ATT AGENDA 22\textsuperscript{nd} November 2018
Abergavenny Community Centre: \textbf{Note minutes in yellow type}

- 1. Where we are + the broad background that may inform what we do next.
- 2. Options for change of focus of efforts (\textit{Extinction Rebellion report by Alice Sidwell}) and other options……..
- 3. Discussion following a few other provocations....... Leading to actions
- 4. How to increase the number of activists?
- 5. Who can step up to assist in co-ordination?
- 6. Update on all the groups activities......
- A.O.B....Gwent Levels protest at the Senned 4\textsuperscript{th} December.......... etc

\textbf{Present}: Simon Bilsborough SB, Francis Buxton FB, Rod Cunningham RC, Freddy Edmonds FE, Jeremy Gass JG, Andy Green AG, Patrick Hannay PH, (Chair), Stephen Harris SH, Sue Harrison SHa, Richard Lewis RL, Jane Llewellyn Dixon JL, Paul Rennie PR, Alice Sidwell AS, Jack Thurston JT
• A REMINDER OF WHAT’S OCCURRED AND WHAT’S OCCURRING (see next slide)

• PH suggested might be helpful to look at what we do and think through whether the actions are primarily ‘Adaptation’ (we are already beyond the climate tipping point so need to focus on coping with adapting) or ‘Mitigation’ (aiming to avoid reaching tipping point by aiming for carbon reduction targets.)
  
  • SB suggested not either/or but need to do both.

• PH suggested the Food Justice/ Food forum/ Manifesto strand of work was probably the most important focus for ‘adaptation’. Maybe housing for those most in need was other focus; food/shelter being key needs.
ATT working with others + MCC to develop urban design briefs for future sites

ATT members working with groups in the town and MCC on better public realm projects funded by MCC

POSSIBLY TO MUCH ATTENTION ON BUILT ENVIRONMENT? (Chair’s skillset!) Shift the focus?

Note: Links to MCC urban designer/landscaper currently broken, so site briefs development to get ahead of developers not occurring currently: Submissions of Candidates Sites by ATT to LDP is a bit of a substitute. Major input on Public Realm is anyway almost complete, (January 2019) although there are future small projects around the town.
Llanfoist:
**Access** off road past Persimmon housing or off slip road to Waste Transfer Station. Site wraps around existing SSI.
**Ownership:** MCC
**Potential Use:** ‘One Planet’ dwelling community of serviced plots for timber self-build low cost affordable homes through a community land trust with growing spaces, shared electric car use powered by solar PV and small wind turbines on brow and ridge of site hill top.
As part of scheme install cycle access (green dotted line) beneath A465 to link to Mountain View housing estate and then new cycle/pedestrian bridge over Usk plus also cycle/pedestrian access to Llanfoist school.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LDP PROCESS  distraction or necessary?

This is one of ATT’s 12 no. Candidate Site submissions to LDP process.
Agreed these were of some value, they disrupt developer/landowner dominated system. PH to pursue follow up from MCC.
UK austerity has inflicted 'great misery' on citizens, UN says

Poverty envoy says callous policies driven by political desire for social re-engineering
- 'I'm scared to eat sometimes'
- Women reveal impact of cuts
- Children tell UN: 'It's unfair'

Focus projects on those who need most support in our community.

Two directions ATT might explore more.
A. Support to those struggling.
B. Direct action – Ramp up public need for action.

12 years to a tipping point according to IPCC: Time to ramp up direct action to prevent a sleep walk into an abyss.
EXTINCTION REBELLION: Alice Sidwell gave a report of the two London events she had attended. A third is to occur this Saturday. This is a very young civil disobedience movement but growing exponentially. Affinity groups are springing up all across UK. ATT has circulated a lot of material about it. There is an Abergavenny Affinity group. There will be events in Abergavenny soon.

If you want to be involved, contribute skills creativity, contact Robert Proctor at robsproc@hotmail.com

The need to act now to avoid catastrophic climate change

On Monday last week I was arrested for gluing myself to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in London. On Saturday I risked further detention by illegally occupying Lambeth Bridge, along with hundreds of others, as part of Extinction Rebellion’s campaign of mass civil disobedience (Report, 19 November). Why?

Scientists warn that the sixth mass extinction is now under way, that the survival of human civilisation itself is threatened, and that we have only a few short years in which to act. The UN also warns that we have just 12 years to avoid catastrophic climate change. The science is clear – we’re heading for an existential crisis.

Until last week I was an ordinary, law-abiding citizen. I’ve tried to drive change through all the normal channels – making lifestyle changes, lobbying politicians, being active in the Green party, and even standing for election. These things are crucial, and I’ll continue to do them, but they’re no longer enough. I now believe that non-violent direct action and mass civil disobedience are both necessary and urgent. I’ve become a law-breaker. I’ll continue to get arrested and I’ll go to prison if I must.

When my beautiful, innocent little niece grows up, enthralled as she is by the natural world, I can’t face her, knowing that I sat back passively and allowed its destruction. Along with thousands of others I’m now willing to sacrifice my freedom in an attempt to draw attention to this emergency, and to force our government to act immediately and radically.

Gwen Harrison
Kendal, Cumbria

● Climate change experts are doing all they can to keep our somnolent
Yesterday, today and tomorrow…….

Abergavenny, likely date 22nd Dec: Workshop to prepare Dec 8th
Given that Totnes was the founder of the Transition movement and have a headstart, how does Abergavenny compare in terms of types and range of activity groups. Note Totnes much smaller population. But maybe smaller allows more cohesiveness (Crickhowell High street award of the UK?) Items ringed ATT does not really engage with much. Can we, should we? See ACTIONS at end of this document.

Population Totnes 8,076: Abergavenny 13,043: Crickhowell 2,063
(Totnes) Housing for those who urgently need it

Agreed we should be learning from this and pushing on this issue urgently. Below are details from Totnes on the research and talks/films preparing to tackle this.

• Tim Crabtree works with Wessex Community Assets, which is supporting 40 community-led housing projects across Devon, Dorset and Somerset. In the talk and discussion, Tim will explore how we can overcome barriers to innovation in affordable housing – including through open source design, off-site prefabrication, new financing arrangements, government support and the use of land trusts and co-operative structures. (Totness)

• Representatives of local community housing projects’ (Transition Homes, South Brent and Broadhempston Community Land Trusts plus more TBC) will discuss the progress they have made in developing affordable housing for local people, some of the joys and challenges and their top tips to anyone contemplating a similar project.

14.15 – 14.45 Britain’s Housing Crisis: a People-Powered Solution? (Peg Alexander - Documentary)
• Should ATT have a campaign for serviced plots for self-build timber frame zero carbon dwellings with growing facilities and shared electric vehicle plus infill schemes for down-sizing elderly.
• In parallel campaign for use of MCC owned land for council-housing built with DLO (Direct Labour Organisation). Agreed yes

Similar evidence to this graph (left) was in the original LDP review prepared by MCC, but recent cabinet decision has overturned and gone for big delivery by volume builders again selling MCC land assets to fund services cut by austerity.

The housing market will never deliver what is really urgently needed. Other mechanisms have to be found.

Below an MHA scheme North Abergavenny for down-sizing built with DLO
Should there be an Abergavenny Pound?

Research required on how well Totness scheme holding up, check on Bristol pound (see Demain Film). Members sceptical.
THE LAST MAJOR PUBLIC EVENT 2015 (still many familiar faces). Time for more but what focus?

Agreed urgent need for another major Market Hall event. Need to learn from those who organised the last one. Also investigate viability of taking a food stall in night markets starting in Spring and combining selling food and engagement with local food issues.
A campaign across the settlement? Why Abergavenny so behind the curve?
Reduce carbon consumption, safer...
Acting to support those struggling (examples from Monmouth Transition Town recent newsletter)

• Summer Play Scheme: David briefed us on the Summer Play Scheme, + how this had provided MCC with evidence to apply for SHEP – School Holiday Enrichment Programme – for Monmouth for next year

• Surplus food: The problem is complex – we get very short notice from Waitrose + M+S, supplies aren’t regular, etc but we are getting to grips with both the supply + demand side – beneficiaries include Flying Start at Kymin View Primary, Ty Price, Carbonne Community Group, Bridges, Llammau in Cardiff, Salvation Army in Newport. Improvements are needed to cater for families with complex needs, + we need to address the problem of dealing with perishable food

• Ty Price + Monmouth Methodist Church hold lunch clubs on a regular basis

• We will offer to help with the Christmas Day lunch that is being provided by the Robin Hood, + will pick up surplus from Phil Munday on Christmas Eve

Before ATT engages on these sorts of initiatives, we need to be very sure what is already being provided in Abergavenny if anything, and learn from Monmouth TT experiences.
ACTIONS:
• Plan for a major Event in Market Hall June 2019: Simon to contact original organisers of that to get their cooperation or helpful information. **SB**
• Night Market stall aim for April. Need to clarify purpose and food safety issues **JG**
• Get more film events? Venue? (take them to North Abergavenny?) **PH/ RC**
• Jack to lead on 20’s Plenty campaign and ‘Playing Out’. Talk to Tudor. **JT**
• Patrick to pursue MCC response to Candidates sites submission. **PH**
• Invite people from ‘One Planet’ communities (Michael Howlett) and self-build cooperatives to come, and pass on expertise. Check Totnes contacts. **PH**
• Housing sites campaign to be pushed. **PH**
• Plastics campaigns ongoing and exponential. (**SH** to keep PH informed to notify ATT members)
• Multiple managers onto ATT Facebook (**JLD**) so that many can post.
• Put more events on Abergavenny Now. Check out Abergavenny Voice posting.
• Extinction Rebellion event(s) **AS**
• Organise photography for 22⁰ Dec event, ask James/Torrell.... **PH**
• Post film at Garway ‘We the uncivilised’
• Post Landworker’s Alliance film at 3 Pools once capacity known.
• Learn from Monmouth TT engagement with school holiday food provision and other social initiatives. Invite Vivien Mitchell to share experience.
• Keep closely informed on Abergavenny Food Forum and JUST FOOD initiatives. **JG/PH**
A.O.B?

Gwent levels M4 protest: December 4th 12:30 PM – 1 PM at the Senned, Cardiff. Try and share transport of go by train
https://www.facebook.com/events/362677067631967/
To see more on this: see

The Preston model........... To visit / research.....?
Agreed should research this model of local food sourcing by labour local authority.

“ The city of Preston has gained national attention for the way its Labour-run council has adopted an ultra-localist economic approach. In an attempt to revitalise the economy after the last recession, it attempted to encourage ‘anchor institutions’ – such as the council, police, colleges and the university – to buy goods and services from local businesses wherever possible.”