

Transition Larkhall

Minutes of AGM Thursday 7th February 2019 7.30

1. **Present:** Bryn Jones (chair), Joanna Wright, Theresa Waterhouse (minute taker), Mike Kelleher, Rob Appleyard, Kristina Mowat, Anthony Waterhouse, Barbara Gordon, Kathy Cook, Carol Stone, John Ingham, Bill Shaw, Joan Chandler, Marilyn Parr-Hodgson, Caroline Elliott, David Lucas, David Ashwell.

2. **Apologies:** Paul Raithby, Chris Hall, Jane Shaw, Lin Patterson, Alison Harper, Annie Beardsley.

3. Minutes of last meeting:

Corrections: None, Signed by Bryn Jones

Matters Arising: None

4. Chair's Report on Transition Larkhall activities in 2018 from Bryn Jones

Introduction

Another very active, if not entirely productive year!

Your committee and other members and supporters continued ongoing work in three main areas.

- Disseminating and publicising the findings, in public and BANES forums, from the 2017 of school and other traffic through and around Larkhall.
- Developing plans for a safe walkway between Larkhall Square and Gloucester Rd/Alice Park.
- Pressing for proper, safe cycling infrastructure between Larkhall and the city centre.

Events

In connection with these and other concerns, local meetings and other events were held on the subjects of:

- 'Thinking about Transport in Bath, March 2018 with 60 participants
- revitalising Larkhall Square
- plastic pollution: film and discussion held jointly with New Oriel Hall 'social affairs' group.
- BANES plans for a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in central Bath.
- TL also got publicity from Alison Harper's 'Hot Spots' cycle wheels displays, at various points in the Larkhall area and Jo Wright's '25,000' toy cars demo that was widely reported in local media.

Other Activities

Committee members also contributed submissions and lobbied officers and councillor as part of the CAZ consultation process.

Your committee also assisted the Alice Park Garden group in the transfer of the management and running of the garden to new volunteers. (I would like to thank the outgoing AP group, especially Kathy Cook for all the work done over the past 8 years to establish the garden as a live community asset and showcase for Transition values.) Jo Wright commissioned and supervised a week-long monitoring of exhaust emissions on Eden Terrace from Atmo Technology

Looking Ahead - Looking Back

The 'Lambrook Walk' project has made significant progress with more detailed plans and designs; thanks to local architects, Stephen Melville and Chris Hall. McCarthy-Stone, the owners of the land on the east side of the brook, have finally realised the contribution the route could make to the quality of life of their residents and have voiced support, in principle. As has BANES head of highways. An informal team, comprising Jo, Chris, Stephen and Annie Beardsley has been formed, with Annie investigating sources of funding for the preparatory stages. Suitable volunteers to help with this project are most welcome!

Chris is also drawing up some preliminary options for a redesign of the Square to make it more visually attractive and user-friendly for pedestrians.

Bryn made a detailed submission to the CAZ consultation on behalf of TL. The main point made was that provision of alternative travel modes, buses and cycling, is inadequately developed. With the committee's agreement, Bryn will continue to press these points when revised proposals come back to the Cabinet and Council.

Theresa is compiling lists of schemes that collect or re-use plastics that BANES do not recycle. TL member, Lesley Bees, is promoting the idea of 'ecobricks' for re-use of non-recyclable plastics. A demonstration video of this idea is available on the T.L. website <<http://transitionlarkhall.uk/estimates/stop-plastic-pollution/>>

Looking Further Back

As I will be retiring from the Chairing role this year it seems appropriate to reflect on TL's development and value since it was formed 10 years ago. After its formal establishment, I became co-chair together with Jan Wilson, and with Ros Hough as Secretary-Treasurer.

TL's original, and tongue in cheek, sub-title of Larkhall Saves the Planet, has proven to be a little over-optimistic. We haven't managed to save the Earth, which is in a worse state now than in 2009, nor the UK or even Bath bits. And our tiny Larkhall corner still emits unacceptable levels of CO2 and other gases from vehicles, excessive traffic and buildings.

Despite valiant attempts, resource constraints prevented us from setting the Transition movement's recommended Energy Descent Plan for the locality. On the other hand, we have experimented with small scale alternatives and raised awareness of problems and ways to solve them; through meetings, practical demonstrations and spreading the word through various media. It's no direct thanks to us, but gratifying to see more local people cycling and walking and solar panels on some houses and St Saviour's Infants School.

TL is now regarded as a significant opinion-former in the city and within BANES council. The Cabinet member for transport acknowledges the finding from TL's 2017

investigation that 30% of traffic in rush hour is caused by cars carrying school children. In some respects our Transition group has continued to thrive, while other, larger counterparts, such as Transition Bath have somewhat declined. As outgoing Chair, I would like to recommend that TL continues in its important, niche role of campaigning to reduce harmful material wastes, car use and traffic volumes by promoting alternatives.

We ought also to redouble our efforts to raise awareness of the damage lifestyles are doing to the Earth's climate and ecosystems. This huge problem is now more threatening than ever. Larkhall alone can't stop it, but we can do our bit to progress small but practical alternatives to carbon energy life styles and utilities. As well as generally spreading awareness of people's self-interest in doing things differently.

Finally, as I bow out, I would like to thank all members for the help and encouragement they have given me and our group, over the last decade. Particular thanks should go to Kathy and the Garden group, local Councillors, Lin and Rob, Ros Hough, Paul Raithby, Alex Mackichan-Burke, Jan Wilson, Theresa, Kris and Jane. Keep the light shining, but switch off when not in use.

There was a vote of thanks for Bryn, and applause.

5. Alice Park Community Garden Report on activities in 2018:

After an uncertain start to the year the skeleton committee instructed a team to deliver the Tesco funded training sessions at the garden.

These included **5 workshops:**

Adult and Children's outdoor cooking and preservation

Herbal Remedies

Spoon carving

Willow craft

& a **four part gardening course** with Horticulturist Carol Stone.

Overall there were over 60 attendees and £50 in donations.

Thanks to Helen Kendall and Alex McKichen-Burke for overseeing this.

Maintenance of the garden was managed with a handful of determined volunteers and some enthusiastic contributions from **Good Gym**

<https://www.goodgym.org/areas/bath/group-runs>

Following the success of the Training Sessions APCG was delighted to receive interest from several new committee members and 3 organisations

Shehana Gomez

Jonathon Palmgren

Kirsten Melbourne (Voices Contact)

Alison Harper - Environmental Artist

Carol Stone (Greenlinks/Mind contact)

Mind

<https://www.bathmind.org.uk/what-we-do/share/greenlinks/>

Voices

<http://www.voicescharity.org/>

Mentoring Plus

<http://mentoringplus.net/about-us/> (yet to be established)

This shapes a social, creative and therapeutic future for the garden project.

Some of the old committee members including Kathy Cook have committed to supporting the new group while it establishes.

There is still a vacancy for a **Wild Things** preschool group to be run on site.

New Committee New Activity

We have already had 3 successful events and the garden with over a 100 attendees in all and receiving approx £65 in donations.

The new committee is benefitting from a great collection of skills, the events included;

A work & social day in Autumn

A Willow Wreath craft day in Winter

& Feed the birds - a make a bird feeder session

There are new **Tuesday** drop in sessions established (10-1pm) with Carol Stone and

Amanda Boston supported by Greenlinks - all welcome

Our next planned workshop event is Seedy Sunday 10th March 11-2pm and we aim to offer a creative session on a monthly basis.

Sunday volunteer sessions will be reinstated when management can develop a sustainable strategy for running them. More grant applications for training courses will be applied for to continue to offer this popular element to the gardens profile.

A grant of £314.24 from **Avon Gardens Trust** was gratefully received for capital items.

This has been spent on:

2 Wheel barrows

New Tools

Tea making equipment including; a portable stove, a Kellie Kettle and cups for adults and children

A folding Table

7 large Drip trays

A tough seed box

& a white board kit.

£6.50 remains unspent as yet.

Kathy and the APCG committee have successfully managed the garden for the past 8 years, they were thanked for all this work. Carol Stone is developing a leading role in the handover of responsibility from Kathy and her committee, she told us of her plans for working with MIND and other groups to provide regular drop-in sessions for people to use the garden, with an experienced horticulturist present for guidance, and also the value of the space for therapeutic purposes. Carol's group have already fund-raised to enable them to buy garden tools - above.

6. Treasurer's Report for TL and APCG for 2018 prepared by Ros Hough and read by Kristina Mowat:

The accounts for the whole of Transition Larkhall, which include Alice Park Community Garden (APCG), have been circulated by email and also appear on the website. These accounts cover all activity for the year. They do not show APCG separately in the final figures.

However, two financial reports have been compiled for this AGM, one drawn up by AlexmMackichan-Burke reporting on APCG finances, and this one drawn up by Ros Hough reporting on the remaining TL activities.

Apart from APCG, TL's financial expenditure in 2018 has been mostly related to the Traffic Research which was completed in 2017, led by Joanna Wright. £800 was spent on follow up meetings and taking the research out into the community. A grant of £600 to fund this came from Community Matters. £800 was spent on Air Pollution Monitors, from monies kindly donated by our councillors Lin Patterson and Rob Appleyard from the Councillors Ward Initiative fund.

The only other expenditure has been the website, which has been renewed by Joanna for a further 3 years, this required funding of £211 for the renewal. Leaving aside the APCG monies, TL began the year with £849.38 and closed the year with £856.64. For details of APCG income and expenditure, see the separate report from Alex.

In 2018 TL has been most fortunate in that Assistant Treasurer Alex took on all responsibility for the accounts at short notice, when Ros suddenly became unavailable due to illness in March, followed by a house move out of Larkhall. Both Ros and Alex are now retiring from post as Treasurers. However, TL's good fortune continues in that Mike Kelleher becomes TL's new Treasurer, and will be taking on the combined accounts. Mike also does the accounts for the New Oriel Hall, so we know the finances will be in competent hands. Committee Member Kristina Mowat has kindly agreed to cover the associated TL financial administration, and liaison with Mike, as Mike will deal only with the official drawing up of accounts. Theresa Waterhouse will become a signatory, as will Mike. Kathy Cook will work with Kristina and continue as the accounts liaison person for APCG.

So the financial reporting channels will be as follows:

Mike Kelleher (Treasurer)

|

Kristina Mowat (All TL Accounts Admin and authorisation)

|

Kathy Cook (APCG Admin and authorisation)

Krsitina's address for any financial correspondence is 8 Larkhall Place, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6SF Her email is k ristinamowat@icloud.com.

It just remains for me say farewell as Treasurer after twelve years association from the organisation's original founding by Hyla Holden. I have enjoyed the journey, and very much appreciated working with so many committed Larkhall "Transitioners" over the

years, with the aim of building community to combat climate change, a task that continues to challenge us all.

Alice Park Community Garden Accounts Summary 2018: Alice Park Community Garden started the year with £4,272.18 in their account. £2,000 of this had been awarded to the group through the Tesco's Bags of Help scheme, which enabled the Committee to put on free workshops at the garden during the summer period. The Garden raised approximately £160 during the year through donations, barn hire and garden takings. Towards the end of the year the Garden received a donation from the Avon Garden's Trust to buy equipment.

£201 was spent on insurance, £100 donated to the Tesco's Bags of Help co-ordinator for admin fees, and approx. £80 spent on garden sundries and internet fees. The Community Garden ended the year with £2,178.04 in their account. £44.34 remains of the Avon Garden's Trust donation, £150 is to be transferred to Transition Larkhall for website management for the next 3 years, and approximately £200 needs to be reserved for insurance.

TL accounts and APCG accounts were formally adopted by the meeting.

There was a discussion of the larger amounts of money turned over by APCG rather than by the main TL group, however APCG is supported under the umbrella of TL. A member of the TL committee attends APCG meetings, TL acts as an administrator for APCG, and there is a single bank account. Joanna has also incorporated APCG pages into the TL website too.

Joanna reminded us that there is no need for financial oversight of TL's accounts up to a limit of £10,000.00, over that amount different rules apply.

7. Election of Transition Larkhall Committee members:

TL is an unincorporated association, constituted under Charity Commission guidelines, with a requirement to have a named Chair and Treasurer. Mike Kelleher was proposed and accepted as Treasurer; the remaining Committee members were re-elected: Paul Raithby, Joanna Wright, Theresa Waterhouse, Kristina Mowat and Jane Shaw. Paul will be asked if he will take the formal role of Chair, but in his absence, chairing of meetings will be rotated among the rest of the committee. Theresa and Kristina will share the Secretarial role, and Joanna continue as Web Manager, with Jane supporting that role.

8. Thanks to retiring Committee members:

Thanks were given to our two councillors: Lin Patterson and Rob Appleyard, who are not Committee members but they have attended meetings and supported TL consistently in many ways. And many thanks to Bryn retiring as Chair, Ros Hough as Treasurer and Alex Makinchon-Burn as Assistant Treasurer.

9. **AOB:** For the future: TL will arrange dates for meetings: to discuss and promote the Climate Emergency Petition to B&NES council; also a discussion about the implications of the CAZ zone after the Council decision on it: and a talk on gardening organised by APCG group.

David Lucas strongly recommended the facilities at NOH for showing environmental films, this can be done through the SADG group at the hall.

David Ashwell suggested that TL become involved in a study of lorries travelling through Bath on the A46 to A36 route, this will be affected by the CAZ decision.

John Ingham proposed a fund-raising arrangement, he could nominate members for subscription to contracts with Octopus Energy, a Green Energy supplier, if these were taken up, John would donate his 'reward' of £50 from Octopus, to Transition Larkhall.

Bryn closed the meeting.