

Notes from SVAP Meeting, 28th April 2018

The meeting was chaired by Claudi Williams and 23 people were present. Kath Child kindly hosted the meeting at Atelier Stroud and filmed the introduction of the agenda. The notes below represent the main points that were talked about.

We have some fantastic initiatives on the way and are very fortunate to have attracted funding as well as new members joining the group with some big ideas. If you wish to join any of the initiatives below, please email claudi@pfree.co.uk and I will connect you with the people leading on these initiatives.

1. We started with introductions around the table and with the announcement that SVAP now have a dedicated page on the Transition Stroud website, thanks to Erik Wilkinson and Hugh Blogg's work. A special thank you goes to Rachel-Ann Lewis for designing the new SVAP logo. <https://www.transitionstroud.org/stroud-valleys-action-on-plastic/>
2. **Regular monthly SVAP meetings:** we agreed that meetings would take place on the last Saturday of the month at the earlier time of 1pm, at Atelier Stroud until further notice. We liked the idea of overlapping with the last hour of the repair café.
3. **Funding for SVAP:** Alice Jolly and Stephen Kinsella from Rodborough have offered £6000 over three years from the Laura Kinsella Foundation to be used towards activities that will reduce single-use plastic in Stroud. The first sum of £2000 for 2018 will be used for buying bottles for the Refill scheme and to make these affordable to young people or those with low income. We are enormously grateful to have received this generous support from Alice and Stephen.
4. **Refill scheme update:** Sheila Munnoch reported that after having received £800 for the Refill license from the town council, we have just learned that Refill have partnered with Water UK and no longer need to charge for licenses. The town council will however pay for our volunteers training day on May 14th in Bristol. We currently have two lead volunteers (Sheila Munnoch, Claudi Williams) and a new volunteer coordinator (Robin Ellis-Cockcroft from Access Bike) and will be joined by the Our World youth group to help roll out the scheme. The scheme will be available across the Stroud District and we are looking for people to help us sign up shops, cafes and venues in your local area. Volunteers will receive basic training, posters and stickers and will learn how to add signed-up places to the Refill mobile phone app!
5. **New plastic-free shop 'Loose':** the new shop in Stroud for unpackaged food needs our support. Please start using it for your store cupboard goods and more. You can also order from Loose through Stroudco Foodhub. Julie Brown is looking for volunteers to help her run the shop occasionally – you can sign up here: <https://www.transitionstroud.org/stroud-valleys-action-on-plastic/>, the shop is tiny and full training will be given.
6. **Stroud Fringe Festival plastic-free in 2019:** Jennie Sutton told us about a small group of SVAP supporters who recently met with the Stroud Fringe organisers who were keen to hear our ideas about making the next festival as plastic-free as possible. As it is an open, free event, the challenges around providing water and managing waste are huge. Anyone interesting in joining this working group or volunteering to help during the festival next year – please get in touch.
7. **Supermarket event:** Jennie Sutton also presented an idea to stage an event at local supermarkets which could be anything from leaving plastic packaging behind in an organised way and singing protest songs, to something more challenging (but legal). We also talked about the idea of printing cards that can be signed and left at supermarkets and other shops.
8. **Two motions have been debated at Stroud District Council and Gloucester County Council: to make the council single-use plastic free** by Councillors Catherine Braun and Eva Ward respectively. Very exciting and will be beneficial to the aims of SVAP.
9. **Nick Weir and James Millar from the Open Food Network** are joining SVAP with the big picture idea of starting a strategic think tank to map out a plan for approaching retailers in Stroud about reducing plastic packaging and single-use plastic.
10. **Nailsworth Climate Action Town (NCAT)** would like SVAP to run a plastic info stall, 12-4pm on Saturday 23rd June, at the Arkell Centre in Nailsworth.