

## **BOTHER Meeting 06.08.20**

**Place:** Fann's Cottage

**Present:** Chris Burns; Sarah Edwards; Margaret Matthews; Elizabeth Pearson; Claire Pethick; Ian Pethick

**Apologies:** Malcolm Fetcher; Helena Vallis

- Sarah requested that meeting arrangements should be communicated via WhatsApp rather than email.
- The fact that Dan and Vic Marvin no longer respond to any BOTHER communications was discussed, and it was agreed that they had de facto left the group. It was felt to be inappropriate in this case that any BULB funds were still being channelled through Dan's bank account, and agreed that steps should be taken to make other arrangements. It may in any case be useful to change the status of BOTHER in order to be able to hold a bank account and apply for grant funding if the need arose.
- Claire reported that she had contacted a solar panel supplier to investigate the possibility of obtaining a discount for mass purchase, but that the company had no interest in such a scheme. The group discussed the lack of success that BOTHER had had concerning switches to green energy electricity suppliers. Ian pointed out that some parishioners might be locked into their current contracts still. Sarah thought that individuals might get the impression that their bills would increase considerably after switching. It would be useful for BOTHER to obtain hard figures concerning the relative unit costs of green energy.
- The fact that BOTHER does already have some funds at its disposal was discussed. Malcolm would be asked to find out whether the grant made by the Parish Council would be withdrawn if not spent within a certain timeframe. At the same time, BOTHER members would research CBSs (Community Benefit Societies), as Margaret reported that Yealm Energy set up one of these companies as a first step in order to apply for funding from Devon CC. Elizabeth also mentioned CICs (Community Interest Companies), and offered to get more information about these from a former contact in Saltash.
- The group then discussed Cornwall CC's offer of grant funding in 2020, and the three suggestions made for possible bids by BOTHER:

### *Community renewable energy*

The group discussed the presentation about Yealm Energy by Ray Holland. It was concluded that BOTHER had too few resources at its disposal to consider taking on such a sizeable project. Margaret would let Ray know of this decision as a courtesy.

### *Allotments*

As the PC is sending/has sent out a letter to local landowners requesting the loan, gift or hire of land for community purposes, BOTHER would await the outcome before discussing this possibility further.

### *Cycle-/Walk-way to Saltash*

The group agreed that such a facility would be of great benefit to the parish. Margaret felt that the only useful route from Rood's Corner southwards would be one parallel to the

A388, as this was short, level, and linked to the footbridge at Waitrose, whereas a route via Broadmoor Farm and the A38 was probably too hilly for any but the most hardened walkers/cyclists.

- The group agreed that it would be very difficult to construct a cycle-/walk-way along the A388. Margaret suggested that before dismissing the idea entirely we might consider asking Sustrans to reconnoitre the area and advise. She had been in correspondence with Simon Murray, Sustrans Network Development Manager at Cornwall Council concerning whether there was a charge for this service, and if so how much, but was still waiting for a response. If there was a charge, BOTHER might consider applying for CC funding for this purpose.
- The application for CC funding was discussed in general terms. Claire pointed out that little time was left before the deadline of October, and Sarah pointed out that the application form itself was complicated and required a high level of detail. In case BOTHER did decide to submit an application, the next meeting date was set for less than a month ahead. Claire kindly offered to host it again.

Next meeting: **3<sup>rd</sup> September, 11am.**

Venue: **Fann's Cottage**