



**Transition Chesterfield Annual General Meeting
Monday 12 August 2024 7pm at the Hub, 61 Low Pavement**

MINUTES

- Present: Kathy Farr, Darryl Cowley, Kathryn Ford, David Seabrook, Sheila Curzon, Martin Baxter, Kevin Karaca, Richard Bateson, Margaret Hersee, Rhona Walker, Brian Heathcote, Alison Cowley, Mike Thompson, Graeme Challands, Charlie Streather, Paul Richardson, Malcolm Ward, Andie Cooper, Anne Beard, John Mullen, Anne Mullen, Claire Leach, Karl Deakin (minutes).
- Apologies Chris Brooks, Steph Dillon, Barbara Sansome, Steve Lismore, Alastair Meikle, Lisa Hopkinson, Wendy Pinchbeck, Paul King, Stephen Prince, David Robertson.
1. **Welcome** (Kathy Farr)
 2. **Community Orchards**
David Seabrook gave a presentation on developing a community orchard on a former building yard in Peacehaven, West Sussex. This covered a range of activities including fundraising, community activities, the diversity of planting, watering, encouraging and monitoring wildlife. The community orchard has overcome a number of challenges, both natural (climate, pests and diseases) and man-made (e.g. widescale scrumping, vandalism). Many thanks to David for his informative, succinct presentation.
 3. **Annual Report**
Karl Deakin introduced the annual report, highlighting the following:
 - a) The quiet, diligent organisation that underpinned events such as Potato Day and Crafters Bazaar. Heartfelt thanks to the organisers.
 - b) Small things can make a big difference e.g. Chris Brooks making badges for Eco Hub team members helped to engender a team spirit; chance conversations can lead to bigger things e.g. Kathy Farr discussion at Climate Forum

led to Chesterfield College students' involvement at Climate Conversations.

- c) Transition Chesterfield is a place where trying new things is encouraged. If anyone has an idea for something which is in accordance with Transition principles, we'll do our best to support and encourage it.

Questions/observations were then raised on the following:

1. Whether Carbon Literacy training had been considered locally (David Seabrook). Kevin Karaca had undertaken this and Andie Cooper is in the process of doing the training. Chesterfield Borough Council has implemented bespoke training for its councillors and officers and the Climate Forum is currently exploring training options suitable for community use.
2. Whether any changes were anticipated for project leads in the coming year (Karl Deakin). Kathy Farr's first aid training expires in April 2025. We will therefore need a first-aid trained leader for monthly litter-picks to share responsibility with Peter Gray. Alternatively, we might look at less frequent litter-picks or different methods of encouraging this activity.
3. What plans were for maintenance and storage of apple-pressing equipment (Kathy Farr). This had been relocated to the caravan. Alison Cowley is checking on the equipment as a priority.
4. An update on leadership of Skillshare (Margaret Hersee). Three people have offered to help with Skillshare, but we do not currently have a designated lead. We will see how things progress in the coming months.
5. The lower numbers in Repair Café could perhaps be because of other events/weather (Annie Baldauf-Good). There did seem to be a trend of lower attendance over recent months. We plan to discuss how the Comms team can support publicity for Repair Café on 19 August. More work was needed to promote it.

Thanks were given to Andie Cooper and Margaret Hersee for their work as Core Group members and to Margaret in particular for her work as Secretary from 2020-2023 and in the past year as Treasurer.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Margaret Hersee presented the accounts, which had been approved by an independent examiner. The balance at end of March 2024 was £8772.36 (bank and cash), some of which is restricted (received from grants). General fund is, therefore, £5924.61, nearly a £2000 increase from the previous financial year. This was mostly down to Potato Day, Crafters Bazaar and Repair Café. Some grant funding remained unspent (Skillshare, Eco Hub and Transition Together seed funding).

The accounts were approved unanimously by those present.

6. **Appointment of New Committee and Officers**

The following individuals were appointed unanimously:

- Kathy Farr
- Karl Deakin
- Annie Baldauf-Good
- Kevin Karaca
- Richard Bateson
- Paul Richardson

Richard Bateson was appointed Treasurer.

7. **Minutes of AGM November 2023**

These were approved.

8. **Discussion session – preparing for the future**

Given the state of the world today, it's almost certain that there will still be a need for an organisation like Transition Chesterfield in ten years' time. On this basis, we discussed in pairs the following questions:

What do we need to do for Transition Chesterfield to be in a strong position in 2034? How do we start?

Responses were made on post-it notes (as detailed in the appendix). Kathy then summarised these responses as falling into the following groups:

- More effective communication and messaging to increase engagement
- Reaching out to younger people and across a more diverse range of communities
- Making a link between our Transition aims with key strategic themes such as Health and Well-being, Nature and Resource Loss – building our networks with key partners and other voluntary/community groups.

9. **Transition Chesterfield Green Map**

Andie Cooper presented the Green Map which charts Transition Chesterfield's activities and can be accessed from the "About Us" section of the website. The more information we feed into the green map relevant to projects and the different sector headings, the better. Currently Chesterfield Borough Council is not adopting the green mapping model, but there is scope to link maps in the future. For any changes to the Green Map, please email Andie at network@transitionchesterfield.org.uk

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

APPENDIX

POST IT NOTE RESPONSES

What do we need to do for Transition Chesterfield to be in a strong position for 2034? How do we start?

- Engage the public (especially young people)
- New Housing Developments and flooding
- Sustainable drainage
- Subsidies for low carbon technology
- Heat pumps
- Engage working age people. Start by making the website more attractive
- Subsidised e-buses
- Get members to spread the word
- Engage with unconnected communities
- Provide something useful and meaningful to attract those not engaged
- Increase involvement by a wider range of community reps
- More community-based activities in under-represented groups
- Satellite community events
- Have a visible 'home' for Transition Chesterfield
- Successful workshop
- Advertise
- Media and links to community groups
- Engage younger people. How? Review projects to consider how to make relevant to target age group
- Promote Transition more
- Get more young people involved
- Visiting schools/colleges
- Youth education
- Engage with Chesterfield Borough Council and Climate Forum/Action Plan
- More engagement with Council/public via schools/young people
- Media
- Attract volunteers (and keep them)
- Develop specialist knowledge e.g. waterways, wildlife, trees
- Be a critical friend and a partner in the Climate Action plan
- Better social media (content creators at College?)
- Target Duke of Edinburgh/Scouts etc
- Climate contact with College
- Closer ties with Chesterfield Borough Council led by Transition
- Develop community gardens
- New projects or special interest groups
- Consider healthier lifestyles – mental and physical wellbeing