Waterside Climate Action Network (WaterCAN) update.

A lively session on Active Travel was led by Philip Thomas from the Waterside Cycling Action Group (WCAG) on February 12th. Given that transport is the largest single contributor to emissions causing climate change, the central questions were how do we encourage people to reduce car travel and will Hampshire’s current plans have any impact on active travel? Unfavourable comparisons between the UK’s efforts and those of our European neighbours were highlighted. Join the debate on WCAG’s Facebook page.

The next open session will be on March 18th at Hythe Community Centre 7.00pm led by Ben Webster, former Environmental Editor at The Times and now working as an investigative reporter for openDemocracy. His recent work includes reports on cruise ship emissions in Southampton, and the murkier side of COP28(available on his website). He hopes to be able to discuss a current investigation, not yet published, which has local relevance. See our website and Facebook page for up to date information.

On 29th April, again at Hythe C.C., 7.00pm, Lee Attrill from Surfers Against Sewage will be talking about their work in exposing and combatting sewage dumping in our rivers and seas. This will be of particular interest to open sea swimmers such as the Blue Tits Chill Swimmers.

Fawley Parish Council have been asked if it could offer areas for new Community Orchards and councillors are keen to consider planting an orchard and hedging at Green Elms Close green space. They are in the process of consulting residents and would welcome any views or contributions of suitable trees or hedging. Initial thoughts are for hedging round the outside and a mix of apples and pears in the centre (avoiding the risk of wasp friendly plums!).

A reminder that Greenpeace are running a Big Plastic Count between 11th and 17th March. You can opt in to the count on the Greenpeace Website and Facebook pages.

Hampshire County Council’s consultation on its future services continues until 31st March. This includes Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), Marchwood being our local one. To add your views visit hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/FSC. If you’re wondering about the impact of closures, Fawley Parish Council’s response to the consultation, available on its website, contains some interesting, and alarming, references to research on how recycling centre closures can impact on illegal dumping.

Further information on all the above, and far more, can be found on our website, at e-voice.org/WaterCAN and on our facebook page. Or email us at watercan2024@gmail.com

Finally, have you ever wondered what the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOT) is all about? Check it out on First Dog on the Moon website 14th February for a succinct explanation.