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| **Chiddingly Climate Action Group Meeting** **Thursday 24 February 2022** **Six Bells, Chiddingly****Notes**  |

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| **Attendees** |
| Dylan Walker (Chair) | Mark Valleley (Secretary)  | David Nash  |
| Tina Letanka | Gail Giles  | Noel Hardy |
| Sheryl Renninson | Mike Goss | Lucy Carnagan-Holt |
| Cat Wood-Evans | Anthony Redman | Clare Hancox  |
| Cornelie Usborne (part)  |  |  |
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| **Apologies** |
| Alan Zeal  | Sally Ashby | Winnow Hardy  |
| Nicholas Wrigley | Laura Johnstone  | Rachel Pratt  |
| Frankie Hornby |  |  |

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| **Item** | **Action** |
| 1. **Welcome and notes from the previous meeting**
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| * 1. Dylan welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the group.
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| 1. **Heathfield Repair Café**
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| * 1. Cornelie Usbourne (cornelieusbourne@gmail.com) attended the meeting to introduce the Heathfield Repair Café.
	2. A Repair Café is a place where people can get everyday items repaired by volunteer repairers, such as electrical and mechanical devices, computers, bicycles, clothing, toys, musical instruments and other items.
	3. The Heathfield Repair Café takes place every second Saturday of the month at Horam Village Hall between 09.30 -12.30 ([facebook.com/RepairCafeTN21](https://www.facebook.com/RepairCafeTN21))
	4. It first opened in September 2021 and receives funds from Heathfield Parish Council to cover the cost of room hire. The service is free but people attending can make donations. Refreshments are available and some people use it as a community hub.
	5. The Café aims to attract people from Heathfield, Horam, Cross-in-Hand and Chiddingly.
	6. A lot of preparation was needed to get the Repair Café up and running, including getting the necessary insurance and recruiting volunteer repairers with a range of specialisms. Fourteen volunteer repairers with a range of skills were currently available to attend the Repair Café on a rotational basis.
	7. Five volunteers were needed on the day to run the event to meet and greet and match attendees to repairers.
	8. Cornelie’s view was that rather than looking to establish another Repair shop in Chiddingly, it would be better to encourage people to attend the Heathfield one.
	9. More volunteers were needed to enable a rota to be established to staff the Café. People were urged to drop in and those willing to volunteer should email Cornelie.
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| 1. **Feedback from Task and Finish Groups**
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| * 1. **Information Sharing**
		1. Dave Nash gave feedback on the outcome of his discussions with Stuart Hall about developing an information sharing website.
		2. Imperial College had produced a useful website that identified nine things that individuals can achievably do to tackle climate change (<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/stories/climate-action/>).
		3. The nine things identified are:
		+ Make your voice heard by those in power
		+ East less meat and dairy
		+ Cut back on flying
		+ Leave the car at home
		+ Reduce your energy use and bills
		+ Respect and protect green spaces
		+ Invest your money responsibly
		+ Cut consumption and waste
		+ Talk about the changes you make
		1. A website could be built around these themes with a local area focus. It would be non-political and non-preachy and focus on giving people information to make more informed choices. It would also publicise local events and group meetings. **There was agreement that a website along these lines would be useful.**
		2. A website would take time to build (2-3 months) and it would rely on people volunteering to provide content. It would be important that the website was well populated with content before it is launched. The development of the website could only proceed at pace once a group name has been identified.
		3. A discussion took place about what other communication mechanisms should be used/developed whilst the website was in development and after it was up and running.
		4. The possibility of setting up a dedicated Facebook page was discussed whilst the website is under development or, as an alternative, posting information about the group via the existing Chiddingly and East Hoathly Facebook page: [Facebook - Chiddingly and East Hoathly Community News and Talk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/240797579955754)
		5. The use of other Social media in the longer term was discussed:
		6. Twitter – a way of networking with other villages doing similar things.
		7. Instagram – would need pictures of events once they have happened.
		8. Nextdoor - <https://nextdoor.co.uk/news_feed>
		9. In the short term, the focus would still need to be on having a regular article in the Parish News, using posters to advertise future meetings and making sure these were placed on noticeboards and in public places including the village shop.
		10. Liaison with the school, and specifically the existing environmental aspects of the curriculum were discussed (e.g Eco Warriors). The website could have specific content aimed at children.
		11. **Dave and Stuart to hold a further meeting to discuss website development**.
	2. **Library of Things**
		1. Sheryl Rennison gave feedback on the outcome of the Task & Finish meeting that she had held with Frankie and Dylan.
		2. Various items were discussed.
		3. Use of Nextdoor website to reduced consumption through recycling of unwanted household items and to promote activities and events.
		+ Establishing a Repair Café in the village.
		+ Establishing a Library of things.
		+ Holding a Jumble Trail event.
		1. The Idea of a Library of things (<https://www.libraryofthings.co.uk/>) was dismissed as the number of people living in the village (approx. 800) is insufficient to make this viable.
		2. Next door (<https://nextdoor.co.uk/news_feed>) was seen as a useful alternative means of encouraging people to advertise their unwanted household items for reuse by others. Although Nextdoor is a national website, it is made up of local networks focussed on a village or a town. A Chiddingly network is already in place and people can control the geographical area they are interested in. Subgroups can be formed within a local network for people with particular interests. Local businesses can also advertise on it. The possibility of holding a drop in event at the village shop was discussed to enable people to learn how to use the Next door site and help them to register.
		3. Repair Café – rather than setting up a separate Repair Café in Chiddingly the focus should be on promoting the Heathfield one that Cornelie had talked to the group about earlier (see paras 2.1-2.9). The possibility of having a one-off repair café type event in the Village as a spinoff of the Heathfiled Repair Café was discussed. This could be held in the shop and could be themed around a particular skills such as IT, Microsoft Office products or CV preparation or a particular types of skills or repairs.
		4. Jumble Trail – the concept involves people setting up bric a brac stalls outside their homes on a particular day with the idea that people in the village follow a trail to visit each other stalls. It presents an opportunity to clear out lofts, sell surplus garden veg or plants. A small entry fee would be charged to cover cost of printing promotional material and the jumble trail map. The event could be held to coincide with another event such as Father’s Day or the Scarecrow Trail (not running in 2022) and could end with a barbeque.
		5. All three ideas were well received by the group and **Sheryl, Frankie and Dylan would hold another meeting of the Task and Finish Group to identify potential ways forward**.

 * 1. **Transport**
		1. Mark Valleley update the group on the outcome of the Task and finish Group that he had attended with Sheryl and Tony.
		2. Three ideas were discussed:
		+ Promoting the national Liftshare scheme in the village.
		+ Holding a family summer cycling event.
		+ Holding a Dr Bike (bike repair session) in the run-up to the summer cycling event.
		1. The national **Liftshare** scheme <https://liftshare.com/uk> enables organised car sharing by connecting people travelling in the same direction so they can arrange to travel together and share the costs, whilst reducing congestion and pollution at the same time.
		2. The web-based platform is free to join, and once registered users identify regular car journeys they make that they would be prepared to share with others looking for a lift. Once you've registered your journey, you are then presented with other journeys matching yours. When you have found a suitable match from the results, you can then contact the member(s) using an internal messaging system and confirm that you're sharing. Liftshare calculates a suggested contribution per passenger for your journey based on the length of your trip. The web site contains guidance to ensure people stay safe when sharing.
		3. The way forward would be to promote LiftShare on the Group’s website.
		4. **The summer family cycle event** would be open to anyone but particularly aimed at those people who aren’t regular cyclists who would like to give it a go. This would allow people to increase their confidence on the road by participating in a group ride, with those who are more regular cyclists, around a designated low traffic route starting and finishing in the village.
		5. Planning would be key to success and the Cycling UK website contains useful information on organising events <https://www.cyclinguk.org/guide/organise-charity-bike-ride-sportive>. Safety will be a key consideration and an initial step would be to see what notification, if any, has to be given and to whom about the event. Public liability insurance may also be an issue. As a first step, **Mike Goss who is a member of Cycling UK agreed to look into these aspects**.
		6. If it is possible to hold a cycle event, then a ‘Dr Bike’ event could be held in the run up to it. This would involve a person with bike repair skills offering to undertake minor repair or tune ups needed to enable people to particulate in the cycling event.
 | **DN/SH****SR/DW/FH****MG** |
| 1. **Name of the Group**
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| * 1. A discussion took place about the name of the Group with various suggestions coming forward. It was felt that the name needed to be positive, inclusive and community focussed.
	2. Questions were raised about the possible implications of using words such as ‘green’, ‘sustainability’, ‘climate change’ and ‘crisis’ in the group name.
	3. No consensus was achieved at the meeting, and it was agreed that the **discussion should continue on the WhatsApp Group** to inform a further discussion at the next meeting.
 | **ALL** |
| 1. **Summer ‘show and tell’ event**
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| * 1. The possibility of having a ‘show and tell’ event with village group members showcasing existing good environmental practice over a weekend through ‘open houses’ was discussed at the last meeting. Showcasing could include solar panels, heat pumps, electric cars, electric bikes, horticultural and rewilding examples.
	2. In view of limited time, it was agreed that further discussion about this event would be postponed until the next meeting.
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| 1. **Communications**
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| * 1. Communications had already been discussed extensively under other items.
	2. Mark Valleley raised the issue of needing to communicate with the Parish Council about the Group’s activities to ensure they were kept informed. He agreed to **speak to the Parish Clerk** about attending a future Parish Council meeting to introduce the Group and give an update on current and future planned activities.
 | **MV**  |
| 1. **Extending membership of the group to East Hoathly**
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| 7.1 A discussion took place about extending membership of the group to East Hoathly. Various views were put forward, but it was agreed that the Group needed to establish itself more firmly before extending the membership. The possibility of holding a meeting in East Hoathly in the summer should be considered as a way of inviting a wider membership.   |  |
| 1. **Frequency of future meetings**
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| 8.1 It was agreed that meetings should continue to be monthly but the days of the week varied between Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. 8.2 A forward programme of monthly meetings should be developed that could then be advertised. **Mark Valleley agreed to coordinate this.** | **MV**  |
| 1. **Any other business**
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| **Date and time of next meeting: 19.30 Thursday 24 March 2022 – Back Room, Six Bells**  |  |
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