

Transition Town Letchworth

Annual Report and Accounts 2016

Transition Town Letchworth (TTL) was registered as Charity Number 1156209 on 17th March 2014 and became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

TTL Activities During 2016

TTL provides opportunities for like-minded people to get together. TTL hosted four “Transition Tuesdays” during 2016 generating just over £281 in donations from attendees. These events helped to share learning with residents and provided a point of access for anyone interested in getting more involved with TTL initiatives. The meetings included the AGM where TTL members presented the groups achievements and which was followed by a green quiz night. The other meetings were themed on biodiversity, neighbourhood planning and cycling. 'Green drinks' have become a regular feature this year and have occurred in the months when there is no Transition Tuesday.

The food group continued to be busy in 2016. The Growers Market, where surplus home grown food can be exchanged by residents in the town centre, took place each month from May to October. The Grow It Yourself (GIY) group met at the beginning of the year for a seed swap and continued to meet each month at a different garden or allotment with the aim of helping each other get the best from their plots. TTL Grower's guides have helped people to start vegetable gardening and have had access to an allotment that could not be worked by its owner this year as a learning space.

The GIY group joined Garden Organic and have renamed themselves as GIYO (Grow It Yourself Organic). Following a successful launch event in April membership of this group has steadily grown through the year. Some members of the GIYO group have been active in a joint initiative between the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and the RHS to build community gardens in Letchworth.

There was a good fruit harvest this year and TTL held four public apple pressings in the town centre. Sufficient people attended to keep the presses active for the three hour sessions and £262 was taken in donations. An apple pressing was carried out for a Home Education group.

TTL explored options for a derelict piece of land with local residents, providing ideas about permaculture and information on forming and insuring a community group to look after the land. Studies of the land eventually led to it being identified as a Site of Special Interest as it has a population of Lizards and the land has remained under the management of the its owners, Letchworth Heritage Foundation.

In 2014 TTL were awarded a Letchworth Heritage Foundation grant for a Thermal Imaging Camera which can be used for investigating how to reduce draughts and improve insulation in the Letchworth housing stock. During the 2016 five training sessions were provided and 28 people were trained and borrowed the camera.

A web-based survey was carried out to help to identify where the cycling infrastructure needs improvement in the town. Fifty responses were received and the results were fed back at the Transition Tuesday cycling meeting. TTL are planning to link with other cycling groups early in the New Year to produce a plan for improving cycle routes in the town. TTL started a project, in partnership with the District Council, the objective of which is to introduce additional cycle racks in community and educational locations around the town.

Following a meeting with District Council officers on TTL's report on 'New Neighbourhoods', TTL have been exploring how Neighbourhood Plans could be used as a mechanism for ensuring new developments are sustainable. A county wide training event has been attended by TTL members and TTL are now raising awareness of Neighbourhood Plans with different groups in the town. TTL

have also participated in the District Council's 'Local Plan 2011-2031' consultation and the Herts County Council Transport Visions 2050 survey.

In Autumn 2015 TTL launched Letchworth Transition Streets. TTL produced an information pack to work through at a series of seven meetings. Topics covered are energy, water, food, waste and transport, and participants share their ideas and experience and each individual decides what action they might like to take. Participants should benefit by saving on household bills, cutting their carbon footprint and getting to know their neighbours. The first transition streets group met in November 2015 and had their last formal meeting in May 2016, but have continued to meet. Transition Streets has been promoted at various community events but a second street has yet to come forward to do this course.

The Personal Resilience group met in 2016, exploring how to nurture yourself whilst making a difference so there is enjoyment and not just burn out from getting involved.

TTL participates in town events where there is an opportunity to promote our aims and objectives. In May the GIYO group took part in the Food Festival. TTL had a stall at the Sustainability Forum Water Saving Event. TTL also exhibited and participated in a Christian Aid event entitled 'Speak Up for the Climate' which included a question and answer session with the local MP.

During 2016 TTL have shared information via our regular email bulletin and our website on our activities and other events in and around town that align with our objectives. TTL website has been rebuilt during 2016 and a new domain purchased. Regular blogs are now posted promoting current activities. TTL monitor national and international events relating to transition and climate change and share our learning.

Building Partnerships

TTL recognise the need to work with existing social and government organisations within Letchworth to promote an orderly change towards a more sustainable future.

TTL has continued to work with the Heritage Foundation and have fed into their review into how the Scheme of Management is implemented.

TTL give presentations to local organisations and have presented on Neighbourhood Planning to the Letchworth Arts and Leisure Group.

TTL Trustees have been participating in the Sustainability Working Group which was set up in 2013. This group is supported and facilitated by Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, but is intended to include as many local stakeholders as possible. Its aim is to identify and pursue measures to make Letchworth sustainable in a future where energy is limited and expensive.

TTL have maintained contacts with other Transition minded groups in our locality.

Finance

Many of TTL's activities have no financial implications, and can be delivered through volunteer time. Small amounts of money are required to fund some of our activities, in particular, where a hall needs to be hired or event promotion is required. Attendees at events are asked to make a donation, the suggested donation is set to ensure that an event will pay its direct costs and make a contribution to TTL's annual running costs. This financial strategy has allowed TTL to meet its costs this year and to end the year with a bank balance of just over £768. TTL have set a reserves strategy of £300. The accounts are presented at the end of this report.

Summary

TTL have maintained our influence and presence in the town with our activities this year. TTL have attracted some new participants in our activities by hosting Transition themed events which covered a wide variety of subjects and activities.

Transition Town Letchworth Receipts and Payments Accounts Year ending 31st Dec 2016

Receipts during 2016

Cash at 1 January 2016	£37.18
Bank balance at 1 Jan 2016	£314.06
Activities:	
Transition Tuesdays	£281.91
Growers Market and GIY meetings	£85.15
Garden Organic Launch Event	£169.75
Apple Pressing	£262.76
GIYO membership fees	£62.00
Thermal Imager Donations	£140.00
Transition Streets Donations	£75.00
Total Receipts	£1076.57

Payments from activity during 2016

Venue Hire and sundries for Transition Tuesdays	£161.49
Public Liability and Equipment Insurance	£109.50
Website hosting and domain fees	£40.99
TTL publicity leaflets	£3.28
Publicity for apple pressing	£42.40
Transition Streets Manual and publicity printing	£38.00
Growers Market printing and sundries (including gazebo)	£103.96
Garden Organic launch (hall, speaker and publicity costs)	£117.34
Garden Organic group membership fee	£30.00
Bike Survey publicity	£12.38
Total Payments	£659.34

Liabilities at End of Year

	£0.00
--	-------

Assets at End of Year

Bank and Cash Balance	£768.47
Thermal Imaging Camera (10% annual depreciation applied)	£1739.52
Two Electricity Monitors (10% annual depreciation applied)	£90.32
Apple Scratter (10% annual depreciation applied)	£205.18
DVD and Book Library, Gazebo, Tables, display stand, PC Speakers, Heater	