**FEBRUARY 2020: FIRST PUBLIC MEETING**

SEAG held its first public meeting at the beginning of February in the Village Hall. It was a very lively meeting with started with members of the committee giving a brief introduction about the group and the problems of climate crisis and bio-diversity loss. Everyone who attended then joined one of four discussion groups – Food, Protect and Restore, Travel, and Home (energy use) and Stuff (things we buy/use at home). Ideas generated were recorded and later everyone had an opportunity to vote for the ones they would most like to see taken forward in the near future. Everyone enjoyed home-made cakes and tea to round things off.

The votes were counted as well as offers of help. There was a lot of interest in information sharing about topics such as renewable energy for the home, travel/transport options, plant-based diets and reducing waste from food and packaging. There was strong support for the Grow Your Own food and communal allotment idea and for projects promoting biodiversity in our gardens, ponds and communal spaces.    There was also support for improving access to more sustainable forms of travel and for activities to re-purpose/re-use stuff.

On the basis of these results, we have decided to run a series of themed information events – the first will be on sustainable energy.  Please see the information below about this. Subsequent events will cover issues to do with travel and then food. Alongside this, we will explore ways to improve biodiversity in Speen including developing wild gardens, verges and ponds.  We also hope to promote the idea of growing more food locally with the possibility of seed swaps and advice sessions and to explore opportunities to sell or exchange surplus produce.

We want to engage everyone in Speen in ways to reduce our carbon emissions and improve our local biodiversity so please look out for information about meetings and activities connected with these ideas.

Jane Farley jane.farley2@btinternet.com