

## **Transition Larkhall AGM 2019**

### **Chair's Report**

#### **Introduction**

Another very active, if not entirely productive year!

Your committee and other members and supporters continued ongoing work in three main areas.

1. Disseminating and publicising the findings, in public and BANES forums, from the 2017 of school and other traffic through and around Larkhall.
2. Developing plans for a safe walkway between Larkhall Square and Gloucester Rd/Alice Park.
3. Pressing for proper, safe cycling infrastructure between Larkhall and the city centre.

#### **Events**

In connection with these and other concerns, local meetings and other events were held on the subjects of:

- 'Thinking about Transport in Bath, March 2018 with 60 participants
- revitalising Larkhall Square
- plastic pollution: film and discussion held jointly with New Oriel Hall 'social affairs' group.
- BANES plans for a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in central Bath.
- TL also got publicity from Alison Harper's 'Hot Spots' cycle wheels displays, at various points in the Larkhall area and Jo Wright's '25,000' toy cars demo that was widely reported in local media.

#### **Other Activities**

Committee members also contributed submissions and lobbied officers and councillor as part of the CAZ consultation process.

Your committee also assisted the Alice Park Garden group in the transfer of the management and running of the garden to new volunteers. (I would like to thank the outgoing AP group, especially Kathy Cook for all the work done over the past 8 years to establish the garden as a live community asset and showcase for Transition values.)

Jo Wright commissioned and supervised a week-long monitoring of exhaust emissions on Eden Terrace from Atmo Technology

#### **Looking Ahead - Looking Back**

The 'Lambrook Walk' project has made significant progress with more detailed plans and designs; thanks to local architects, Stephen Melville and Chris Hall. McCarthy-Stone, the owners of the land on the east side of the brook, have finally realised the contribution the route could make to the quality of life of their residents and have voiced support, in principle. As has BANES head of highways. An informal team, comprising Jo, Chris, Stephen and Annie Beardsley has been formed, with Annie investigating sources of funding for the preparatory stages. Suitable volunteers to help with this project are most welcome! Chris is also drawing up some preliminary options for a redesign of the Square to make it more visually attractive and user-friendly for pedestrians.

Bryn made a detailed submission to the CAZ consultation on behalf of TL. The main point made was that provision of alternative travel modes, buses and cycling, is inadequately developed. With the committee's agreement, Bryn will continue to press these points when revised proposals come back to the Cabinet and Council.

Theresa is compiling lists of schemes that collect or re-use plastics that BANES do not recycle. TL member, Lesley Bees, is promoting the idea of 'ecobricks' for re-use of non-recyclable plastics. A demonstration video of this idea is available on the T.L. website <http://transitionlarkhall.uk/estimates/stop-plastic-pollution/>

### **Looking Further Back**

As I will be retiring from the Chairing role this year it seems appropriate to reflect on TL's development and value since it was formed 10 years ago. After its formal establishment, I became co-chair together with Jan Wilson, and with Ros Hough as Secretary-Treasurer. TL's original, and tongue in cheek, sub-title of Larkhall Saves the Planet, has proven to be a little over-optimistic. We haven't managed to save the Earth, which is in a worse state now than in 2009, nor the UK or even Bath bits. And our tiny Larkhall corner still emits unacceptable levels of CO2 and other gases from vehicles, excessive traffic and buildings.

Despite valiant attempts, resource constraints prevented us from setting the Transition movement's recommended Energy Descent Plan for the locality. On the other hand, we have experimented with small scale alternatives and raised awareness of problems and ways to solve them; through meetings, practical demonstrations and spreading the word through various media. It's no direct thanks to us, but gratifying to see more local people cycling and walking and solar panels on some houses and St Saviour's Infants School.

TL is now regarded as a significant opinion-former in the city and within BANES council. The Cabinet member for transport acknowledges the finding from TL's 2017 investigation that 30% of traffic in rush hour is caused by cars carrying school children. In some respects our Transition group has continued to thrive, while other, larger counterparts, such as Transition Bath have somewhat declined. As outgoing Chair, I would like to recommend that TL continues in its important, niche role of campaigning to reduce harmful material wastes, car use and traffic volumes by promoting alternatives.

We ought also to redouble our efforts to raise awareness of the damage lifestyles are doing to the Earth's climate and ecosystems. This huge problem is now more threatening than ever. Larkhall alone can't stop it, but we can do our bit to progress small but practical alternatives to carbon energy life styles and utilities. As well as generally spreading awareness of people's self-interest in doing things differently.

Finally, as I bow out, I would like to thank all members for the help and encouragement they have given me and our group, over the last decade. Particular thanks should go to Kathy and the Garden group, local Councillors, Lin and Rob, Ros Hough, Paul Raithby, Alex Mackichan-Burke, Jan Wilson, Theresa, Kris and Jane.

Keep the light shining, but switch off when not in use!

*Bryn Jones*