

## **Green TEA Chair's Report, May 2022**

Helena has given an excellent summary of our activities over the past year, which speaks for itself.

Green TEA is a voluntary group with a composite nature. We function as a pressure, interest and perhaps citizen's representative group. My entirely personal reflections below are prompts for discussion.

How Did We Do Last Year?

- \* Raising awareness and promoting understanding of existential problems.

Do we have a memorable and engaging story to tell people?

Are we reaching, and reaching out to, the silent majority or are we preaching to the converted, the usual suspects?

A recent survey of public worries put health at the top of concerns with climate crisis only number six. Is personal health a basis for more public traction?

- \* Changing personal values, beliefs and behaviour ( especially consumption).

Have we got our showing and telling right? We certainly have plenty of both communicative approaches, viz, Big Green Week.

- \* Lobbying for policy change and action at local, district, county and national levels of state.

There is no Green TEA deficit of knowledge, expertise and commitment, yet despite much effort, we appear to have had no leverage over West Eynsham and await confirmation of the outcome for the Garden Village.

- \* Fostering community involvement, integration and, thereby, reliance.

- \* De facto, channelling local democracy and participation.

What and when should we lead? When should we represent?

- \* Innovation with exemplars

Smart and Fair is an obvious landmark.

Our achievements are obvious- BGW, Project Leo, for example- but can we say that we have met our objectives?

Our overriding aim is clear, transition to a sustainable zero carbon economy.

How can we assess whether we deploy our finite resources, commitment and abilities, more efficiently and effectively? Time and enthusiasm are critical resources.

Do the costs of our efforts adequately match the actual benefits?

Should we set SMART objectives for future programmes so that we can more clearly evaluate the degree of success against invested effort? We have priorities. Do they allow us explicitly to address change: stop doing, start doing, doing more of the same, doing less of the same?

Or is this too managerial and formal for a voluntary group? We must not lose having fun.

Challenges Ahead

- \* The biodiversity and climate crises worsens, time for action shortens and government action lags painfully behind rhetoric. Committed groups and individuals must keep the faith and do more.

- \* These crises will not be addressed, let alone resolved, if increasing inequality and civic disengagement are not confronted at the same time.

\* How can Green TEA reach the the passive majority and those hidden by class, education, income or ethnicity, among others?

\* We must build resilience, not least for Green TEA. Succession planning and widening active involvement must be priorities. I have avoided deploying the over used word, Diversity. We cannot continue to rely on the continuing generous effort and ability of a coterie of the committed.

Which leads to a personal appreciation of the effort and intelligence of this coterie. Our success, however defined, is based on people, magnificent people in the Core Group. Although onerous to identity heroes ( can we say heroines now?), my heartfelt thanks to Helena, Sarah, Amanda,Hywel, Tricia, Sue , Ros, Lucy and Nigel, among many, for doing so much so well by so few.

Tony Bovey, Chair , Green TEA