

# Transition Chester AGM

Held at Unity Centre, Cuppin Street, Chester – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## **Present:**

Simon Brown (SB) - Coordinator	Craig Green (CrG) – <i>Friends of Newton Hollows</i>	Gillian McHattie – GMc <i>Narrows Park Community Group</i>
Peter Bulmer (PBU) <i>(S.E. Chester Parish Councils Link)</i>		Martin Preston (MP) <i>Chester Sustainability Forum/</i>

Minutes taken by Simon Brown

## **Apologies:**

John Tacon (*Chester Fairtrade/Chester World Development Forum*), Catherine Green – (Treasurer), Peter Benson (*Frack Free Dee/ CaD FoE*), Jacky Creswick (*Friends of Caldy Valley Nature Park*), Molly Wilderspin-Jones, Arnold Wilkes (AW), Roger Davey (*Friends of Alexandra Park*)

Simon Brown (SB) welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

## **Coordinator's Overview of 2022**

SB gave an overview of 2022 - key points were:

- As last year, Transition Chester is financially viable – it has ongoing funding to support basic organisational costs (Website Hosting, Domain name cost, public liability insurance etc). Funding raised through 5% levy on all Suma orders placed through Transition Chester and donations through apple press events and hires
- Basic activities of the group carry on as previously, much at the same level, or a little less. These included:
  - Suma orders
  - Apple press hires and public apple pressings
  - Elmwood Avenue Incredible Edible
  - A programme of Chester Sustainability Walks
  - Pruning of fruit bushes, Alexandra Park (Hoole)
- The group was represented at the Chester Green Fair, Grosvenor Park which was organised through Cheshire Eco Groups.
- Some activities were able to proceed or develop further, including:
  - Further work improving habitats in Narrows Park (Hoole) Community Group, and a funding bid placed to install planters in the park.
  - Successful fund raising for the Friends of Newton Hollows to develop their food planters, Roman food trail and wildlife habitat enhancements.
- Friends of Alexandra Park (Hoole) and Mickle Trafford Green Spaces Group officially affiliated to Transition Chester and this has enabled them both to attract funding support and an ability to attract volunteers to support their work.
- The Caldy Valley Wildlife Group has joined Transition Chester as a partner organisation.
- Key areas where additional volunteer input is still required to help Transition Chester function more sustainably and effectively include:

- **Website editing and updates** (utilising the Wordpress platform)
- **Composition of Email Newsletters and circulation** (via Mailchimp)
- **Social Media posts** (Facebook and Twitter)
- **More frequent monitoring of Emails sent to Transition Chester via the website to enable prompt and effective responses**

**Activity Areas Overview of 2022** (See reports, where applicable, within appendices)

- ***Incredible Edible*** –(Report attached in appendix) SB reported that one of two sites previously planted with fruit bushes, (Alexandra Park (Hoole)) has been winter pruned for a third time hopefully to improve fruiting greater than the rather poor results 2022. The planter on Elmwood Avenue has been very productive this year, especially with sunflowers, one of which grew to a massive 2.5mtrs. These were left to form seed as food for wild birds. Courgettes, broad beans, nasturtium leaves and flowers and tomatoes all produced well and herbs such as tarragon, bay, peppermint and garden mint all did especially well and were picked by members of the public as they became available. The 'sharing table' has been very well used with sharing of a variety of seeds, plants and surplus produce through the year, proving the benefit of its location on a busy access route to the Greenway and Newton school.
- ***Narrows Park*** – GMcH gave a short presentation (Report attached in appendix) showing the work they had carried out through the year further enhancing the Narrows Park as a public space – the main wildflower meadow has become quite established and has responded well to the programmed management plan. The successful funding bid to People's Postcode Lottery has enabled two planters to be sited in the park and local schools have been involved in their planting and upkeep.
- ***Friends of Newton Hollows Group*** – (Report attached in appendix) A successful funding bid to the "Spacehive" crowd funding platform provided almost £6,000 to develop planters, signage and plants and seeds and bulbs to enhance biodiversity and establish the planned Roman Food Trail along the route.
- ***Apple Press hires and public apple pressings*** (Report attached in appendix) – SB reported that over the last year 2 public apple pressings took place in Hoole and at the Green Fair in Grosvenor Park. There were 7 public apple pressing events held by community groups in Westminster Park, Saltney, Christleton, Dodleston Guilden Sutton . 17 private bookings for the press including its associated equipment.
- ***Suma buying group*** – (Report attached in appendix) Suma orders have been placed every month over the year, delivered to Simon & Molly Brown's home in Hoole for collection by members of the group. Some £9,000 total value of orders placed has produced around £480 of income to Transition Chester via the 5% levy on each order.
- ***Friends of Alexandra Park*** (Report attached in appendix; supplied by Roger Davey subsequent to meeting)
- ***Mickle Trafford Green Spaces Group*** – (Report attached in appendix)
- ***Chester Sustainability Walks*** – (Report attached in appendix) Two Sustainability Walks in central Chester were conducted by SB, and a virtual

walk was described at the Storyhouse Climate Event held in November. including one that was targeted specifically at local CWaC Councillors & officials which attracted some 28 people in total

### **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2022 – 2023**

In her absence Catherine Green made available a statement of the accounts including the summary of the income and expenditure over the year. The full accounts are attached at the end of the minutes. The account year was taken to run from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022

#### **Summary of Income and Expenditure**

<b>SUMMARY 2022</b>		<b>income</b>		<b>expenses</b>	
Interest and investments	i	£12.97	Donations out incl fees	do	-£20.00
Apple press	ap	£152.08	Insurance	in	-£157.00
Unknown credit	uc	£30.00	Website	w	-£60.00
Suma payments	s	£417.02			
Narrows Group	ni	£2,535.00	Narrows Group	no	-£2,225.32
Hollows Group	hi	£4,956.41	Hollows Group	ho	-£1,612.51
Mickle Trafford	mi	£500.00	Mickle Trafford	mo	£0.00
		£8,603.48			-£4,074.83
<b>Income over Expenditure 2022</b>		<b>£4,528.65</b>			
<b>Narrows balance co from 2021</b>		<b>£58.91</b>			
<b>Transition balance co from 2021</b>		<b>£2,180.00</b>			
<b><u>Balances in accounts 31 Dec 2022</u></b>		<b>£6,767.56</b>	of which		
			£368.59	<b>Narrows</b>	
			£3,343.90	<b>Hollows</b>	
			£500.00	<b>Mickle Trafford</b>	
			£2,555.07	<b>Transition</b>	
<b>Transition core group surplus of</b>		<b>£375.07</b>	<b>in 2022</b>		

### **Election/confirmation of Executive Group and Coordinating Group**

The meeting noted and agreed the following people (who indicated their willingness to stand for the various roles within the **Executive Group**:

**Coordinator/Chair** : Simon Brown

Proposed by GM – Seconded by MP – No objections or abstentions  
unanimous agreement

**Treasurer** : Catherine Green had indicated she wished to stand down as Treasurer. Martin Preston had agreed to stand as Treasurer for the coming year.

Proposed by SB – Seconded by PBU - No objections or abstentions -  
unanimous agreement

**Communications Officer (Social Media):** Simon Brown & Martin Preston. Martin agreed to operate the Transition Chester Twitter account.

**Communications Officer (E-mails):** Vacant (volunteer sought) Emails currently checked by Simon Brown

**Secretary:** Vacant (Volunteer sought)

The following were agreed as **Coordinating Group Members:**

**Simon Brown\*:** *Apple Press Events/Hires, Incredible Edible Initiatives (Elmwood Avenue), Chester Sustainability Forum, Chester Sustainability Walks*

**Peter Bulmer:** *SE Chester Parish Councils link*

**Simon Brown\*, Arnold Wilkes and Catherine Green:** *Suma Buying Group*

**John Tacon:** *Chester World Development Forum, Chester Fairtrade Group*

**Catherine Green:** *Frack Free Dee, CheshireXR*

**Martin Preston\* ;** *Chester Sustainability Forum, Mickle Trafford Green Spaces Group*

**Gillian McHattie :** *Narrows Park Community Group*

**Craig Green :** *Friends of Newton Hollows*

**Roger Davey :** *Friends of Alexandra Park*

**Kerry Taylor- Brown/Peter Benson :** *Chester & District Friends of the Earth*

**Lisa Rosetti :** *Incredible Edible Handbridge*

**Jackie Creswick ;** *Friends of Caldley Valley Nature Park*

\* Executive Group members

### **Potential and planned activity for 2023**

- *Friends of Hollows* – Implement Phase 1 of Development plan, utilising Spacehive funding - Planters for Roman food plants, signage, planting of Roman related fruit trees - Liaise with Chester Zoo about development of Phase 2
- *Narrows Park* – Further development of wildflower areas in park, maintaining planters near 'edibles' area in conjunction with others
- *Suma Group* – expand membership as and when approached by interested individuals

### **Any other business**

Catherine Green had proposed via email that a donation be made to support the staging of an Active Travel Festival in Chester in June 2023. The AT Fest organisers were currently short of £2,200 to their fundraising target with a cut-off date for pledges by end of March .

It was proposed by GM and seconded by PBU that a donation of £200 be made to the fund from Transition Chester. This was agreed unanimously

Meeting business finished at 21.30 pm.

## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **Annual Accounts:**

Follow link:

<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Transition-Chester-Accounts-2022.pdf>

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Reports on Activity areas:**

- *Incredible Edible – Elmwood Avenue/Alexandra Park*  
Follow link:  
<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AGM-Report-2023-IE-Elmwood.pdf>
- *Report from Narrows Park Community Group*  
Follow link:  
<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Narrows-Transition-Chester-AGM-March-2023.pdf>
- *Report from Friends of the Hollows*  
Follow link:  
<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AGM-Report-FoHollows.pdf>
- *Apple Press & Hires:*  
Follow link:  
<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AGM-Report-2023-apple-press.pdf>
- *Suma Buying Group:*  
Follow link:  
<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AGM-Report-2023-suma.pdf>
- *Friends of Alexandra Park:*  
Follow link:  
<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Friends-of-Alexandra-Park-report-to-Transition-Chester-March-2023.pdf>
- *Mickle Trafford Green Spaces Group:*  
Follow link:  
[http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/MTGS-presentation-to-Transition-AGM\\_March-2023\\_01-1.pdf](http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/MTGS-presentation-to-Transition-AGM_March-2023_01-1.pdf)
- *Chester Sustainability Walks:*  
Follow link:  
<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AGM-Report-2023-Sustainability-Walks.pdf>

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **Reports from member groups:**

- *Chester World Development Forum*

*Follow link:*

<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/CWDF-AGM-Report-2021-to-2022-10May22.pdf>

- *Friends of Caldy Valley Nature Park*

*Follow link:*

<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/The-Friends-of-Caldy-Nature-Park-Report-2023.pdf>

- *Great Boughton Orchard Project*

*Follow link:*

<http://www.transitionchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Gt-Boughton-Orchard.pdf>