

HEAT MINUTES – 24TH March 2021

1) **PRESENT** Helen Cukier (Chair), Daniel Cukier, John Downe, Jonathan Baccus, John Ryder, Henry Mills, Christopher de Chazel, Penny Locke, Freddie Pocock, Mark Lofthouse, Frances Lofthouse, and Guest, Ellie Dickins (CEO, Town and Manor)

2) **APOLOGIES** Rose Somerset and Emma Hayley

3) Following a WELCOME, and INTRODUCTIONS.

ELLIE DICKINS talked about the TOWN and MANOR of HUNGERFORD.

Ellie has been CEO for 6 months; her background is in Business, having a Shoe Shop on the High St for 22 years, and she lives in Kintbury. Ellie also has a personal interest in the protection of land and fisheries and the well-being of local groups. She was very pleased to talk to HEAT and work with HEAT on Environmental issues locally.

The Town and Manor (T and M) was created in the 15th century when John O’Gaunt stayed in the town and was a safe hole for him. To repay the kindness, he gave commoner rights to the town. These include fishing, shooting and the grazing of cattle on the common land. The T&M is a Charity, being run by 10-12 Trustees. The charity owns the Town Hall, and manages and maintains the Marsh and the Common, 550 acres in all. Income is generated from the hiring of the Town Hall, grazing of cattle and the selling of rods on the river’s Kenner and Dun. Any surplus income is donated to local groups and organisations.

The T&M also work with neighbouring Farmers to ensure the land is managed in the best way to protect the local chalk rivers, and fish. The Common and Freeman’s Marsh have SSSI status. (Site of Special Scientific Interest) Focus is on protecting and preserving wildlife, and the countryside, and work with Action for the River Kennet (ARK), -to protect species such as water voles, desmolum whorl snail, wild trout. TREES; due to the restrictions placed by the SSSI and SAC, the T and M are allowed to replace damaged trees, but not to increase the woodland areas. (Lockdown Wood replaced diseased Ash, caused by ash dieback.) The Orchard is a recent gain, and contains some rare species of fruit trees. The Land is managed by T&M employees. Potential wassailing and pruning courses were mentioned for the future, once Coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Questions were asked, and Henry suggested a potential Autumn Event that HEAT could get involved in, around Apple Picking.

4) **FOLLOW UP LAST MEETING**

Thermal Imaging Camera has been passed round; several people found it useful.

ACTION Helen to collect from WBGE and pass onto next person on the list in Hungerford. **All** – let Helen know if you would like to borrow it whilst the weather is still cold, to get the maximum benefit out of its use.

Cumbrian Coal-Mine; A lot of objection to this. Letters have been written and the issues are now subject to a Gvt. Public Inquiry.

5) **WBGE**

John D and Frances attending a West Berk Green Exchange (WBGE) committee meeting on 25th March as HEAT reps./observers. We hope for much support for the EV Show in the summer. We hope to work more closely in the lead up to COP26 at the end of the year.

6) **CYCLING SURVEY RESULTS**

Henry has written a summary of the survey, which has been sent to Hungerford Town Council. There is no one solution to getting more of the community onto their bikes. A number of ideas were suggested: Cycle awareness classes; Monthly cycle club, starting with one event to try out (Penny suggested a risk assessment and insurance would be necessary). 50% of car journeys are under 2 miles, and so it is hoped that with better facilities for bikes in the town, more of these could be done on a bike. Better facilities in the Station Car Park, would need to be discussed with GWR, prob. rented. Would need to be well publicised. If more Cycle Racks are possible, could they have green rooves? (Trish). Primary Sch. engaged in Cycling Proficiency currently. **ACTION** All to think about how Trish and Henry can take the results of the survey forward.

7) **SPRING EQUINOX Litter-Pick-up throughout Town.**

This last weekend, many of us have picked up litter when out on our daily walks.

People have either taken this home to be recycled or left by Downgate for Monday morning clearance. **ACTION** Helen to speak to John Willmott who leads Smarten Up Hungerford and Ellie, from T&M about the potential to have litter Pickers in certain positions for general use. **ACTION** Freddie asked if he can create a Hungerford event from the <https://springequinoxcleanup.org> website, so that the community can continue to post and promote litter picking going forwards via the Litterati app and share on local Social Media.

8) **EV SHOW** – pencilled in for 3rd July. John D has produced a thorough Event Proposal, updated from last year. T and M would waive the rent for a Show on the Croft. John is waiting for response from the Croft Club, who could provide refreshments. We are going to need lots of Helpers on the day including Marshalls. Question use of Croft Hall? **Insurance** With Zurich? **ACTION** Henry to check with Zurich. **ACTION** Daniel to enquire about getting a local electric Volkswagen Beetle speed Dragster along (the world 0-60mph speed record holder lives in Hungerford and is currently working on his next VW!). **ACTION** John to talk to Caroline Lumley about HADCAF, to check there's no date clash; set up an initial virtual planning Group Meeting, to include Mark and Christopher and anyone who would like to get involved. **ACTION** all to let John know if you can volunteer to help with the preparation and/or on the day.

9) **REPAIR CAFE**

Henry had attended the Wantage Repair Café in Dec. and has written a Summary of his visit. 70% of people welcome some help to repair electrical goods. However, insurance needed. Initially we need to find 'skilled handy people' who have time to volunteer (weekly/monthly?) 3/4 needed at each session + a host, perhaps to welcome people and offer a drink. Aim at a Community event. **ACTION** Mark to talk to M and P. Important not to take business away from local trades, and to be on good terms. Electrical items must be Certified. Christopher has also visited Wantage, and reported that each person receiving help with a repair is asked for a donation. They had a white board, for recording items, and weighed items to confirm weight NOT going into Landfill! **ACTION**. Helen. Newsletter to ask for a wider audience of supporters to help get this idea off the ground.

10) **OLIO FOOD COLLECTION**

Penny explained that this is to avoid Food Wastage, which gives off harmful methane and is damaging The Environment. A Volunteer is needed to collect from Tesco x3 weekly, to collect food that is otherwise thrown, photo it, and circulate it for any members of the community to collect it for personal consumption. **ACTION**. Helen Newsletter to ask for volunteers to take on this role.

11) **A O B**

Tesco are now recycling in far left corner of Car Park, bread plastic bags, and crisp packets.

Town Board is now displaying 2 Book Sleeves – **David Attenborough** “ A Life on our Planet”, and **Bill Gates** “How to avoid a Climate Disaster” Both are recommended, published in 2020, and available from the Hungerford Bookshop.

Food Market – Penny is organising this on Sunday 18th April. **ACTION** Volunteers needed, to sell on behalf of other local businesses. Card payments being set up. **ACTION** Please let Penny know if you could help for a shift.

NAKED SPROUT Toilet Rolls - No plastic, No Bleach, No Chemicals! See www.nakedsprout.uk Every box sold gives a child in Kenya safe water for one year.

Beware Fragrances - a concern of a local gentleman.

NEXT MEETING – Weds.28th APRIL @ 7 pm