For those who weren't at the meeting or would like to put their name down to act as Initial Team lead, please do let me know and I will update the list

What next for MCAN?

The MCAN committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis and the fourth Monday of each month was proposed as the regular meeting date, with the time pushed back to a 7.30pm start. This makes the next meeting 24th February at 7.30pm.

The group would continue to manage the network, develop the knowledge commons (website), logistics and events.

The group also discussed formalising, to be in the best position to aid the work streams as the project moves forwards (for example, making it easier to apply for and receive grants). Formal structures proposed included a Charitably Incorporated Organisation, a Community Organisation or a CIC.

Action: Chris G to investigate structure of Transition Stroud/Corsham

Action: Campbell to investigate structure of Zero Chippenham with Nick Murray

Action: All to investigate the three options, ready to feed back at next meeting

AOB

- Fred Noted that there was still a large amount of waste cardboard after the day from Waitrose products. Chess highlighted that Waitrose had planned to provide everything in plastic and that we had avoided this by getting pastries. We had also taken up large containers for our items, but this was vetoed by Waitrose for Health and Safety reasons. Campbell confirmed that the Waitrose boxes were taken back by him and were recycled. Gavin confirmed that the Town Hall now had recycling facilities so this could be done on site moving forwards.
- Campbell Informed the group that there were two vacancies on the Town Council. Further information: <http://www.malmesbury.gov.uk/latest-news/614-vacancy-for-2-new-co-opted-councillors.html> Application deadline is Friday 31st January 2020.
- Ade Expressed an interest in crafting activities going forwards, especially with young people. Chess noted that there were three junior Malmesbury Againsts Plastic members who were looking to set up a Green Group in Malmesbury, which would do craft activities, invite speakers along etc. Janet offered her assistance through hosting the group through her role as the Education representative of the Museum, which would provide “free” space for this to go ahead (might have to charge a small donation fee). Gavin noted that he would have contacts at the Youth Network who would also be interested in this.
Action: Chess to link up the three girls with Janet, Ade, Laura and Katie to progress this.
Action: Janet/Campbell to confirm whether there was a shelf available in the Old School Room within the Town Hall
- Janet Discussed what the follow up would be from the event. It was suggested that we set up a regular monthly talk, possibly in the style of a ‘Pint of Science’ lectures. It was suggested that Professor Waltham (who had spoken earlier in January at a very successful event held by Sustainable Sherston) could be the first to speak. If pub venues were too small/expensive, the Assembly Room (in Town Hall) would be considered, with the bar open to balance out overhead costs.

Janet also suggested that MCAN should be looking to have a presence at WOMAD.

Action: Gavin to discuss with pubs in the town what venues they might have available for such talks, prices, space etc.
Action: Gavin/Martin(?) to ask Professor Waltham for his availability in March
Action: Campbell to confirm Assembly Room availability in March
Action: Gavin to check the WOMAD connection and put in touch with Janet
- Chris Noted that the Town Hall blinds were often open at night, which would be wasting lots of heat energy. Gavin informed the group that new blinds/curtains were/had been ordered. A wider discussion about Town Hall facilities took place - Laura asked whether the taps were going to have regulators installed. Gavin to investigate as well as who is TC energy supplier (should be a green provider). A water fountain will not be installed as part of the toilet upgrade, but pipes are being fitted in such a way to enable this in the future.

Chris also asked about the website and whether training was available. It was suggested that one person from each stream should volunteer to act as that group's website updater and be trained up. Campbell also noted the need for someone to help populate the new website in the short term.

Chris offered his assistance to Gavin in typing up the notes from the tablecloths from the day, to be pulled together as a resource for the website.

Action: Gavin to discuss implementing blind/curtain closing as part of shut down routine with the Town Hall caretaker

Action: Campbell to provide Chess and Chris with a list of dates/times for training. Chess to email wider network with this information and ask for volunteers.

Laura Informed the group that our lottery application had not been progressed, with over 630 other entries. Laura also noted that public consultation was under way for "Future Homes Standard". Laura expressed concern that the proposed changes would take us further from achieving climate targets and although technical consultation process, encouraged us to all give our feedback. Link to the government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings> and further information from a London Organisation can be found here: <https://www.leti.london/part-l> If we were looking for a Passivhaus speaker, Laura would also have a contact.

Katie Questioned whether MCAN was having a presence at the Community Action Day on 8th February. It was suggested that groups that might fall under the MCAN umbrella should be highlighted with a MCAN logo.

Action: Campbell to provide group with a list of groups attending the event

Action: Chess to provide signage for those who are/develop bigger poster

Martin Had kindly represented MCAN at an event in Trowbridge, hosted by Extinction Rebellion to bring together all the climate groups in Wiltshire. The event was a great opportunity for networking. The group were coordinating a big rally on 25th February outside the council's offices in Trowbridge, before their full council meeting that day. 25th February marks a year since the Council declared a Climate Emergency. They are encouraging as many climate groups as possible to come down to pressure the council and draw in media attention.

Action: Martin to find out whether meeting in Trowbridge was to be a regular event

Action: Ade and Janet to discuss possibility of designing and creating a Malmesbury Climate Action Network banner.

Action: Chess to provide Ade and Janet with MCAN logo

Chess Noted that Malmesbury Community Radio had enjoyed being present at the day and were building a podcast which should be available by the end of the month.

Chess to send out interim email to those who want to be a part of the network, to give them an update and look out for a further email from us.

Action: Chess to distribute/add to website once available

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 24th February at 7.30pm. Room TBC by Campbell.