

### FUTURE EVENTS

- 21 April** Protest at for a Cycle Bridge over the Linslade western bypass at the Wing Hill Roundabout (between Wing and Leighton Buzzard) – 10.30- 11.00am (Sean 01296 682280)
- 22 April** Linslade Woods Day of Action – meet Knaves Hill footpath entrance at 10am for litter clearing and cutting back brambles. 1pm – 3pm butterfly survey training (Esther 01525 237760)
- 24 April** Green Fayre, Priory Middle School, Dunstable 8-10pm (Peter 01582 663915) Can helpers come form 6.00pm
- 30 April** Public Meeting on the Wing Bypass – Stewkley Village Hall 8-9.30pm (Victoria 01525 385097) Stephen Joseph of Transport 2000 is chairing, Speakers are Tom Cohen from Steer Davis Gleave (the author of the alternatives report) Ian Smith, head of influencing travel behaviour at the Highways Agency and Sean Kelly.
- 1 May** Visit to Energy Centre **Postponed** to a future date
- 2 May** Monthly Meeting 7.30 for 8.00pm at The Globe, Dunstable (Peter)
- 7 May** May Fayre, High Street, Leighton Buzzard (Ken 01525 372036)
- 9 May** Anoraks' Meeting 7.30pm at 41 Corbet Ride, Leighton Buzzard (Victoria)
- 4 June** Monthly Meeting 7.30 for 8.00 at The Crown, North Street, Leighton Buzzard (Chris 01525 382343)
- 7 July** Houghton Regis Carnival (Peter)
- 14 July** Waste Day of Action (Victoria)

Subscriptions are now due. £5.00 (or £3.00 for concessions). Please pay to the Treasurer, Ken Barry, 97 Bideford Green, Leighton Buzzard, Beds., LU7 2TJ as soon as possible.

The May Fayre in Leighton Buzzard on May 7<sup>th</sup> is the opportunity to sell old books, ornaments clothes etc etc to raise money for the group, so please bring any such things to the May Fayre or leave it in advance with Victoria.

### MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING ON 10 APRIL 2007

**Present:** Victoria Harvey (Facilitator), Peter Hatswell, Chris Stevenson, Sean Kelly, Jane Brown, Barry Metcalfe, Albert West, Stella Goddard, Ken Barry.

**Apologies:** Heather Fox, Gladys Knight, Michael Taylor

#### Updates

##### a. **Kate Barker Protest**

A very successful protest which gained a lot of press publicity. Although Kate Barker missed the protest she sent a representative to enquire about the slogans on the banners. Apparently Kate Barker was very shocked and surprised by the demonstration which is very good news.

### **b. Greening**

Six volunteers had planted wild flower plugs on the Leighton Buzzard bypass embankment on 2 April. The next Linslade Woods Action Day will be on Sunday 22 April. Victoria is meeting the Chair of Meadow Way Association on 22 April to discuss greening in Meadow Way. Meetings are in progress over a new riverside walk beside Leighton Middle school.

### **c. Campaign to save the Markets**

Lack of funds had prevented continuation of legal action to prevent SBDC from selling off the markets, but Victoria had been leafleting in Leighton Buzzard on the previous weekend to let people know the outcome. Wendy Fayre had threatened libel action but this appeared to be just an empty threat. Albert and Peter offered to leaflet in Dunstable. Wendy Fair markets still haven't signed the contract with SBDC.

### **d. Sustainable Travel Site.**

A very successful meeting with the developer and Glenn Barcham of Beds CC on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The public Inquiry for development as a whole(1500houses) opens on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### **e. Meeting of the Joint Planning & Transportation Committee**

Albert reported that the meeting had discussed the local development framework and the core strategy consultation plan. Because of Government pressure the new houses will have to be built without further consultation and regardless of infrastructure provision or any other issues. This could even mean that there would be no roads to link the new houses. Albert will write to Kate Barker to highlight the absurdity of the situation.

### **Demand for a Bridge on Wing Hill Roundabout**

The demonstration is set for 10.30-11.00am on Saturday 21 April at Wing Hill roundabout. It is planned to include a circular bike ride, leafleting and possibly a home-made bridge constructed by Sean and his children. The MP for Wing was sympathetic but Andrew Selous had informed Sean that he could not act unless one of his constituents raised the issue. Ken agreed to contact Andrew Selous to ask him to attend the protest and to put pressure on Beds and Bucks CCs and the Govt Office for SE. Victoria will contact TV and radio and will do a press release. Barry will contact the Cycling Forum. Sean will contact the Cycling Officers for Luton and Bedfordshire. Andrew Selous MP will attend

### **Green Fayre on 24 April**

This has been arranged as "a series of short talks on Small Green Things to do around the home and garden". Speakers will be Pauline Roby on cycling, Antony Davidson from the Big Barn on local food and Peter Hatswell on green lifestyles. Roger Pepworth will introduce the speakers. Stalls are to include organic honey, Beds & Herts Energy Efficiency, SBDC on Recycling, Studham Nursery, Ecover and FoE merchandise. Jane agreed to advertise the Fayre on the Freecycle Website. Peter will ask Priory School to advertise and encourage attendance, and will undertake a leaflet drop in local roads. Michael has approached Dunstable Churches Together. Peter will draft some ideas for a press release and pass to Victoria. Emphasis will be put on the fact that buying local food is cheaper and would mean less lorries going through Dunstable. Albert agreed to organise the refreshments. Ken will bring a float for cash.

### **Wing Bypass Public Meeting on 30 April**

Stella had produced some excellent posters to advertise the event. Sean agreed to put some up in Wing, and Chris will leaflet house in Mentmore and Ledburn. Work has started on the report on an alternative to the building a bypass. This project is jointly funded by Bucks CC and South Beds FoE. On the steering group is Stephen Joseph, Director of Transport 2000. Lynn Sloman, a consultant for Transport for Quality of Life whose Clients include the Department of Transport, the Countryside Agency and the National Trust, and Peter Headicar, who is a reader in Transport Planning from Oxford Brookes University.

### **Visit to the Energy Centre at Kings Langley 1 May**

**This has been postponed as we are so busy at present.**

### **Millers Dairy**

A revised planning application had been submitted by the developers. The new plans included a wider pavement but the layout was still unsatisfactory as it was considered that the extended kerb could cause lorries to mount the pavement. Barry had already written to the planners and Chris and Victoria will also write. The application will be discussed at the planning committee in June. Victoria is also lobbying Glen Bartram at Beds CC concerning the road layout.

### **Airfield Farm Wind Farm**

Peter had confirmed to FoE that we are in favour of the planning application. The application is being considered on 23 April. Victoria will email details to all members.

### **May Fayre 7 May**

This will be discussed at the next meeting on 2 May and a rota will be organised. It was emphasised that all members should start sorting out their bric-a-brac in preparation now.

### **Future Dates**

- a. Anoraks' Meeting - This was arranged for 9 May at Victoria's house.
- b. Monthly Meeting – 4 June at The Crown, Leighton Buzzard
- c. Climate Change Sub Group – Peter will email those interested in attending
- d. Houghton Regis Carnival – 7 July
- e. Waste Day of Action – 14 July

### **PLanning Bill**

It was reported that the publishing of Planning White Paper has been delayed to May. Barry has already written to Andrew Selous. FoE are campaigning nationally. It was agreed that the campaign should feature on our stall at the Houghton Regis Carnival.

### **Other Business**

Ken reminded members that subs for the current year are now due - £5 (£3 unwaged), cheques payable to South Beds Friends of the Earth.

## **CONTACTS**

### **Officers**

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