

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Marlborough Area Board
Place: Marlborough Town Hall, 5 High St, Marlborough SN8 1AA
Date: Tuesday 4 September 2018
Time: 7.00 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 23 August 2018. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Tara Shannon, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718352 or email tara.shannon@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

6 **Partner Updates (Pages 1 - 4)**

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28 August 2018

Update from Transition Marlborough for Area Board Meeting - September 2018

The group remains active with events and campaigns to address a variety of sustainability issues affecting Marlborough and its people, including transport, air pollution, plastic use, local food, skills building and waste reduction.

Goodbyes and thanks:

Dr Sam Page is leaving for Edinburgh at the end of September. She has been a driving force in Transition Marlborough from the very beginning. Her passion, courage, wisdom and experience will be sorely missed by the group. We wish her well in her new life north of the border and thank her, wholeheartedly, for all her energies, vision and hard work to date.

John Yates has stood down from the Transport Group after many years of committed work and drive to improve the sustainability of transport options in and around Marlborough. We thank him wholeheartedly too, for all his many contributions and we commit to taking forward the projects he helped to start and had yet to see to fruition.

AGM:

Our AGM will be held on Thursday October 11th. Venue and speaker details to be confirmed via our newsletter, Facebook page and existing website. Public support is very welcome for this event as an opportunity to find out more about Transition and how to get involved.

Transport:

Campaigning and lobbying continues with regard the lack of bus service to Bedwyn Rail Station, especially since new, larger trains will be operating in the near future. This will put an increased strain on station and village parking in the village if the bus service is not resumed or, indeed, expanded.

The TM team are very keen to hear updates on the Tesco cycle path and the implementation of the 20mph zone in the town.

Reducing plastics use:

We had a very successful and peaceful protest about own-brand non-recyclable plastic packaging at Waitrose earlier in the summer, which had good local news coverage. TM supporters continue to regularly return this packaging to local supermarkets to keep up pressure for much-needed change in supermarket packaging.

Swindon UA and Malmesbury TC are looking to become single-use-plastic free and an independent campaigner in Swindon is bringing the Water Refill movement to the town too. The Transition team are looking at how we can encourage Marlborough to follow suite.

Collaboration with Citizen's Climate Lobby:

We are now more closely linked with the local CCL representative and are working together on campaigns, events and communications for mutual benefit.

TM events:

We are running regular film nights at the Community and Youth Centre. The next one will be on Thursday November 1st and will be a second attempt to screen 'In Our Hands' (*a film about the growing movement of community supported agriculture and new, young smallholders and food growers who are changing our food system*) There were some technical challenges at the first attempt in August. Sam Bertram told the audience that night about the Marlborough Local Food Assembly and, despite not seeing the film that evening, a very useful group discussion took place about local food issues and the seeds of a potential new project were sown (See draft project outline at the end of this update)

Bee Roadzz project:

This goes from strength to strength, particularly with the support of the Marlborough Downs Space for Nature farmers. Bulbs have been bulk ordered for a wide-scale planting campaign in October of early forage crocuses and grape hyacinths. Anyone can register for a pack through the Space for Nature website and we welcome them being planted in public spaces where both bees and people can benefit from them.

Mildenhall Village Hall committee have given permission for a piece of grassed land behind the village hall to be managed by the local gardening club to create a bee and pollinator friendly garden space. Work will start on that this autumn.

The Bee Roadzz project will be represented at the National Honey Show in October at Sandown Racecourse and an application has been made to present at the Oxford Real Farming Conference in January too. Swindon now has its own linked Bee Roadzz project and Transition has a regular monthly spot on the Swindon 105.5 radio show 'The Birds and the Bees'.

Permaculture Course:

Nearing the end of the 8th annual course with an alumni of over 40 people who have completed it now. Some past attendees also meet up monthly to continue their learning and sometimes apply their design skills in each other's gardens. A one-day introduction was also delivered for Sustainable Devizes in July and this has encouraged a new permaculture style allotment in the town and another participant has signed up for a nationally recognised permaculture design certificate course as a result.

Communications:

Transition Marlborough will have a new website by the end of the year and have already streamlined newsletter and mailing list administration. Almost 500 people are currently signed up to updates.

A possible project for future Area Board support:

No request for funding has been submitted in this round but development of the local food system and culture is a key area of Transition focus that could benefit from Area Board support in the future.

The group discussion that emerged on the film night in August created an idea to explore **funding and support for some paid coordination time to encourage and build our local food economy**. This could involve any or all of the following and more:

- a. Creating and coordinating an online exchange forum for homegrown produce gluts
- b. Replicating something like Richard Paget's 'My Apple Juice' model to better capture other garden produce surpluses and support further local enterprise and employment in the process
- c. Creating a coherent community of local growers, linking across the allotment associations and gardening clubs of the town, through shared learning and social events.
- d. Linking local amateur growers as possible providers to our local cafes and restaurants
- e. Reducing food waste and encouraging the learning of basic cooking skills through, perhaps, a pop-up soup and smoothies-café making use of the end of day produce on the market

Since Transition Marlborough is not constituted to employ anyone directly, a partnership could be explored with a like-minded but employing organisation, like, say, the Wildlife Trust (Project planning is currently at a very early stage)

Milly Carmichael
Chair – Transition Marlborough

