

PACT monthly meeting - Wednesday June 3rd 2015

7pm at Peter Simpson's, 4 Carleton Terrace, Penrith.

Present: Chris Cant, Christine Sutherland, Nigel Jenkins, Peter Simpson, Peter Dicken (later)

Apologies: Geoff Rockcliffe-King, Graham Exton, Heather Heron, Maureen Ward, Peter Ward.

Declaration of Interests

Chris Cant and Nigel Jenkins declared an interest as their businesses receive funds from the Sustain Eden projects.

Membership

The application of Joan Robinson was approved and certificates for Heather Heron and Graham Exton were signed.

Tree Whisperers project/ Tree Festival (Christine)

The exhibition of school-children's work was meant to be displayed in St Andrew's Church during June with an event in the churchyard on June 20th. However the vicar had forgotten to tell Emma that the church wouldn't be available in June as the work on the organ isn't finished! Emma then thought we might have the exhibition and festival in July but several key people are unavailable and it's a bit close to Penrith on a Plate so she now suggests September or October. We agreed that there wouldn't be a problem with this as long as it didn't clash with Apple Day (Oct 11th). Christine will contact EDC about the change of plans once we have a firm date and will keep PACT members informed about plans and ways in which they might help.

It was suggested that the event should be used to promote tree-planting - giving advice, demonstrations etc. Chris might have some damson saplings to give away but it might be a bit early for that. It might also be an opportunity for Freegle-style sharing of surplus fruit - apples etc. It was also suggested that we should try to plant trees on verges around town but it seems unlikely that we could get permission. We should invite our local county councillors to the event as well as EDC and the new Town Councillors.

Reaching Communities (Nigel)

This is CAfS' latest idea for a Big Lottery funding bid which would include a project officer to work with PACT for one day a week, also working with similar groups in Carlisle and Brampton, for 5 years from 2016 to 21. We need to come up with some specific proposals for what this person might do for us, and consider where we would find funding for associated project costs, but agree that this might be a good opportunity for us to do something different. Perhaps transport-related? The grant is for 'addressing community needs' not specifically sustainability. Nigel will continue to liaise with Caroline at CAfS.

Resourceful Communities (Chris)

Cumbria County Council's Waste Prevention Team are looking for community groups to help set up a pilot project running events to encourage householders to swap, save, mend, grow and re-use. Nigel has been involved in writing some of the guides which are to be trialled. We are interested and the project certainly chimes with PACT's interests but we would like more information about what we would be required to do.

Finance (Chris)

We approved the quote for insurance previously circulated.

The accounts for last year have been inspected by Karen Parr. They need to be approved by the board so Chris will circulate them.

Some funding from within the Sustain Eden project became available recently so Chris applied for some for PACT/Freegle work. This is mainly to help find ways of making Freegle UK sustainable and will include more work on Freegle phone app and making the PACT website mobile-friendly.

COGF

Christine noted that the latest newsletter from Cumbria Organic Gardeners and Farmers had a good write-up about PACT etc and listed the series of VEG visits. We currently host a page for them on the PACT website. It would be good to develop this relationship.

Penrith on a Plate (Nigel)

Volunteers are needed to man the stall in Penrith on Saturday 18th July. Christine offered to do a session. We hope Peter Clarke and Joan Robinson might help as before.

Cumbria Sustainability Network meeting (Chris)

CAfS is organising a networking meeting for local sustainability groups, to be held in Penrith on Tuesday 7th July. We wonder whether to attend this instead of holding a separate monthly meeting, if enough of us can attend (NB not Peter S or Peter D).

Next meeting tbc!