

Notes

Item 1: A talk from Nick Egerton on Air Quality in Three Rivers.

The presentation has been attached to the email.

- Discussion regarding peaks at schools – Nick advised that it is continuous exposure to levels in excess of the objectives causing harm to health, rather than spikes.
- Tony Booker questioned how well Incineration sites are monitored for air pollution by Environment Agency.
- Public transport is being cut: TRDC are not the transport authority but liaise with HCC. TRDC fund £100,000 to HCC to make the bus services work. Challenging to make service viable. Some routes are funded by taxes and some commercial.
- The 724 bus does not go via the hospital, could this be amended? *Officer Tom Rankin to report back to HCC.*
- Graham - engine idling by buses, no will by management to enforce idling. *Officer Tom Rankin has advised he will take this up with councils.*
- HCC have travel plans to encourage active travel, and social media campaigns
- There is a text alert system when air pollution is likely to be higher which people can sign up to: <https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/local-authority/knr-subscription>

Item 2: What do you want from the Forum?

What role should it play? Should the role be handed to the community? Should it be information based? Should it be action and collaboration based?

- Would not want it passed to a community group as people would lose a direct route to the Council, and unsure if community groups have capacity.
- Talks/information is good but needs to lead to wider behaviour change. Could this include wider initiatives to filter out into the community via attendees with common/targeted messaging?
- Sharing good work/best practice.
- People want feedback when they have created change – this would encourage more engagement and better attendance. Share the impact from it.
- Encouragement of attendees to take action through political change and motions, but this must have feedback/follow through to keep people motivated.
- Attendees want to be well educated and confident in their knowledge to pass on – e.g. where does our waste really go?
- Desire to hear about what local people are doing. Mini talks from local groups/individuals? E.g. transition streets, GUCE, S3R, someone with a heat pump.
- How do we communicate this?
 - Improved social media
 - Sharing through local online groups
 - Radio news

- Social media verification needed
 - Social media professionals to create viral videos and increase traffic. Could they also talk at the 'Forum' to give comms advice to local groups?
 - Reels
 - Mix messaging to appeal to different audiences.
 - Video intro of speaker/topic for the evening.
 - Could attendees create content to promote.
- Follow trending topics
 - More varied demographic wanted in the group.
 - Could the 'Forum' run more regularly or have sub-groups?
 - Variety is important.
 - They liked the films and panel events we have staged.
 - Space to discuss local issues, e.g.
 - Issues with waterways
 - Concern that the signage in Rickmansworth to nature spots is very poor. Officer Tom Rankin said this is being reviewed.
 - One key speaker every year to try and bring in the crowds.
 - They would like a film on reducing plastic.

Item 3: How do you think the Forum should be run?

- In person is difficult for families – could evenings centred on talks/presentations be online/hybrid - possibly save these for winter.
- Would a full day event be more successful than several smaller ones?
- Change of name – Eco Group or Eco Club?
- Rotating locations would be good to make it more accessible to more people. "Environmental Forum on the road"
- Remove tables to keep it less formal.
- Biscuits needed.
- Make the website more intuitive and engaging.
- Add a standing item on sharing upcoming events.
- Some want one a year – some would like 4+
- U3A could be a good avenue for more attendees and engagement.

Council Officers and Members will spend time going through the feedback received inside and outside of the meeting to decide the future of the 'Forum'. Information on the next 'Forum' will be circulated to everyone who left their contact details.

Links and events:

Join our Greener Living newsletter to stay up to date with local stories, opportunities and grants: <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/services/environment-climate-emergency/climate-sustainability-get-involved>

If you're interested in signing up as a Transition Street, find out more and contact GUCE here: <https://guce.org.uk/get-involved/>