



Minutes of Forum meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2017 at The Unity Centre

Marking the start of our 25th Year!

- 1 **Welcome:** Terry Green chaired the meeting
Present: Terry Green, Bernard Payne (St Columba's Third World Group), John Tacon, Vicki Jenner, Margaret Lord and Lindsay Cussons (Baha'i), Terry Walsh (Chester CND), Mark Rideal (Chester CND), Pam Price (Church Action on Poverty), Ann McCarthy (CAFOD and Christian Aid), Carol Murphy (Holy Trinity Third World Group) and Linda Shuttleworth
Apologies: Peter Byrne, Heather Lannin, Gill Miller, Brian and Katy Rowe, Matthew Jessop, Heather Swainston, Gerald Grant, Sue Bownas, Daphne Peers and Stephen Maund

- 2 **Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:**
 - Forum meeting 11th July 2017: No matters arising
 - Chair's report on key issues covered in Committee meeting held on 24th July and 4th September 2017: At these meetings, the committee mostly discussed how the Forum could "move forward" in our 25th Year, ways of sustaining our membership and attracting more interest in our actions/meetings. We are actively seeking ways to learn about how to use social media as a means of promoting CWDF.
JT gave us brief outline of the new initiative called "Sustainable Chester" and the issues being discussed. Colin Watson from Green Party is spearheading the group. Chris Matheson chaired the first meeting. Next meeting is on 28th Sept. TG will attend and feedback. This will focus on ways of improving air quality in Chester.
Committee also discussed having a major celebratory event in October

- 3 **Financial update:** JT reported balance of £439.77 as of 31st Aug. He has paid out £30 for hire of room paid for maintenance of website. Balance now £365.70
Sadly a number of individuals and groups have not paid this year's subs yet.

- 4 **CWDF: "An active past, aiming for a sustainable future"**
 - Brief review of our activities since 1992/3 and changes along the way.
BP began the review with a "collage" of some of the activities CWDF has been involved in over the years.
He then looked back to "Chester World Development Day" in 1993 and pointed out the differences between member organisations in 1993 and 2016/17.
From 1999 – 2000 CWDG (Group not Forum then) embarked on a millennium soul searching exercise and came up with 4 options, one and half of which were agreed on as the way forward at that time.
Now the Forum is looking at ways of sustaining our membership and that is why we took advantage of the Chester University's "Sustainable Futures" project.
Finally the key features of the last 25 years were presented.
BP's review makes very interesting reading and the slides from his PowerPoint show are on a separate sheet.

- Our future activities: hearing from **YOU** about your future projects, and how the Forum can best complement our respective activities/ campaigns

Comments from members:

- Other groups represented at the Forum because a number of constituent members are also subscribe to, for example, Greenpeace and Jubilee Debt Campaign
- TW commented that we don't get involved in as many local actions now and it seems to be more card signing and actions on line. Still valid but not reaching out to wider public
- MR mentioned TUC event on May Day next year, involving numerous stalls. Forum could use as a platform to raise public awareness. (Also expressed concern about use of plastic bottles and the waste arising.)
- "Sustainable Chester" – would there be any interest in resurrecting the Green Day? TG will ask at next meeting.
- TW queried having a further "Development Day".
- JT – Chester Castle was open in August and on one Saturday there was a Fairtrade stall but people just had a quick look but not terribly interested.
- LS made the observation that we are in a changing landscape. The younger generation don't interact in the same way.
- PP made the point that there is nowhere to hold events now. The Town Hall is no longer available for such events as ours.
- There has been a suggestion about us using Storyhouse. The committee are looking into it. They have shown Al Gore's film "Inconvenient Sequel" recently but it was not well supported and no cards to sign afterwards.
- The committee are looking to put together a questionnaire asking members for updates on their campaigns, why they don't come to meetings and encouraging them to let us know about their activities
- The diary is considered to be very important in networking. BP hopes to link in with Sustainable Chester's newsletter which will give us another means of advertising events
- LS – There's strength in the word "Forum" – getting to know about constituent members
- TW- Some of us are members of several groups – so could be said to represent those groups at the Forum.
- LS will check through list of group meetings in Standard newspaper to see if any we should link into. *(LS checked the Standard the day after the meeting – the only groups the Forum could possibly link with were Chester Humanists, Chester Soroptimists and possibly The Lions).*
- National Campaigns such as Make Poverty History are becoming less evident.
- CM mentioned that young people tend to engage via the internet, not at meetings.
- AMcC said we should continue to circulate petitions etc.

5 Card-signing interlude:

- Christian Aid "Big Shift – signing of stickers with messages to major banks urging them to invest in sustainable energy and move away for fossil fuels. Katy Rowe is collecting stickers which will be placed on giant picture of "Prudence Pig" and taken to banks in Chester. Date for delivering the messages to be arranged.
- Traidcraft cards re Brexit – "Make Brexit work for everyone"
- Jubilee Debt Campaign – cards to Secretary of State for Health protesting against the promotion of "Public Private Partnerships" which could leave impoverished countries such as Zambia and Liberia with unjust and unpayable debts.

6 Future events and activities, with reference to:

- Session with Chris Matheson MP, **Tuesday 3rd October** at 7pm, Best Building
He will speak briefly at the start followed by questions and discussion.
- **Tuesday 10th October**, 7.30pm Best Building – “Entrepreneurship and the Thunder Dragon: Challenges of doing business in Bhutan” – a lecture by William Tacon. Bhutan is a small kingdom in the Himalayas. See diary for more details.
- **Saturday 21st October** – Fairtrade wine tasting evening in Hoole Community Centre,
- Details of the forthcoming Cathedral Public Workshop event will be included in the Diary.
- Reports from around the table:
TW: petition from FoE on “clean air” in Chester to be signed

7 Arrangements for next full Forum meeting: Tuesday 14th November: JT has emailed Colin Watson re him talking to the Forum on the fracking issue and possibly give us information on INEOS “interest” in drilling the Blacon Basin and other areas in Ellesmere Port.