

CLIMATE CHANGE EAST LINTON GROUP

MINUTES of the first meeting 22/10/18

THOSE PRESENT

Jo Gibb, Aileen Boyle, Julie Fletcher, Roisin Calvert-Elliott, Kate Lowe, Sarah Nathan, Val Hale, Michala Bradshaw, Karen Buist, Hilary Smyth

INTRODUCTIONS BY THE GROUP

Everyone introduced themselves and explained why they had wanted to come along to the group.

Common patterns of reasons why people have wanted to join the group: feeling like they could do more, wanting to connect with others to work together, wanting to do something on behalf of their children's future, wanting to create a ripple effect: we can all create change.

PURPOSE OF THE GROUP

Group discussions were used to identify what the purpose of the group could be, and whether the focus should be on climate change/reducing carbon footprints, or also on plastic reduction.

It was agreed that people would like the group to cover: tackling climate change, reducing carbon footprints, and plastic reduction.

The group to fulfil functions of:

- Engaging and inspiring each other and wider community
- Helping each other to change our individual behaviour: sharing tips, ideas, resources
- Sharing knowledge: separating the facts from the fiction to enable us all to make informed decisions about products we buy and work through the minefield of conflicting information
- Activities and Projects: working together/collective action for the wider East Linton community – develop projects which can impact East Linton beyond the group itself. Possibly taking a layering approach : start with easy quick win actions and build up to larger projects

INVOLVING AND CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Rather than working together as a group in isolation, we felt linking up with others would make us all more effective.

- Inviting Lil / Practically Plastic Free / Zero Waste Scotland to come and speak at a meet up / or at an event where local sustainability groups can come together, on a regular basis every few months
- Connecting with other local sustainability groups in East Lothian
- Getting further connected with Sustain Dunbar (getting them to come to one of the meet ups?)
- Engaging with East Linton Primary School: Connecting with Gill Gardner and seeing if a teacher who has a role around sustainability wants to be part of the group; explore how we can link in with what the school does and how we can also involve the school in what the group does (and seeing if the school children would like to design the group's logo)
- Exploring idea of attending Scotland Community Action Network (meeting of similar groups) in Glasgow on 03/04 November

IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

The group brainstormed and shared ideas on activities and projects that could be taken up in East Linton (which at a following meeting can be added to / reviewed / prioritised / actioned):

Reducing waste/consumption

- Sharing things (could explore using storage at the Mart to keep things):
 - Tool shares
 - Baby equipment
 - Toy Library
 - Book swaps
 - Halloween outfits (Lil currently doing this for this Halloween)
 - Exchanging surplus foods grown within the community

Reducing plastic

- Zero Waste East Linton?
- Influencing local businesses and the school to reduce plastic use

- Bring together representatives from the local supermarkets at a forum to ask them how they can reduce their plastic waste
- Set up bulk buying of items such as oats etc
- Children make Ecobricks at home and make them into sculptures
- Ask the Mart to stock refills for Ecover products

Carbon emissions

- Car sharing
- Further campaigning to get the Train Station re-instated

Local food

- Create a local food database

Environmentally friendly products

- Have a workshop in East Linton for making your own eco-cleaning products

Inspiring the community

- Ask schoolchildren to create plaques of footprints/handprints with accompanying messages around sustainability and have them put around the village (permanently/temporarily?)

Housing

- Influence the new housing that will be built re waste

REACHING MORE PEOPLE WITHIN EAST LINTON

At the moment the group has grown organically from those we know and word of mouth. To make sure everyone who might have an interest has an opportunity to know about the group and take part, the following ways of promoting the group were suggested:

- The ELDA
- Dunpender News
- Church newsletter
- School

COMMUNICATION

How to communicate with each other (e.g. share minutes) was discussed. Some people don't use WhatsApp. Ideas were suggested:

- Google docs
- Setting up a blog/website for minutes, projects, updated information, resources
- Use of virtual platforms for meetings if some people can't physically attend the meetings

For now it was agreed to use email to share minutes, and WhatsApp for other communication. To look into finding someone who could create a simple website for the group.

FREQUENCY AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS

To be held monthly. Suggested next date Monday 26th November, but if too many people can't attend, use Doodlepoll to find the best date that suits most people.

If the group gets bigger could investigate using the Community hall, Stables, Crown/Linton, Mart as a place to meet

AGREED ACTION

- Jo Gibb to write a small paragraph about the group that could be used in promoting / letting the community know about the group
- Aileen Boyle to investigate an article for the ELDA and Dunsper News
- Sarah Nathan to speak with Gill Gardner about what we are doing and linking up with the school – involving each other, seeing if there's an appointed teacher for eco/environment that might want to connect, how we could work with the school and involve the children
- Jo Gibb to speak with the Minister at the Church about letting people know about the group
- Kate Lowe to investigate a Green Cleaning Workshop to be run in East Linton
- Jo Gibb to ask within the WhatsApp group if anyone has (or knows anyone with) technical knowledge to help set up a simple website for the group
- Jo Gibb to fix a date that works for the majority for the next meeting

THINGS NOT DISCUSSED

Running out of time, following things weren't able to be discussed that could be looked at in the next few meetings:

- Getting to know each other better by sharing more about each others' skills/experience/networks/knowledge
- Looking at how we can make sure our group functions well within meetings and outside of meetings eg:
 - How we share ideas
 - Facilitation
 - Any particular roles
 - How to make it engaging
 - Level of formality
- Name of the group