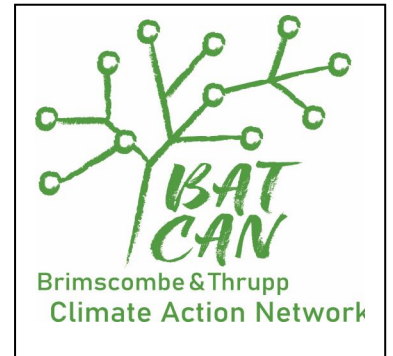


Note of BATCAN Meeting Feb 24th, 2021 by Zoom



- **Welcome and apologies**

Jo Robbins. Donna Mylechrist (Head, Thrupp School). Ben Morris, Jhazi Fletcher

- **Brief introduction to BATCAN (Martin)**

Martin confirming it's a loose network of people supporting and coordinating projects. Loosely associated with the parish council. 18 CAN groups in District supported by Transition Stroud

- **attendees:**

Luke Smith, Alexandra Lloyd-Jones, William Reddaway, Gary Strudwick, Lucy Savvidou. Jim Lewis, Chloe Turner, Graham Russell, Martin Whiteside, Greg Pilley, Colette Wilson, Anna Usborne, Jo Woolfall, Elizabeth Oxley, Karen Courtney, Beki Aldam, Isa Clee, Gavin McLafferty, Dave Judd, John Rees, Gisela Blee, Gill Stacey, Shila Brown.

Luke Smith mentioned that he has been working on a bird-song app and also may be able to help with IT issues.

- **Quick report-backs since last meeting**

- **Swift Friendly Parish (Jo/Gill)**

Swifts migrate in May and stay 3 months to breed. Numbers are down 50% over the last five years. Losing nest sites. Trying to encourage more swift boxes in Parish. Six double nest boxes on Port Mill and some on Stroud Brewery. Currently putting the word out and following up on interest of those wanting boxes. Contact Gill Stacey stroudswiftgroup@gmail.com

- **Community solar (Martin/William)**

Households in the same parish agree they want solar so company would offer discount Significant reduction in their costs so they can pass that on. Negotiations with installers ongoing through Transition Stroud.

- **Community compost**

Old Brewery carpark can be used. Constitution written, Bank account application has gone in, working on business plan. Not much progress with fundraising yet.

- **Traffic speeds and cycling (Alexandra/Martin)**

Parish councils surveyed by OPCC – A419 on their radar
Project of cycleway mentioned – raising profile of it in Cycling Summit

- **Home insulation (Dave)**

Proposal for zoom workshops to help people in the community learn more about insulation and energy generation. Lots of interest around home surveys.

Needs help with the organisation; asking for ideas.

Greg offering cameras etc to make videos and venue when meetings allowed.

Talked about community heating. Participants encouraged workshops to go ahead

- **Community owned wind turbine (Martin)**
Discussions ongoing with Chalford, Bisley, Stroud Town CANs. Originally looking in Chalford/Bisley for sites but now widened across the District.
- **Neighbourhood Plan (Greg)**
Trying to see it through (Greg and Alexandra) - aligns with District and National plans
Appeal to people to help finish it off. Revisiting former consultation: green spaces; community resources. Fairly neat little tasks. Aiming to complete within a year. But initial groundwork done over 2-3 months. Appeal to get involved with the basic survey. Walking the footpaths, checking community assets etc.
- **Electric bike event (Gisela)**
Giving people a chance to try electric bikes. Stroud Brewery could be open on April 12th for outdoor stuff. Ark Cycles keen to get involved.
- **New Parish Community Development worker (Shila)**
Shila in a new role helping Hannah (Parish Clerk). Wanting to join projects up and helping to develop projects more.
“Hi all, you can reach me at communitysupport@brimscombeandthrupp-pc.gov.uk and I am admin on the Brimscombe and Thrupp facebook group so you could message me through that. I will mostly be working on this on Mondays.”
- **New initiatives -**
 - **tree and hedge planting (Jim)**
A response to the loss of Ash trees due to die-back. Have native species saplings coming from county Council. Planning: double hedge around A419 playing field. Looking for volunteers to help plant them - coordinated through Shila.
Volunteers - chloehome@hotmail.co.uk, lucysavvidou@yahoo.co.uk, wreddaway@btinternet.com,
 - **Biodiversity of wild area by playing fields (Greg)**
Enthusiastic support to take this forward. Needs land transfer from County Council.
Discussions escalated to the next level. Could be used by lots of groups including Forest schools etc.
- **New ideas/reports**
 - **Co-Cars (Beki) - [visit the survey](#)**
Social enterprise to get electric cars and bikes in a membership club locally
 - **River Frome Group (Martin/Jo)**
Agreement that we should be doing more to love, protect and enable access to River Frome. Water quality monitoring, Invasive weeds and general upkeep. Biodiversity. Wild swimming.
 - **Stroud Wildlife Survey Group may be able to help.**
Investigate land ownership along the banks plus Japanese knotweed/Himalayan Balsam.
Dave and Anna to meet **Gloucestershire Food Strategy (Alexandra/Beki?)**
Strategy for food – lots of funding initiatives together. Exciting initiative.

- **Any other ideas?**

Anna – weed killers in lane near school

- **AOB**

Gavin: new recycling bin to recycle odds and ends that you can't recycle in the household bins. Ply, MDF, chipboard, Bubblewrap, clingfilm etc Contact Gavin <breakfast@clara.co.uk>

Shila: could we re-open spring on Spring Lane for local use?