

Working at the Local Level with Communities/Parishes - Sub-Group Report Back

The group consisted of a wide range of activists, volunteers and workers in new and established organisations. Everyone welcomed the opportunity to explore the potential for working and communicating together. SECA'S role as an 'umbrella' organisation was recognised as vital and additional ways of working were explored.

Outcomes:

- The SECA website will be used to host additional information from individuals and organisations. Geoff Barnard (SECA) will facilitate editing access to the website. Andrea Grainger and Liz Thorns will work together to collate this information. It was hoped that expansion of the 'library' will provide resources and tools at 'beginner' and 'established' level.
- The monthly SECA newsletter (Geoff) will be enhanced by the provision of links to additional information especially concerning new ventures. Full details will be omitted from the currently lengthy newsletter. A speaker register will be compiled, including information about subjects, areas covered and if required, remuneration.
- Veronica Simpson (an established independent journalist) will interview individuals and groups and write up their 'stories' with the aim of recognising their endeavours and most importantly inspiring others to become involved with environmental issues.
- Brenda Pollack from Friends of the Earth (FOE) will make available a PowerPoint concerning 20 Actions Parishes and Councils can take on the climate and nature emergency, and has given permission for these to be amended for use as needed. See: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency>
- Brenda (FOE) will arrange access to their 'SLACK' networking platform and webinar training for those wishing to use it.
SLACK is an encrypted online community of environmentalists, which enables members to find out about initiatives and to engage with each other. It was noted that this had the potential to be an essential communication tool across organisations.

Geoff, Andrea and Liz agreed to meet up subsequently to discuss ways of sharing learning across the SECA network. Geoff will be in touch with Veronica to talk about moving forward with the case study idea. No larger follow up meeting was arranged, with the anticipation that SECA and SLACK would be used as the communication tools, with a further meeting being arranged as necessary.