

Transition Town Letchworth

Annual Report and Accounts 2017

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

TTL Activities During 2017

TTL provides opportunities for like-minded people to get together. TTL hosted three “Transition Tuesdays” during 2017 generating 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 followed by a Love Food Hate Waste workshop. The other meetings were themed on the work of local company Eco-Waste (which had an associated visit) and a talk by Tesco Carbon Accounting manager. 'Green drinks' occurred in the months when there was no Transition Tuesday but attendance was low and a decision was made to reinstate monthly Transition Tuesdays from December 2017. During the Letchworth Festival in June, TTL linked with the town's independent cinema to publicise a showing of the film ‘Demain’ which includes examples of Transition initiatives across the world.

The food group continued to be busy in 2017. 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 Organic (GIYO) group, which has 35 members, 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. The groups Annual Event was well attended and was themed on companion planting.

There was a good fruit harvest this year and TTL held three public apple pressings in the town centre, one of which took place during the 'Beer and World Food Festival'. Sufficient people attended to keep the presses active for the three hour sessions. In addition two primary school apple pressings were carried out and an apple pressing took place at Howard Cottages Energy Saving Event. The GIYO group also had an apple pressing event. Donations from the apple pressings were over £300 and consideration is being given to setting up an apple pressing club, investing in equipment for club members to utilise.

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 2017 three training sessions were provided and 10 people borrowed the camera.

Following on from a bike survey carried out in 2016, TTL facilitated work across the town's cycling groups which has led to a published proposal for a cycle network across Letchworth. This plan has been shared with the organisations responsible for infrastructure planning and the group who produced this proposal continue to work towards getting the plan incorporated into the local planning processes.

Transition Town Letchworth have been working in partnership with North Hertfordshire District Council Communities Team to utilise S106 sustainable transport funds to increase cycle and scooter parking at community venues across the town. Transition Town Letchworth cycle survey gave feedback on where additional bike parking would be beneficial. The needs of local schools, the scout and guide movement, churches (whose halls are used by many community groups) and social housing providers were identified. The project is now in its final stage and scooter racks, bike racks and bike shelters are currently being manufactured for installation at seven schools, the guide hall, a scout hut, a local church, the leisure centre, the town centre and at four groups of flats where there is high cycle utilisation. The chosen contractor is refurbishing two existing bike shelters which would have been replaced and this has not only helped the budget go further but has also lowered

the projects environmental footprint. The first installations occurred in December 2017.

TTL have participated in the District Council's 'Local Plan 2011-2031' examination, helping to ensure that sustainability issues are properly addressed.

Letchworth Town Centre has been struggling to fill its shops for some years and in December 2017 TTL produced a report with ideas on how the town centre could be made more resilient. This report has been shared with the Business Improvement District manager and with Letchworth Heritage Foundation and meetings to discuss its recommendations will take place in the New Year.

In Autumn 2015 TTL launched Letchworth Transition Streets. 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. However, Letchworth Sustainability Forum has linked TTL with Howard Cottages, a local social housing provider and a project has been scoped which it is hoped will lead to two Transition Streets groups commencing in 2018. In October TTL attended Howard Cottages energy saving event to start making connections.

The Personal Resilience group met in 2017, exploring how to nurture yourself whilst making a difference so there is enjoyment and not just burn out from getting involved.

During 2017 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 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 participates in town events where there is an opportunity to promote our aims and objectives.

TTL has continued to work with Letchworth Heritage Foundation and have contributed to work they have initiated to improve cycling, sharing the cycle survey and cycle network plan. TTL have worked with the communities team at North Herts District Council on the project to increase cycle parking and has helped to promote the county councils Transport 2050 consultation.

TTL give presentations to local organisations and have presented on the Transition movement to the 26 Club and Hitchin U3A. TTL also took part in Howard Cottages energy saving event and provided an energy workshop to home educated children.

TTL Trustees have been participating in Letchworth Sustainability Forum 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 balance of just over £1087.40. TTL have set a reserves strategy of £300. The accounts are presented at the end of this report.

The build up of funds has been recognised by Trustees and it has been agreed that some of the funds will be used for a publicity drive to promote the re-instated Transition Tuesdays to see if this helps widen TTL membership and reach. Investments may also be needed in the apple pressing club if this is started.

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 2017

Receipts during 2017

Cash at 1 January 2017	£47.47
Bank balance at 1 Jan 2016	£721.00
Activities:	
Transition Tuesdays	£135.00
Growers Market	£119.72
Garden Organic Annual Event	£169.45
Apple Pressing	£329.75
GIYO membership fees	£58.00
Thermal Imager Donations	£69.00
GIYO Meetings	£10.25
Speaker Donations	£80.00
Bike Maintenance Course	£140.00
Educational Visits	£65.00
Total Receipts	£1176.17

Payments from activity during 2017

Transition Tuesdays venue hire and sundries	£150.43
Public Liability and Equipment Insurance	£112.00
Website hosting and domain fees	£40.99
TTL publicity leaflets	£2.47
Apple pressing Expenses (Publicity and sundries)	£43.01
Thermal Camera – Room Hire and publicity	£48.01
Growers Market printing and sundries	£16.15
Garden Organic Event (hall, speaker, cafe and publicity costs)	£217.05
Garden Organic group membership fee	£30.00
Bike Maintenance venue hire and sundries	£120.00
Education Events	£18.79
Cycle Network Meeting Costs	£18.54
Eco-Waste Trip (mini-bus and publicity material)	£39.80
Total Payments	£857.24

Liabilities at End of Year	£0.00
-----------------------------------	--------------

Assets at End of Year

Bank and Cash Balance	£1087.40
Thermal Imaging Camera (10% annual depreciation applied)	£1522.08
Two Electricity Monitors (10% annual depreciation applied)	£79.03
Apple Scratler (10% annual depreciation applied)	£182.38
DVD and Book Library, Gazebo, Tables, display stand, PC Speakers, Heater	