

Macctastic Eco Network Open Meeting – 16th Sept St Michael's Church

ANSA

Lisa Collas, ANSA's Community Engagement Officer, gave an excellent talk titled "Leave it Loose – A discussion on recycling and reducing single use plastic".

Lisa gave an overview of the waste facilities within Cheshire East and explained that both the black and silver bins are taken to Middlewich Waste Transfer Station.

The contents of the black bins, i.e. the materials that cannot be recycled, are processed at Energy from Waste facilities and used to create electricity which goes in to the National Grid. Nothing is sent to landfill.

The contents of the silver bins are taken to UPM's Materials Recovery Facility at Shotton for sorting. It's easier to sort items that have been left loose in the bin and not bagged up.

Lisa went through all of our questions about what can be recycled at Shotton and some of the answers were a surprise. For example, bubble wrap, envelopes (even those with film windows), Tetrapak cartons, Aerosol cans (if completely empty), toothpaste tubes (if empty as possible), bread bags, shampoo/shower gel bottles, bleach/cleaning bottles and coffee pods can all be recycled and go into the silver bin. Also, lids can be left on or off, better on.

Examples of waste that cannot be recycled include black plastic, dirty pizza boxes, cling film (a definite NO as it disrupts the process at Shotton), cork (which can be composted), broken crockery, polystyrene, sweet/crisp packets and wrapping paper and cards with glitter or foil decoration. These should be placed into the black bins.

Some waste should be dealt with specially. Batteries should be dropped off at special collection points or at the tip, unused medication should be returned to the pharmacy, plant pots can be taken to B&Q and light bulbs should go to the tip.

Cheshire East Council's website is a great source of information about what can and can't be recycled:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/waste_and_recycling/bins/what-waste-goes-where.aspx

Key messages from the talk:

It's best to leave the recycling loose, and a 'LEAVE IT LOOSE' leaflet has been distributed by Cheshire East

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/Waste-and-recycling/Leave-it-Loose-Digital.pdf>

If you are in any doubt about whether an item can be recycled or not, it's better to put it in the BLACK bin.

One positive outcome, Lisa mentioned that statistics of contaminated waste have started to fall, thanks to better education and the effort people are making to sort their rubbish properly.

Cheshire East is introducing a food waste scheme planned for January 2020. The new collections will be integrated within our existing garden waste bin collection service, so it will simply mean adding food waste to the green bin for recycling rather than your black bin for disposal.

We understand that this scheme will only be available to those that have a green bin and that the collection of green bins will continue throughout the year (rather than stop over the winter months).

If you have any queries, Lisa is contactable at lisa.Collas@ansa.co.uk

OTHER NEWS

EcoYouth

Esther Bird spoke on behalf of Ecoyouth and filled us in on the various initiatives this group is currently working on. This included participating in the Climate Strike week (20th - 27th Sept), with a protest planned for the 20th Sept in collaboration with XR Macclesfield and Fridays4Future. Starting at 1.30 at the Town Hall, all welcome.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Ecoyouth@Macctastic.org

Climate Action

Bollington Meeting 31st August 2019

On 31st August, Bollington and East Cheshire Climate Action (BECCA) group organised a highly successful full day workshop on responses to climate change. About 45 people attended, from Bollington, Macclesfield, Rainow, Leek, Whaley Bridge, Congleton and Wilmslow.

An inspirational presentation on permaculture by Steven Jones of Sector 39 was followed by round table discussions on topics ranging from public engagement to local energy generation. A set of minutes will be published and reported in a future newsletter.

Environment Bill

A draft Environment Bill was published in December 2018 which would ensure consistency of environmental protection in the UK post Brexit. Between December 2018 and July 2019 the Environment Bill was reviewed by various committees in preparation for its introduction to parliament and passage into law. This Bill was not carried forward to the next session when parliament was prorogued in September 2019.

However, a new Bill is to be introduced in Oct 2019, which at 232 pages (compared to the previous version at 28 pages) contains a lot more detail - some of it is very good stuff; other parts don't seem to be particularly well thought through.

The elephant in the room, however, is that it has to start again at the beginning of the parliamentary process and the outcome of the next election might mean that it ends up in some very long grass.....

We need Macctastic members to write to their MP to emphasise the importance of robust environmental legislation in the wake of Brexit. When more detail is available, members will be updated on the bill's progress.

Cheshire East Climate Alliance

The Climate Action group have joined up with other eco networks within Cheshire East (Transitions Wilmslow and Bollington and Congleton Sustainability Group) forming the Cheshire East Climate Alliance, to act as a united voice calling for immediate action on carbon reduction within the Borough. To date, this group has presented Cheshire East's Cllr Sam Corcoran with a comprehensive set of ideas on carbon reduction projects and towards achieving CE's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2025.

The Climate Action Group will be working on a response to Cheshire East's Environment Strategy, which will be open for Consultation from the end of Sept, and stressed the importance for everyone to have their say on this important issue.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Gordon, Alex or Tracy at admin@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 other local events. Unfortunately, the base of the trunk has warped in the rain, so any help with repairs would be gratefully received!

A call out was made for volunteers to set up, man the stand and wash mugs after the markets. If you would like the mug library at your event or can help at future Treacle Markets please contact Jess at muglibrary@macctastic.org.

Transport

Highlights so far

Contacts established with Suzie Akers-Smith Cheshire East Cycling and Walking Champion, Macclesfield Town Council, Macclesfield Wheelers and two local schools.

Confirmation of three practical, connected, medium-term priorities:

- 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

Plans

Further contact with local schools to discuss their travel plan.

Meeting on 5th Nov with Cheshire East, Sustrans, Macc Town Council and Alderley Science Park to discuss route of new cycle path from town centre to Alderley Park.

Further contact with Suzie Akers-Smith to help develop the new transport agenda at Cheshire East.

Next meeting: 6th Nov 2019, 7.30pm at Park Tavern.

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

Less Plastic

Adam Costello and Mary Edwards who lead the group (and 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 Face Pages soon!

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

Terracycle Collection at Treacle

Due to demand, Terracycle boxes will now be found at St Michael's Church every Treacle Market (rather than at the Macctastic stall, which isn't there every month)!

DATES TO NOTE

Transport Group Meeting - 6th Nov 2019, 7.30pm at the Park Tavern

Next Macctastic Meeting - Monday 18th Nov 7.30pm, at St Michaels Church, Speaker abc

Mug Library @ Treacle Market - Sun 27th Oct Volunteers Needed!!

Macctastic @ Treacle Market - Sun 24th Nov Look out for Macctastic at November Treacle where we will be focussing on a Plastic Free Christmas, with demonstrations and an opportunity for all the family to get involved!