**Stoke Environment Group - Project Outline**

Project Title: Composting Workshop (H&W-1)

Project Date: March 2022

Project Manager: Ian Upshall

**Project Objective**

To organise a short ‘workshop’ that will enable residents to confidently produce their own garden compost using kitchen and garden waste.

**Project Outline**

It is possible to produce good quality garden produce from a range of kitchen waste (vegetable peelings, paper etc) and garden cuttings in a relatively short space of time and with minimal equipment. However, there are some simple techniques that can improve the quality of the compost.

It is proposed to invite an expert in this field, Nicky Scott, who is the author of several books on composting and recycling. He advises schools, local authorities and businesses on composting kitchen waste and helps set up community composting groups. The “hot box” composter he developed is widely used for composting food waste. Contact has been made with Nicky and he is willing to visit Stoke St Gregory and run a ‘workshop’ which will include ‘hands-on’ demonstrations. For the practical part of the workshop, Nicky will require access to materials and equipment. It is further proposed to involve the Allotments Group, if they are willing.

Suggested by one of SEG’s supporters, it is understood there is wider interest from other groups such as the Stoke and North Curry gardening group and so it is hoped that we could attract a number of attendees. There is no limit on numbers (within reason) and a small charge could be made to recover the majority of costs (see below).

The suggested date for the workshop is March 2022. A workshop of four hours (say, 1000 – 1400hrs) would seem appropriate.

**Resources**

A notice will be produced to advertise the event. Hard copies available from the usual places (e.g. shop, pub, school, etc.). There will be a small cost to produce hard copy leaflets. These can be produced by the Group.

Minimal equipment will be required but maximum benefit from the workshop will be gained if we can obtain access to a site where Nicky can demonstrate techniques. It is hoped that the Allotment Group would be willing to participate, offering both a conveniently situated and accessible site and plenty of opportunities to examine ‘real life’ compost!

Payment to Nicky Scott will apply. He charges £25 per hour plus 40 per mile and travel time. For a four-hour onsite workshop, this equates to £100 workshop and £127 travel time and fuel. Some refreshments could be provided (drinks and biscuits) at minimal costs. Overall, we should budget for £250. If we could attract say, 30 participants, and charge £5 per head, income would be £150 plus a donation that has been offered of £25, equating to £175. Net outlay is therefore estimated at £75 for a community event that meets at least two SEG objectives.

Next Steps

* SEG Steering Group to approve project by 15 December 2021
* If approved, Nicky Scott to be ‘booked’ for an agreed date in March 2022
* Contact be made with the Allotments Group and cooperation agreed by 31 December 2021
* Detailed plan to be produced and made available by 31 December 2021
* Advertise event and take bookings early February 2022 to workshop date
* Manage Workshop on agreed date