









## Meeting Notes - 27<sup>th</sup> November

Here is a summary of our Open meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, for brevity's sake I cannot list all the ideas and issues discussed but I will write them up and put the document on the website next week. Hopefully this information will help explain what our group is about and what we are trying to achieve. The meeting was very useful in helping us see what we have done so far and where would be a useful direction for us to continue. Thank you for your contributions.

We gave updates of our projects (see below) and then followed with a session detailing what changes we have all made in our own lives to reduce waste, help wildlife or change the way we use energy. We then all made 3 pledges on what we would try to do in the next 3 months. This was really useful and there was lots of sharing tips and ideas. This sums up how we see this group working. We would like to encourage and support people in making the necessary changes to lifestyles in order to safeguard our future. We will try and make it easier and more convenient to do so by improving opportunities eg. so far we have helped people achieve some of these aims by:

-    setting up a winter market for low packaged fruit and veg.
-  setting up a collection point in Swanage for hard to recycle items
-  arranging meetings and events to provide information with talks.
-   communicating local information e.g. where to recycle textiles and old furniture
-  Setting up a tree planting working group.

We also discussed the 'Think Global, Act local' phrase. By addressing specific issues we have in Swanage e.g. air quality and litter we should be able to see and enjoy the benefits locally knowing that what we are doing is a positive step for the whole planet.

Our position - 6 months on from our very first steering group meeting we have been thinking about how the group should be organised and we have come to the conclusion that we will remain an informal group of individuals linking up, supporting and promoting all the people and organisations working on environmental issues in Swanage. This helps avoid duplication and means we can achieve more. We can provide a means of communicating information to anyone who wants to find out about and share what is happening with environmental issues in our town and how they can get involved in safeguarding our future.

Project updates below...

### 1. Plastic free Town

Our 8 strong steering group, originally set up to address the issue of plastic waste, we set out to achieve 'plastic free' status from Surfers Against Sewage. This has been achieved and the ongoing work to considerably reduce the amount of plastic waste in our town continues with engagement with businesses and the general public.

### 2. Communications

We have created a Facebook page, webpage, several articles and run events but would like to do more. We expressed the need for more volunteers to help with websites, social media, press releases and other means of getting messages out there. Several people came forward and a new sub group has been formed, we are really excited about this so expect to hear a lot more from us!

### 3. Commercial Recycling

We held the 'going green is good for business' meeting on 12th November with around 30 people attending. We have collected some information on how businesses recycle and with the Chamber of Trade, will be working on this project over the winter with the aim to help businesses in their recycling efforts and improve recycling rates.

### 4. Tree planting

In the last 2 months a new sub group has been formed called 'Greening Swanage', we are currently planning planting projects for this season. Further information coming soon.

We also announced a new focus on renewable energy in the near future. Watch this space.

Thanks for reading. 😊

Many thanks