

Macctastic Eco Network

Speaker: Tracy Kelly

A pleasure to welcome all the various groups and to finally be in a position to meet face to face. When Macctastic started over three years ago, the aim was to improve Macclesfield as a place to live and to work towards reducing its carbon footprint. We had begun a series of bi-monthly meetings and we had a number of sub-groups aimed at addressing different areas, such as Transport, the Repair Cafe, and Climate Change. The Eco Youth group organised their own meetings and have now taken part in several School Strikes.

During Lockdown, our work carried on, mainly virtually, and in May 2021 we hosted an online Eco-Summit with Macclesfield Town Council. It is hoped this popular event will be repeated. One of the requests that came up was for more information about retro-fitting homes to make them greener and more energy efficient.

We recently held a Zoom webinar addressing this, please take some time to watch this if it is of interest. **Retrofit your Home:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n3oGyuI39w

Macctastic Transport Group

Speaker: David Mayers

Group was set up as public transport in the town is currently not good enough.

Current focus:

School run traffic, now Covid restrictions have relaxed, resuming contact with schools.

Cycling as a viable alternative, how to support residents with this.

Air pollution concerns, Macclesfield has some of the worst rates and most polluted junctions in Cheshire.

20s Plenty campaign – supporting this in Macclesfield to reduce speed of traffic, aid air pollution rates and encourage more walking and cycling.

The group have successfully installed bike racks at Tytherington shops.

They also secured funding from the Co-op for a scheme to support more walking and cycling routes to local shops.

They are involved in the talks about the Great Northern Cycle Trail and they are pleased that cycling is now permitted through the town centre since Covid social distancing was introduced.

Meeting outcomes:

- The state of public transport in the town was discussed, including more cancelled/reduced bus services, such as the Sutton service. Requirement for more integrated travel
- Lack electric charging points in the town.
- Whether a car club or car share scheme could be set up.

Cheshire East Climate Alliance

Speaker: Alex McKay

Focus is quite wide, covers lots of areas relevant across Cheshire East.

The group tries to share information and will also break down council documents and summarise them so members can find out the content quickly. Also attempt to co-ordinate the various groups, such as Macctastic and Transition Wilmslow and Bollington.

Meeting outcomes:

- Discussion of Chester Road development
- Conversation about how to convince politicians more effectively

One-Project (previously MaccPlant Swap)

Speaker: Martin Handley

Committed to providing an interesting and engaging programme of events to boost local small traders, especially if they are trying to be eco-friendly. Money raised from events goes directly to

projects, such as the scheme to clean up and develop the space behind the Salvation Army. Raised beds have been built and planted, it is hoped local residents, many of whom do not have gardens, will benefit and be able to take ownership, grow their own plants and fruit and veg. Next big event is Winterfest, alongside other groups at Christchurch in Macclesfield. The One Project would welcome any donations of garden equipment to help them continue their work. They are also working with Kate Ellis from Terracycle on an app which will include a directory of local eco friendly businesses.

Meeting outcomes:

Lots of productive discussions, especially enjoyed meeting Ben from treehouse and would like to collaborate with them.

Macc Wild

Speaker: Gordon Richardson

Developing a wild flower meadow behind the Leisure Centre which aims to encourage more biodiversity. This is already showing good progress.

Working directly with Cheshire Wildlife Trust, the group have appeared alongside CWT to share their work with the local community.

Future projects: Macc Wild are in talks with ANSA and the council regarding 're-wilding' parts of South Park. This would mean redeveloping part of the park to encourage greater wildlife and plant diversity.

Planting for this will likely happen in Feb/March after the worst of the winter and this point they would gladly welcome volunteers.

Meeting outcomes:

- Useful conversations with others about botany and wild flower knowledge.
- eLov are helping to move trees for a community orchard
- Discussed the social benefit of re-wilding and supporting bio-diversity.

Macc Litter

Speaker: David Kettle

Lots of small groups were picking all over Macclesfield.

A website has now been developed to co-ordinate these groups and show their activity via Google Maps. www.macclitter.org Around 50 regular contributors. Keen to encourage others, even a small amount of litter picking regularly can make a difference. Litter picking devices are cheap to buy or can even be borrowed from Scoop and Scales or the council. Advice and hints and tips can be found on the site.

Future projects: Keen to encourage schools to get involved.

Meeting outcomes:

- Good questions about how to pick safely.
- A lot of interest in online map.
- Discussion about Scout groups getting involved.

eLove Bike Delivery Service and Scoop and Scales

Speaker: Russel Hope

Scoop and Scales are keen to get the word out, they are a plastic free refill shop based on the ground floor of the Heritage Centre/Old Sunday School. They currently have lots of items in stock for Christmas gifts. They are mainly volunteer run and are always on the look out for additional volunteers. The shop now have a Terracycle drop off station to recycle difficult items such as crisp packets and they has the Macc Repair Cafe once a month.

eLove started to provide Scoop and Scales deliveries, but will now pick up and deliver any items up to 300 kilograms in weight. They currently have three bikes and 16 riders. The bikes are electric, like a milk float. They feel the service could make a significant difference to road traffic congestion and air pollution, 83% of car and van journeys are less than two miles.

Meeting outcomes:

- Spreading the word is the real focus at the moment.
- eLov were keen to let everyone know the service is FREE to community groups.
- Found the meeting useful, also have access to lots of carpet that they would like to see re-used.

Treehouse

Speaker: Ben Darlington

Bollington based group aimed at promoting living in a more eco friendly way.

Proposing a garden and resilience cafe, a physical space to offer advice and where people can share ideas. A fundraising plan has been developed. They want volunteers who want to take action.

Meeting outcomes:

- Discussions around how to best access the space that is available within Cheshire East
- Productive conversations around how to generate income, come up with a profit stream idea.

Repair Cafe

Speaker: Richard Lowe

Lots of false starts, this was one of the original sub groups within Macctastic. Thanks to a small group of dedicated volunteers, it is now fully running with help from Scoop and Scales. Three sessions have been held so far, on second Saturday of each month since September. Next one is Sat 11 December in the Heritage Centre/Old Sunday School, 10am – 2pm

They can provide help with sewing, bikes, woodwork, electrical items and will attempt to repair anything that people bring.

They are using crowd funding to raise money for costs, on the meeting date, they only needed another £150 to reach their goal.

Money can be pledged: <https://www.spacehive.com/repair-cafe-macclesfield>

Meeting outcomes:

- Sharing how to donate or pledge with others.

Grow Macclesfield

Speaker: Alex Eifflaender

Community gardening project. Previously working alongside Macc Plant Swap. Cleaned up and improved the area in the town centre in front of the Age Concern Charity Shop. Currently focusing on developing an allotment space in South Park that would make gardening and growing fruit and veg accessible to everyone. Often allotments have long waiting lists and can be difficult to access. Also keen to encourage everyone to become involved in growing. Recently involved in helping to recycle wooden pallets to decorate the town for Christmas.

Meeting outcomes:

- Found meeting really helpful, keen to work with others and unite as all groups want similar outcome.