

Hi All

I thought I would send out an agenda for the next Steering Group at this stage so you have some time to form a view on the issues raised.

I would like to concentrate on the AGM and associated issues at the meeting on the 6th April. The AGM is pencilled in for the 17th May and an early discussion would allow us to properly prepare.

In many ways we have had a successful year.

- We are at last an official mulling site
- We have updated and extended the web site.
- Nigel has been active with his camera and produced some informative films
- We have had some informative and enjoyable events
- We are making progress on the AD plant in Crosby Ravensworth
- We have made good progress with the Council and have managed to gain a slightly higher local profile.
- We have established good links with other initiatives, Giants of Eden, Penrith in Bloom.
- We have been successful with some grant claims and are progressing initiatives i.e. the Car Sharing Scheme and the Plastic Bag Campaign.
- We also have at least three active action groups, Food, Energy and Building and Resources and Waste.
- We have established good social networks plus, plus plus.

However Membership has declined, the action groups are in some cases fragile and I wonder about our direction of travel, priorities and approach. To pose some questions

- a) We are a transition town but we are not obviously using the 12 steps as our guiding principles. Indeed some comments have been made querying the relevance of some of these approaches. Where do we stand on this?
- b) What outcomes are we seeking to achieve and in what timescale?
- c) Do we see that we need to do this as a standalone organisation or in partnership? Despite previous discussions we have not been overly successful in establishing links with other groups/ organisations.
- d) We also spend quite a lot of time in meetings and would our energies be better directed at doing things. On the assumption that on average 6 people attend meetings twice a month we spend 1,600 hours plus on meetings excluding Action Group events. This is nearly equivalent to a full time employee.

You will also have your own set of questions.

I would like to seek to bottom some of these types of questions in advance of the AGM so we can set a clear direction underpinned with deliverable outcomes and activities.

If it would help please respond with your own thoughts in advance of the meeting so we refine our thoughts.

Thanks for your help

Agenda Wednesday 6th April 7p.m. Bluebell Bookshop

- Welcome
- Apologies

- Minutes of last meeting
- Action arising from Minutes

- Plans for AGM, format of meeting, election of officers, speakers etc

- Strategic direction

- A.O.B.