

Hanover Action for Sustainable Living, General Meeting, 27th March 2011

Present : Mei- Wah, Paul, Ollie, Sarah , David, Les, Tracey, Simon, Josie, Sarah , David

Apologies, Sue, Oliver

Chair Paul.

Meetings

Paul initiated a discussion about the function of these monthly meetings. As these meetings are an umbrella for lots of sub groups the sub groups need to function in a more efficient way and feed into this meeting. There was a suggestion that we make a plan for a year of events on a calendar so that we know what type of things each sub group is planning. It was agreed that each sub group would put some thought into what their plans are over the next year. It was also suggested when new people attend that there should be an introduction to HASL and what we have done so far.. As it was Simon and Josie's first meeting we went round and explained the sub groups.

Films Katie who was convening the film group has now left Brighton . We have the Power of Community scheduled for Tues 29th march. Ollie had said he was willing to take on film group but he can't do Tuesday. Sarah and Paul will fetch equipment and set up. Mei-wah and David will also come along and lead discussion. We will check with pub about future dates.

Food Group

We had a discussion in the food group about joining up with the VEG group as it seems to duplicate a lot of issues. Mei-Wah happy about that. Food group is planning a debate on local food. Tom MacMillan from the Food Ethics Council as expressed a willingness to contribute to a discussion and we may ask someone from the anti GM movement. We are looking for a date at community centre, late May, early June.

VEG Group have a work day planned for 10th April .All welcome, with tools and seeds, but not a lot of space there. They are currently working on the herb beds in the wild garden section of Queens park. It has been agreed that whatever they do will complement the herbs that are already growing there. Simon said that in Queens park you are contending with lots of different users and lots of passionate views about use of the park. There is a local action team clean up day in Queens park on 12th April if anyone is able to go and join in . There is also a possibility of a vacant plot behind Plumpton Rd. This has been vacant for 20-30 years. People from the VEG group have been to look at it with the community worker from Craven Vale, Amy. The local community has various aspirations for the site, somewhere to go for parents and children somewhere to do Tai Chi, and community growing . It is gated and locked so should not be too likely to be vandalised. Looks like maybe a better possibility.

Local food composting - Adopt a wormery

Simon had come along with a project about getting a small amount of funding to buy about 10 wormeries for local residents to adopt and try out, for free and

then pay for or pass on if it doesn't work for them. He is interested in HASL applying for funds and managing the project. Suggested he draws up brief description for people to sign up to and to gauge interest. For more details contact simon.bannister@hotmail.co.uk

Publicity Ollie is putting a lot of stuff up on the website but generally we need to get a bit more energy put into publicity. Nothing has gone out on twitter for a while and we need to get a new leaflet / card. Mei-wah will design a new leaflet. Simon is interested in getting involved in publicity. Sarah will send him Philippa's contact details.

Josie suggested we should pay £40 subscription so that when HASL is searched for on Google it will go straight there which it doesn't currently.

(sorry can't remember who subscription is to)

Logo has been created but we all need to know how to use it, Sarah tried to for film poster but didn't work but Mei-wah has used it.

Sarah has created new e mail for HASL , it is a Gmail address, contacthasl@gmail.com. It is not fully operational yet but when it is e mails can go and come from that address not Sarah's personal e mail.

Limits to Growth

Some people from the group went to the limits to Growth day at the university. There were really good speakers, including Caroline Lucas, Andrew Sims from NEF and Richard Wilkinson, one of the authors of Spirit Level. The general message of the day was about a future where growth in GDP was not seen as positive and instead a focus on well being, relationship community and protecting the planet. It would be good to have ea HASL event about consumption and limiting growth.

Bristol Estate

The Bristol Estate had an environment day on 19th march . HASL were invited along to talk about what we do. David represented the group and there was some interest from local residents and people signed up to the mailing list.

Grant report

Les has drafted a report for the council evaluating our use of the grant. He would like to add some figures to it of numbers on mailing list, Facebook, signed up to 10:10 etc. he would also like to put in a couple of 'stories of change ' what practical difference has involvement in HASL made in people's lives. Mei-wah will put a message out asking if anyone wants to talk about things they have changed in their life as a result.

Next meeting

As the next meeting date falls on Easter week-end it was decided to bring it forwards a week. **The next meeting is on Sunday 17th April at The Hanover pub (Community Room), Queens Park Road, at 8pm**