

FUTURE EVENTS

16 September Members Meeting Mainly local Food. 7.30 for 8.00pm at Greenways, North Street, Leighton Buzzard (Victoria 01525 385097)

15 October Members Meeting 7.30 for 8.00pm at The Crown, Leighton Buzzard (Chris 01525 382343)

18 October Day of Action on EU Renewables Directive – 10am near Market Cross (Victoria)

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING FOR LEIGHTON BUZZARD GROUP ON 11 AUGUST 2008

Present: Victoria Harvey (Facilitator), Stella Goddard, Chris Stevenson, Neil Tidey, Annie Taylor, Ken Barry.

National FoE Matters

a. Biofuels

EU want all petrol to contain 10% biofuel in spite of the environmental impact. Due to local campaigning we had already completed 237 postcards for passing to Robert Sturdy MEP. Mary Edwards is arranging a meeting to hand over the postcards.

b. EU Renewables Directive

We need to put pressure on MPs and MEPs to stop the Government from weakening the legislation. FoE's Day of Action is planned for 25/10 but as this clashes with Roadblock's conference it was suggested that we do 18/10 instead. 18/10 clashes with planting at Lovent Drive but it was considered that we had enough members to support both events. Chris will check with Barry Wardle about having a stall from 10am near the Market Cross.

c. FoE Conference and Prioritisation of Motions

This is 12-14 September at Loughborough. We need to prioritise 5 motions. These will be

- (i) Our own motion on getting more students and young people involved.
- (ii) Support for Waste and Recycling Campaign
- (iii) Research into Bee Health
- (iv) Green Taxation
- (v) Support for Marinet (Friends of the Sea)

Local Campaigns

a. Local Food

Our campaign stall at the Linslade Canal Festival had been very successful. Annie had produced an excellent leaflet. There is to be an exhibition at the Library in October. Our next meeting on 16/9 at Greenways will focus specifically on local food, including the design of the exhibition. It was suggested that the exhibition ought to be in a more prominent position in the Library and Chris agreed to contact the Library to press for this.

b. Support for Transport/Shared Space in West Street

We need to emphasise the cycle lanes, trees and better information. Victoria will contact Beds CC (David Bowie) and also consider a press release.

c. Campaign to stop Wilkinson from harming the character of the High Street

Wilkinsons have submitted 2 planning applications to SBDC for illuminated signs and to change the shop front and have a large roller shutter. Members should email SBDC at Planning.online@southbeds.gov.uk or write to Head of Development Control, SBDC, District Offices, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds LU6 1LF quoting planning application 08/0716 for the roller shutter and 08/0717 for the illuminated signs to tell them what you think the effect of large illuminated signs and a roller shutter will have on the appearance of the High Street.

d. Luton Northern Bypass

Thanks to our campaigning Beds CC are to arrange for a proper alternatives study (incl walking, cycling and public transport) at a cost of £150,000. This will go to consultation in October.

Future Meetings

16 September at Greenways concentrating on local food.

15 October at The Crown.

Press Release

A brainstorming session on writing press releases was held after the break, and drafts were prepared on the Library not recycling their waste paper and the shared space scheme for West Street. Chris agreed to do a follow-up letter to the papers after the press release for the shared space.

CONTACTS

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