

Transition Falmouth Meeting Wed 7th November 2018, 19:30

Palacio Lounge, The Moor, Falmouth

Attendees: Rob, Phil, Mike (TF Core Group members); Caitlin (Biosphere Magazine); Kathrine (Community Liaison - Labour Party); Laura (Digital - Labour Party) and Chris (Fal Marine Conservation Group)

Apologies: Lorely, Miguel, Kate and Chiara (Core Group)

Introductions: Round-table introductions and brief overview of Transition (Rob/Philip)

1. Renewable Energy

Rob reported on the FEP ([Fal Energy Partnership](#)) AGM - 27th October - and the official launch of Falmouth's first community energy project "**Solar for Dracaena**" Over 100 solar panels now installed on the Community Centre's roof. Successful and well-attended day.

Discussion ensued about the merits of local renewable energy projects as being one key way forward to tackle climate change and cut electric bills for local residents and businesses

Philip drew attention to Smart Islands Renewable Energy Programme being undertaken on IoS (Isles of Scilly) - useful model that could be scaled up for Cornwall

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/social-innovation/forum/isles-scilly-sustainable-smart-future/>

Rob also reported on work on the draft **Mylor Parish NDP** (Neighbourhood Development Plan) and the proposal that TF act as the host for free support via the CNE ([Cornwall New Energy](#)) Project to provide a "12hr Business Assist" for research into renewable energy possibilities for the parish through the [NDP](#).

Agreed this proposal be adopted subject to assurances that the responsibilities falling on our Core Group are manageable

Action : Philip (Treasurer) to contact Lorely (Secretary)

2. Local Food Production

Rob/Philip provided update on the **TF Cornish Food & Drink Guide** which covers the Fal/Penryn/Truro travel-to-shop area. See <https://www.transitionfalmouth.org.uk/wp/groups/food/tf-food-database/>

Recent entries included Incredible Bulk (mobile); Woodman's Wild Ale (Ponsanooth) and the Wasted Apple Company (based St. Austell but covering our area). New suggestions always welcome.

Group discussion confirmed that reduced food miles; more sustainable and reduced packaging (note recent and welcome arrivals of "no plastic" refill stores in both Falmouth and Truro); local provenance assured, and keeping money circulating in the local economy, are all very good reasons for supporting our Cornish food and drink producers

3. Waste & Resources

Philip reported back on the recent CPPC meeting held in the CWT (Cornwall Wildlife Trust) offices at Allet. Over 40 groups and individuals present. Notes already circulated to TF discussion list. TF not represented but sent in written report which included the following:-

- production of a Guide to "Turning Off the Plastic Tap - Twelve Top Tips" - up on our website <https://www.transitionfalmouth.org.uk>
- contribution to Government consultations on DRS (Deposit Return Systems) and tax incentives to reduce plastic pollution
- circulating information on the welcome news that drinks cartons and paper cups can now be taken to HWRCs for recycling including Mabe, nr Longdowns

- currently working up articles to improve awareness of the recycling of plastic pens through Terracycle and local BIC Community Champions (3 in mid Cornwall to date)
- collecting littered plastic bottles and presenting as evidence to the MCS (Marine Conservation Society) in its campaign to introduce a DRS for England

He also reported on attendance (on behalf of TF) at the recent **Sustainable Packaging Event** organised by the Exeter University Business School as part of the new **Future Focus Programme** up at the Penryn Campus. Intensive day well attended by both business and activists focusing principally on plastic packaging, and the need to eliminate, reduce, recycle and substitute where appropriate. This was an introductory event aimed at linking academia and the business world with promoting the circular economy firmly in mind. **Philip** now on the circulation list for future events.

Full set of slides presented by the speakers is available - contact for details **Philip**

Group had a most useful discussion about the plastic problem caused by so much reliance on single-use, disposable plastic which is having a devastating impact on the marine and wider environment - an issue high on the agenda of many local groups including the Fal Marine Conservation Group and Plastic Free Communities - many thanks to **Chris** for his valuable input here.

4. Urban Buzz - Falmouth No report available

5. Labour Party and Community Liaison

Kathrine gave the group a summary of her work in the Labour Party to engage with local community groups in order to identify the issues that are of concern at the local level. She will be meeting with a wide range of activists and groups culminating in a major conference sometime in the New Year.

Philip thanked her and Laura for their contribution and we look forward to hearing how things develop in the future.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Next meeting will be an Open Meeting to enable TF supporters to meet up and enjoy a seasonal beverage and a chat about current and future projects. All welcome.

Next meeting:

Wed 5th December 2018, 7:30pm at The Palacio Lounge, The Moor, Falmouth preceded by Falmouth LETS meeting at 7pm

More info:

email: info@transitionfalmouth.org.uk tel: 01326 317587 web: <https://transitionfalmouth.org.uk>

social media: https://twitter.com/Tr_Falmouth <https://www.facebook.com/transitionfalmouth>