

Chester World Development Forum



Minutes, Forum Meeting

Tuesday 12 November 2019

6.45 for 7.00pm, The Unity Centre

Prior to our regular agenda we welcomed

Natalia Jancewicz talking on the topic “**Degrowth**”

- A society model looking at democratically led solutions to achieve environmental sustainability, social justice and wellbeing.

A note of Natalia’s talk is circulated separately

Business Meeting

- 1 Welcome:** Terry Green chaired the meeting
Present: Terry Green, Bernard Payne (St Columba’s Third World Group), John Tacon, Ann McCarthy (CAFOD), Gerald Grant, Lindsay Cussons (Baha’i), Linda and Stewart Shuttleworth, Arnold Wilkes, Sean English, Pam Price (Church Action on Poverty), Tom Ormiston (EP J and P Group), Gill Miller, Vicki Jenner, Elizabeth Bott (CAMCC), Katie Rowe (Christian Aid), Brian Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine), Sue Bownas (CAFOD and Chester Fairtrading), Penny Davies and Natalia Jancewicz (Incredible Edible)
Apologies: Mike Johnson, Margaret Lord, Heather Lannin, Tony Walsh and Margaret Mottershaw
- 2 Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:**
 - Forum of 10th September 2019: No matters arising
 - Chair to report on key issues covered in Committee meetings held on **7th October** and **4th November 2019**. The Committee meetings centred round arrangements for future speakers, CWDF’s involvement in the Sustainable Fair on 23rd Nov, support for the new Eco Communities project and whether to organise a Hustings in view of the forthcoming election. We are also looking to re-do our leaflet as some of the information in it is out of date and we need to make it more “appealing” in the hope of recruiting more members.
(If any Forum members or friends have “design skills” in this area please get in touch with a committee member).
- 3 Treasure’s Report**
JT reported that the last bank statement up to end October gave a balance of £278.56. Since then JT has paid out £10 to CFoE for the table at the Sustainable Fair and £30 to CHWRAC for hire of the room.
- 4 Brief review of any recent local events arranged by our members:**
 - TG went to film last week organised by CFoP which was very interesting. The film was followed by a very good speaker. The “Palestinian Paintings” by Zohar have been exhibited in Northgate Street Gallery but have now moved to University in Kingsway if anyone is interested.

- BR referred to the Palestine Conference held on 1st and 2nd November. Though Chester Friends of Palestine had an information stall at the event the conference organisers were a separate entity, Interfaith for Palestine. Controversies had arisen over the line up of speakers (charges of anti-semitism) and the venue had to be changed. BP clarified the position over the cancellation of the booking of St Columba's Hall (the original venue). It had been said (incorrectly) that this was due to heating problems at the church. In fact, Shrewsbury RC Diocese had received strong objections to the make up of the conference and (rightly or wrongly) cancelled the hall booking on the basis that the event speakers held views not consistent with the diocese's ethos and values.

5 Arrangements for forthcoming events/ relevant activities, including:

- **Sustainable Chester Winter Fair 23rd November:** This is organised by Eco-Communities. CWDF is running a stall in conjunction with CWaC Fairtrade Steering Group. A joint meeting of FTSG and CWDF members will take place on Friday to plan the stall. John Tacon and Vicki Jenner are both in FTSG as well as CWDF.
- **Forum/ University Joint Meeting Wed 27th Nov:** Speaker Dr Jane Fisher on "The Centre for Alternative Technology- responding to the imperatives of climate change" to be held at 7.30pm in Best Building, University of Chester
- **"Write for Rights" 7th December:** Amnesty International event at The Kitchen, Storyhouse, 9.30-12.30pm – see diary for further details
- **Pre-Election meeting:** Q and A session organised by Chester City Centre Churches Together on Tuesday 3rd Dec in Queens Park High School, Handbridge at 7.30pm

6 Issues from around the table/ AOB:

AW: Countess of Chester Country Park have recently produced a leaflet which Forum members might be interested in. AW will send a copy to BP

PP: CAP – still working on End to Hunger Banks

LC: Giving a talk on the Baha'i Faith at Town Hall on 13th Nov. as part of the Interfaith Forum.

SA: Provided an update on how the Greenpeace Oceans Campaign had gone. Merseyside Greenpeace gained a little over 400 signatures alone. The petition has been handed over but the decision regarding the UK signing this treaty with the UN has been postponed to 2020. To recap, the treaty with the UN is to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

On a different point, **Sean** mentioned that there may be a Greenpeace stall towards the end of November. This was to raise awareness with a petition against Burger King and its role as the main source of the demand of soya farmed in Brazil which results in rain forest being burned to be cleared for space. There was however a change of plan and the stall took place in Liverpool instead.

JT: talked about the exhibition on the issue of climate change to be held in May next year in the Cathedral in conjunction with Chester Sustainability Forum. Further details to come

7 Date of next Forum meeting:

Tuesday 14th January, 6.45 for 7.00pm at The Unity Centre