

CROW - Notes of meeting 30th March '94. Castle Hill Centre, Maidenhead.

Present - Alan Phipps, Andrew Noyes, Michelle Starkey, Catherine Poole, Richard Coles, Phil Allen, Christine Marsh, Imogen Davenport, Amanda Simpson, Richard Haworth, Claire Bishop, Kesty Macfarlane.

Background - Recently numbers of people turning up to CROW tasks has been very low (eg Andrew & the minibus). Combined with the fact that Reading Rangers are going to be able to give CROW only restricted support in future, this means that either changes will have to be made to the way CROW is organised, or the group should fold. It had been proposed that CROW be combined in some way with BBONT's Mid-Week-Team. Alan explained what MWT is and the fact that the minibus is being used for Community Action meaning that MWT cannot work twice a week.

Options for CROW -

- 1) Merge with MWT
- 2) Fold up or put the group on ice
- 3) Continue as a separate group

Option 1: It was generally agreed that this would create too many problems - (a) MWT doesn't charge BBONT, which would mean in effect CROW working for free on these tasks; (b) problems caused by CROW being on Weds and MWT on Thurs (people wouldn't go to both); (c) Liz Allinson (BBONT Berkshire boss-type person) would be reluctant to use a BBONT group off reserves, as there is too much work to be done on the reserves.

Option 2: If the group was to fold it would have to have an emergency AGM type meeting, which might be difficult to organise as CROW has no official membership list. If put on ice, it was thought that it would be very difficult to get it going again.

Option 3: This would need a group of people to take over the running of the group, to provide tasks, publicity, leaders, drivers, back up support, etc. Luckily Andrew is willing to put in quite a bit of his time into keeping CROW going, so this seems a viable option.

Problems which need solving:-

1) Days of CROW & MWT - Since many of the people who came to CROW tasks also go to MWT, it isn't ideal to have them on consecutive days. MWT could only move to Friday as the minibus is used the other three days. CROW could in theory move to any day, but would have to change its name to Conserve Reading On Weekdays, which could be unnecessary hassle, and confusing for people who are used to it being on Weds. We didn't sort anything out on this. so will be continuing with CROW on Wednesdays for the immediate future.

2) Frequency of CROW - Monthly tasks are a bit irregular, people tend to forget it's on. It would be better to have tasks every two weeks, but obviously this would take more organisation, and would need more volunteers than on recent tasks. It was decided to continue on the first Weds of each month, but if numbers pick up, Andrew will try and organise tasks on the middle Weds.

3) Leaders / Drivers - The tasks of leading and driving should not fall on too few people, especially as Reading Rangers won't be able to lead. We got a list of leaders and drivers, which hopefully can be expanded on!

Leaders	Drivers
Michelle	Alan
Alan	Richard C
Phil	Andrew
Richard C	Amanda
Andrew	
Amanda	

The leader for each task will contact the client to finalise the task details (+ site visit if necessary), phone round to find out who's coming, who wants a pick-up & will organise tea and biscuits. (Richard H will sort out a list of contacts to help with this). Also it was decided that the next couple of leaders will keep tabs on how much they spend on phone calls for CROW, so that leaders can be reimbursed.

Mailings & other back up support - Richard H will send out the latest task details to everyone. In the longer term, Kesty & BTCV will hold the list of contacts for mailings. BTCV will also provide back up support and resources such as the computers, press contacts list and volunteers.

Task co-ordination - Andrew will do this until at least June (when there will be another review meeting). Monthly tasks for April and June have already been set up, with May's to be confirmed, but if things go well, further tasks could be organised, plus Andrew will be looking for tasks for July-Sept.

Publicity - Andrew will continue to produce the slips to add to leaflets for the moment. Everyone volunteered to put leaflets + slips in their local libraries, town halls etc - see list attached. Andrew and Imogen are willing to do press releases.

Money - Phil is willing to continue as Treasurer; he will also organise for the other 2 signatories (if that's the word) for the bank account to change from Richard H and Mark Sixsmith to Andrew and Alan.

NEXT TASKS

Date	Site	Task	Leader	Driver
6th April	Clayfield Copse	Fencing	Claire	Andrew
4th May	Possibly Woodland Trust (TBC)		Phil	Richard Coles
1st June	Horticultural Therapy	Nature Trail Work	Alan	Andrew

Further details to come

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 7.30PM AT THE 3 Bs, READING TOWN HALL

DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS - Who's doing where?

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place(s)</u>
Christine	Reading Town Hall & Central Reading
Alan	Southcote, Tilehurst, Pangbourne & Theale
Amanda	Twyford, Earley & Dinton Pastures
Imogen	Woodley, (+ Windsor & South Bucks Country Parks if nec.)
Andrew	Caversham
Michelle	Sonning Common, Whitley & University
Richard C.	Battle & Arborfield

Brian Steptoe to be asked if he can do Wokingham

Every 3 months a new slip to put inside the leaflets will be produced. Please could people then distribute them to libraries + anywhere else they can think of, eg Adult Education Centres, Arts Centres (because CROW is so artistic), other places where people put leaflets.