**TTH MEETING – 11 March 2023**

**WHITE ROCK HOTEL**

Attendees: Andrea Corso, Anna Locke, Chris Richards, Hannah Robbins, Kate Meakin, Ken Davis, Sarah Macbeth, Sherry Clark, Ursula McLaughlin

Apologies:

Chair: Hannah

**ROUND OF INTRO**

**HANNAH**

* Wishing to discuss the wish for the future of TTH, so that we can structure ourselves accordingly
* Also, lately there has been some lack of communication and misunderstandings, and a wish to clarify our decision making process

**SARAH**

* We tried in the past to bring people into our core meetings, but that was very heavy and discouraged potential new members. So having focussed core meetings is good
* Having some clarification of our specific purpose within TN would be helpful
* A discussion on the formal structure of the group would help clarify who is doing what. The fact that we can’t find a permanent chair is emblematic of this lack of clarity

**KATE**

* The Crowhurst Environmental Group have a document that lays out all the details about meetings, voting procedures etc, which we could replicate (this could be revamping the current constitution)

**KEN**

* Has been focussing on trying to drive political change in Hastings
  + Many initiatives of local groups are stifled by bureaucracy (e.g. small scale pre-fab housing)
* Ken’s main focus is on buildings and he wishes that TTH may get involved more in buildings
  + Including planting on roofs
* There is a growing awareness of the impact of climate change, even locally (with the recent landslides)
  + Therefore there is a need for a sustainable vision for the town, and within that it is likely that there will be more involvement by the community

**CHRIS**

* Still no understanding about the Core Group is and individual involvement / commitment
* There are lots of opportunities for projects in Hastings and beyond
* Chris is organising workshops in the town about change and its phases, conflict resolution – and thinks this could be done usefully within TTH
  + However, just having a workshop without a clear sense of purpose for such a discussion, as there is no follow up

**ANDREA**

* TTH went pretty much dormant during the pandemic and emerged as a reduced group where most of the activity has been focussed on individual projects
* The question about vision should start from
  + What discussions we have already had (including the Action Day in 2020)
  + How much time and energy there is in the group to get things done
* The question of organisational structure in my view is not necessarily related to the vision, as it’s more of a temporary necessity related to managing the current flow of funds
  + If a more formal organisation after a while is not needed it can be would down

**ANNA**

* We don’t have a clear vision, which gives us shaky foundations, which may demotivate some individuals
* There has been issues with communication, planning of the meetings, transparency
* It was agreed that meetings would alternate between core and open, but this has then turned into all open meetings without any consultation
* Not having a clear vision of purpose also hinders communication with the public
* There has not been coordination about applying for grants, including the rate at which any contributors are paid for each project

**URSULA**

* Struggled with meetings becoming all open, where much of the discussion is about ongoing projects in a way that could be discussed at green drinks
* There is a lot of need for TTH to be the catalyst in town for action around sustainability – as lots of people are keen to do something, and have time and money to devote
* Putting more focus on making the website a more useful tool would be helpful

**SHERRY**

* Glad that it’s the first time we have all come together
* The identity and purpose of TTH is quite clearly defined by default, as being part of the TN, which has loose but clear aims

**RESULTING** **THEMES FOR DISCUSSION**

* Meetings: structure, content, internal communication, conflict resolution
* Vision and purpose
  + We need to agree on what we want to be doing
  + This requires improving our internal comms procedures
  + As a result, we can then define a comms strategy for TTH
    - This will require defining who is the target for our external comm
* Organisation, decision making, transparency and formal structure and roles

**TTH VISION – IDEAS**

* What are we providing (therefore how are we projecting our image and communicate):
  + Are we an **incubator** for local projects, a network providing support for individuals to carry out their own projects
  + Are we a group carrying out **our own projects**
  + Are we **providing information and ideas (via our website)** about how individuals can ‘transition’ towards a more sustainable living
  + Are we a **pressure group for the council**, suggesting ideas, and holding the council accountable for what they are doing
  + Do we want to get involved into **campaigning** ?
* How much do we need to work together with other groups, with the council – and how much can we do on our own
  + Do we want to start projects and then wait until the council and the community notice
  + Do we engage and work out how we do things together with other entities

**GROUNDWORK DISCUSSION**

* Who are “we”, what are individuals’ values, wishes, how much commitment do they have in terms of time and energy
* How can we manage meetings, discussions, decisions, resolve conflict

**CONCLUSIONS**

* All agree to have alternate “core” and “open” meetings
* Can we have a meeting to discuss our vision – i.e. what we want to be doing
* A meeting to discuss team dynamics will need to be separate
* The structure discussion will be held as a separate discussion

**NEXT CORE MEETING: 15th April**