**13/6/2023 CVAF C&NEWG 6.30-8.00 Agenda: Meeting 31**

**Present:** Nick Baker,Phil Collins, Jackie Head, Matt Jackson, Alice Keogh, Peter McKendry,

**Apologies:** Roddy Black, Ian Dagger, David Huffadine, Guy Norfolk, Susanna Waters, Gillian Rice,

No Conflicts of Interest noted.

1. **Rep for Chew Valley Forum Meeting, in person at Chew Valley School. 12th July 6pm**

**Action: Phil** offered to speak about work carried out by the group since the last CVAF meeting and also talk about possible routes forward. He will also advertise the Celebration event.

1. **Exploring the way forward for this group**
**Jackie** invited people to complete a poll to gauge the gut responses of the meeting:
*If the CVAFC&NEWG meeting were to end in October how would you feel? Relieved, neutral, disappointed.***Phil** said he felt keeping the broader theme made it difficult to focus on one area and his preference would be to see the Sustainable Transport Group setting up as a separate entity to continue the work they are doing which is very active at the moment (weekly meetings and very frequent emails/facebook posting etc) . He felt the wider group had been very effective at moving actions in Parishes forward, at bringing about real change in terms of transport and also could be seen to have been an incubator for the new Nature protection group and the potential ongoing Sustainable Transport group. He felt it now coming to an end should not be seen as a failure.
**Peter** said he felt the group had been a good idea and had done some good work but that numbers had been dwindling and that there was not the driving force in the subgroups to get action happening across the Chew Valley (with the exception of Sustainable Transport) He said this was not uncommon, he had seen this happen with the Go Zero project which had started with a lot of drive and energy but then not really achieved enough public engagement to take it forward.
**Nick** felt that the current format for this work had run its course with Nature Protection group breaking away, subsequent dwindling numbers, and the CVAF requirement to end in the present format effectively meaning it was no longer viable. He felt that over the 3 years one thing it had done very well was build networks of people across the Chew Valley who were interested in taking action on climate. He felt this had been helpful in his Parish and he would like it to be retained in some way so that people can draw on specific expertise or experiences from other Parishes.He also felt that the relationship with B&NES Sustainability team was a useful one to maintain. He would like to see Whatsapp groups on specific subjects going forward.
**Matt** felt disappointed by the thought that the broader group would be ending as he had found the networking really helpful. He did acknowledge however that it was hard to get cross valley action happening but that he felt the local level action had moved on in the 3 years, with more happening. However, personal circumstances mean he will not be in the area for some months so he would not be in a position to help, but had hoped something would still be around when he returned.
**Jackie** said that in some ways she would be relieved for the group to end as it had felt like hard work to keep enthusiasm going and to feel as if she was having to drive something forward with a smaller critical mass- also all those emails and minutes! However she felt that the work of the Sustainable Transport group had been very effective- the extension of the 672 being one clear impact, and the fact that they could now have the ear of key people in B&NES & WECA. She said it was frustrating to have to put effort into setting up a new entity at a time where the group is putting in so much time just doing the work (referred to in Jackie’s house as her 3 day a week job already.)

**Phil** felt that as WESTlink is a 2 year contract it was of key importance to continue for this period at least. He felt the group needed more members but that it had credibility for the work done (especially the evidence-based reports) and so would be able to transition to a new format without losing that credibility. **Jackie** asked if anyone else would like to work on the transport group but for differing reasons others were unable to commit to this. **Phil** felt that new members might come from the wider contacts list and/or from the 230 people currently on the Bus Transition in the Chew Valley Facebook group. He also felt there might be people on the Early Adopters Group who might want to do more. We could also petition Parish Councils to put forward reps. **Phil** felt the demise of 672 might also encourage more people to join the group.

**Jackie** said that ending the work of the Sustainable Transport Group in October did also needs to be an option in people’s minds as she did not feel she could continue to offer as much as she has been without being part of a larger strong team who were able to match the enthusiasm and hard graft of those currently on the team. She felt if we do have to close we could still feel proud about what we have achieved.

**Jackie** clarified she has heard from Gillian Rice who would like to see the broader C&NE agenda continue, and had a personal interest in Home Energy and from David Huffadine who felt the group had probably run its course and from Susanna Waters who is planning to join the Nature Protection Group..

**Jackie** summarised the feeling of the meeting and from those who contributed and said she felt it was clear that the broader C&NEWG needed to be brought to a close. She asked how people felt we should end the group: did we just write up these notes and end it or did we want something to mark the ending (and possible transition to new entities for Nature Protection and Sustainable Transport.) **Nick** felt this should be that last formal meeting, given that the holiday period would be likely to be poorly attended anyway. He suggested we have a get together in September as a wash up and social for the whole group to come to. It could also be a place to communicate the continuing life of Nature Protection and Sustainable Transport. It would also be an opportunity for networking and to set up informal Whatsapp groups. He felt this network could be part of the legacy of the group.

**Alice** stated that Transition Bath has a very effective Eco cooperation group on Whatsapp.
**Peter** felt that there were some successful groups happening, such as Rewild Chew and these could be linked in too. He felt it was fine for the wider group to end now, and is not sure he would want to attend a final wash up or be on Whatsapp. **Jackie** pointed to the fact that Whatsapp could work for some things but could also be quite demanding, so she was glad she could sometimes mute conversations for a while. **Nick** felt people could dip in and out and that it was easier than responding to emails. **Jackie** suggested that any Whatsapp group had someone managing it so that the focus was retained. **Nick** said the reality of a network is that you will have some active and some more passive members who sit and observe/pick up information but don’t join in. **Jackie** pointed out that this could be a big ask from the active members and that you needed to make sure you had a critical mass of active participants for things to keep going.
**Phil** was in favour of a final meeting with a social feel as he felt that we needed to celebrate the achievements across 3 years.
**Jackie** asked how people would feel about making this a public meeting where new people are invited to potentially join the Nature Protection and Transport groups and the Whatsapp network. This was felt to be a good idea. **Nick** suggested we invite a reps from the B&NES forum team to come, and from all of the Parishes as well as those on the mailing list.

The group agreed this would be face to face and that Jackie/Nick should look for a date in September and contact the CVAF team to see if any funding might be available.

**Actions:
Jackie** will look for book EH Theatre (as used at the Xmas social) & contact Sara Dixon about funding. **Nick & Jackie** will agree on a date and create an invite.
**All** will publicise in their wider networks, bring a plus one so that we go out with a celebration and not with a whimper! **Sustainable Transport Group** will explore the possibility of continuing in a new structure independent of the CVAF and consider whether they want to join the CVAF as Nature Protection is doing.

**4. Earth Matters Column
Actions:**

**Jackie and Phil** will work with the Sustainable Transport Group to write something for the July edition **(deadline 26th June). Nick & Jackie** will write something for the August Edition **(deadline 26th July)** announcing the final meeting and inviting people to attend. Acknowledgement was made that this had been one of the positive outputs of the wider group.

**5. Date of next meeting: washup/social date in September tbc**

The meeting decided that rather than meet in topic groups (as Sustainable Transport were already meeting the following day) we would end early. Meeting closed at 7.30

JH 23/6/23