

Macctastic Eco Network Open Meeting – 15th Jul 2019

St Michael's Church, Macclesfield

Cre8 Project Grow

Cre8 speaker, Katy Wardle spoke about [Project Grow](#) a sustainable, a low-cost food network for local people.

Project Grow has received National Lottery Community Funding (£260k over 5 years) to provide a full time coordinator, a Programme of community health & wellbeing activities centred on the Moss Estate and to set up and run a Mobile Food Grocery across Macclesfield diverting waste/surplus food from landfill.

The Mobile Food Grocery aims to be able to visit four housing estates across Macclesfield on a weekly basis and supply food to local charities and community groups across the area. This food would otherwise have been wasted and gone to landfill.

Participants will become 'members' and for a small weekly fee (estimated at between £3 - £5 depending on quality/quantity of food donated) will receive an estimated £25-£30 worth of shopping from the Grocery. The scheme is open to all. As such, the project should not be seen as a replacement to food banks, which have a different role to play.

The Project is currently building relationships with food retailers and outlets, recruiting and training volunteers and drivers. The first grocery will be on the Moss Estate and should be up and running by September.

The project needs volunteers, publicity, partnerships and food!

If you are interested in helping out either on a once off or an ongoing basis, please get in touch with Katy at hello@cre8macclesfield.org.

Litter Group

The informal network of pickers continues to collect discarded rubbish; however one of our most active guerrilla pickers – Sue Kilbride – is currently unwell and will be out of action until the autumn.

If anyone would like to carry on her great work please feel free to focus on the Crompton Road area.

Following on from our efforts to clean the banks of the Bollin near the Tesco store, a new waste bin is about to be installed on the Middlewood Way, courtesy of the Town Council. Tesco's manager has agreed to take responsibility for its periodic emptying.

Cllr Neil Puttock announced that the Town Council will be installing additional waste bins, and requested ideas for their future location.

If you would like to learn more about litter picking in the Macclesfield area, please contact Gordon at litter@macctastic.org.

Mug library

Jess Robins was at the meeting and gave an update on the mug library, which is now well established at Treacle Market. It is also available for loan for other local events.

A call was put out for Volunteers to set up, man the stand and wash mugs after the July Treacle market.

If you would like the mug library at your event or can help at the July Treacle Market please contact Jess at muglibrary@macctastic.org.

EcoYouth Group

Esther Bird, the Eco Youth leader, was unable to attend but provided the following update:

- *“We recently attended the Macclesfield Garden Festival where we unveiled our first and largest project as a group - the Eco-brick flowerbed, this was temporary and so we are now hoping to build an eco-brick flowerbed in each of the schools involved and we have been contacted by ANSA-a waste management company- who are interested in organising a similar project.*
- *Future meetings will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, the next being on the 11th September, 4-5pm in the foyer of St Michael's church.*
- *The group has expanded its membership, now with 5 schools being represented in every meeting.*
- *Some of us from the group recently met Jeremy Corbyn and asked some questions.*
- *The school strike will be in September and more details will be available closer to the time.*
- *I'm talking at the local Labour party meeting with the new leader of Cheshire East Council on Tuesday 23rd July.”*

If you have any queries about the Eco Youth group or are a school and would like to get involved, Esther and the group can be contacted at EcoYouth@macctastic.org

Transport

David gave an overview of the Transport group's aims which are to make Macclesfield safer, and more appealing to all in terms of travel. The main areas of focus for this group are:

- The school run/encouraging walking and cycling to school
- Traffic congestion and associated air pollution
- Cycling within Macclesfield – commuting and other local trips rather than leisure

They have made good progress on approaching schools to help with travel plans and working towards more sustainable travel to schools to reduce congestion and air pollution and emissions.

The group has also met with Macclesfield Wheelers, and are looking at ways in which the two organisations could work together to improve conditions for cyclists in Macclesfield. Suggestions include working with Tytherington High School and Cheshire East to increase numbers cycling to school how existing cycle lanes could be improved; and seeing if there is space available for more.

The Transport Group's next meeting is on the 6th August (7.30pm the Park Tavern) and the guest speaker is Cheshire East Councillor Suzie Aker Smith. Suzie is the Director of Everybody Sports and Recreation and a member of the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

You can get in touch with David Mayers at Transport@macctastic.org

Less Plastic

Adam Costello and Mary Edwards who lead the group (and are looking for people to get involved!) have teamed up with Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) to try and get 'Plastic Free Status' for Macclesfield. This is no small task and will involve liaising with Macclesfield Town Council and then actually going into businesses to work with them on becoming plastic free!

Look out for developments on the Macctastic and Plastic Free Community Facebook Pages soon!

If you are interested in getting involved with the Plastic Free group please contact Adam or Mary at plastic@macctastic.org

Bees & Pollinators Group

The new group lead Dan Lancaster was at the meeting. Dan is working with other group members to develop its strategy, including working out possible project ideas for a plot of land earmarked for use by Macc Town Council.

If you are passionate about helping improve the fate of pollinators in Macclesfield area, you can get in touch with Dan at Pollinators@macctastic.org

Climate Action

Alex McKay shared the activities of the newly formed Climate Action group, whose aims are to work with local government to take clear and decisive action on climate reduction.

So far this group has written to and met with David Rutley to seek his support on resurrecting a Local Heat Network for Macclesfield and developing roles within the councils to champion climate action.

The group has also met with other sustainability groups in the area (Transition Wilmslow and Bollington) to form the Cheshire East Climate Alliance. This group has contacted Cheshire East's Sam Corcoran with the offer of professional skills and voluntary hours to

support their aspiration of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2025. Cheshire East Climate Alliance will meet again on the 22nd August.

They have also been invited to meet with a group of Bollington Town Councillors on the 31st August to discuss climate initiatives for Bollington and the local areas.

Next steps for Macctastic Climate Action is to contact Macclesfield Town Council to offer support and discuss their plans and approach to the climate emergency it has declared.

If you would like more information or would like to get involved please contact Climate Action at admin@macctastic.org.

Other ideas raised.

Matthew Todd has arranged a meeting to discuss setting up a zero waste shop in Macclesfield, for Thursday 18th July at 7pm in the Park Tavern. Matthew is on the Face Book group if you would like to get in touch with him.

Dates to Note

Mug Library @ Treacle Market

Sun 28th July

Volunteers Needed!!

Transport Group Meeting

Tues 6th August, 7.30pm at the Park Tavern

Guest Speaker: Suzie Akers Smith

Eco Youth Meeting

Weds 11th Sept 4-5pm, in the foyer of St Michael's Church.

Next Macctastic Meeting

Monday 16th Sept 7.30pm, at St Michaels Church

Guest Speaker: Ansa and 'What can we put in our recycling bins'?