

GreenTEA AGM 21st April 2021

Secretary's Report

Unfortunately, this is the second AGM that has had to be held via zoom. These are indeed strange times. Although the last AGM was held in August, this report will cover the period from April 2020 to March 2021.

Due to COVID restrictions several of our regular activities over the year had to be cancelled. So there have been no GreenTEA cafes; no swap shops; no group meetings and both attempts at holding our annual festival had to be cancelled; once because of the weather and the other because of a new lockdown being introduced. A big thank you to Sue especially for all her hard work in this and her stoicism when they were both cancelled. The Growing Green trail had been organized as a village wide trail that would appeal to a wider audience and also meet COVID restrictions. Luckily an arrangement with Pimms meant that an exhibition of the energy posters that had been prepared could be displayed in their window. These included information on Project Leo; GV energy standards; eco-building; the 'cosy homes' scheme and co-housing. A big thank you to Sarah and others for their hard work on this.

I'd like to thank Ros for continuing to produce the Brew on a monthly basis and Lucy for both helping with this and keeping the website up to date. The core group has welcomed four new members while continuing to meet online. Chairing these meetings on Zoom is not easy but Tony has managed this most competently. The discussion group has also gained three new regular members and met eight times. A big thank you goes to Sue for organizing the annual tree pruning and to Eleanor for looking after the tubs in the square.

During the year GreenTEA was awarded two grants both from Low Carbon Hub. A £5000 CIC grant to set up an Inspiration Panel 'to help communities hold developers to account on sustainability issues and to assist the 'commission of a review of the Energy Plan and set out how to expand it to cover the whole Eynsham substation area including the solar farm.' This led on to major work on to *Smart and Fair Futures* including the Eynsham Area Energy Action Plan. This is an exciting new initiative with national significance and a really big thank you to Sarah and Amanda for all their hard work on the project.

The smaller grant for £500 was for preparation of practical advice on the optimal use of thermal heating (for hot water).

Group members have also been particularly busy responding to consultations on transport; the GV development plan; planning legislation; the Oxfordshire Plan 2050; the Area Action Plan; and writing letters to our local MP and the press.

Individual members have throughout the year been actively involved in supporting other relevant groups such as the Peace Oak Orchard; the Nature Recovery Network and Extinction Rebellion. Having welcomed Ross Macken on to the core group we have also established much closer links with Eynsham Parish Council.

Sue, Sarah and Ross all contributed 'tiny talks' as part of a NRN project to involve parish councils.

And lastly, I'd like to thank Hywel for looking after GreenTEA's finances and especially for all his hard work in negotiating new insurance cover.

Helena Nielsen

Secretary – 15.04.2021