

**SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  
NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2006**

**FUTURE EVENTS**

- 21 September** Greening of Leighton Buzzard 7.30 at the White House, Leighton Buzzard (Victoria 01525 385097)
- 25 September** Wing Bypass Meeting 7.45pm at Kings Head, Aylesbury (Victoria)
- 27 September** Friends of Linslade Wood meeting 7.30 at Stockgrove Country Park (Heather 01525 379773)
- 3 October** Anorak's Meeting 7.30 at 41 Corbet Ride, Leighton Buzzard (Victoria)
- 9 October** Monthly Meeting 7.30 for 8.00 at the Globe PH, Dunstable (Peter 01582 663915)
- 25 October** New Members Meeting 7.30 for 8.00 at Friends Meeting House, North Street, Leighton Buzzard (Ken 01525 372036)
- 4 November** Stop Climate Change Coalition Grand Rally, 12 noon in Trafalgar Square (Michael 01582 606021)
- 6 November** Monthly Meeting 7.30 for 8.00 at Hunt Hotel, Leighton Buzzard (Ken)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Present:** Stella Goddard (Facilitator), Victoria Harvey, Peter Hatswell, Andy Gayler, Chris Stevenson, Jules Stobonovich, Ken Barry.

**Apologies:** Alison Heywood, Heather Fox, Jane Brown, Michael Taylor.

**Group News**

Michael Taylor has now resigned as Secretary. There was a vote of thanks to Michael for all the hard work he had done for the group in the past especially relating to the Big Ask Campaign. It was proposed by Victoria and seconded by Stella and carried unanimously that Jules and Chris will take over the roles of joint membership secretaries. Ken suggested that signatories for the building society account should now be changed and it was agreed that these should now be Ken, Victoria and Stella. Ken will arrange with the building society.

**Feedback**

- a. Caddington Parish Council: Peter had addressed the Council and had told them of the benefits and advantages of solar panels on houses. He had made a big impact and as a result the Council had passed a resolution that the District Council incorporate sustainable energy in all new houses.
- b. FoE Conference: Ken and Victoria reported. There had been some interesting and useful workshops, particularly relating to campaigning on the street. The emphasis being on putting over a positive message, having the right equipment and making campaigning a fun activity. There had been some very inspiring speeches from Paul Kingsnorth formerly of the Ecologist, Maria Adebawale of Capacity Global and Tony Kendal of the Eden Project. Examples were shown of some excellent campaigns run by other groups especially the Love Your Bike campaign by Manchester Group, the composting scheme promoted by Portsmouth Group and the campaign led by Bristol Group to stop the expansion of Bristol Airport. The Bristol campaign had won the award for Campaign of the Year. The results of the Motions to Conference was as follows:-
  - Motion 1 Local Media not carried
  - Motion 2 Renewable Energy carried with 2 amendments

- Motion 3 Forestry Stewardship Scheme not carried
- Motion 4 Europe carried
- Motion 5 Corruption, Arms and Bad Government not carried
- Motion 6 Greening of the tax system not carried.

[Please contact Ken or Victoria if you would like to see the full text of the motions or any other information about Conference]

In view of the information gained at the Conference it was considered that we could ask FoE to organise a training day for the group on fund raising and campaigning and this will be discussed further at future meetings. Andy offered to help with advice on drafting press releases

## **Membership**

We need to remove people from the membership list who have not paid and have not been active for some time, and list members according to interests or preferred activities/involvement. Jules will contact members and Ken will send Chris a list of those members who have paid their subs for this year. Stella will compile the questionnaires, will send a copy to Chris and will bring them to the New Members Meeting.

## **Information Corner**

Peter has written to Andrew Selous MP regarding solar power and wind turbines and has received a favourable response. He has asked whether the Tories would consider bringing back fuel escalation if elected. The reply is “probably not” but they want to encourage fuel efficiency. Peter has also worked out the Energy Footprint of Dunstable Priory Church and will be producing a report for the local diocese.

## **Transport**

- a. Wing Bypass: While cycling through Mentmore Peter had noticed lots of “Don’t Vote for the Blue Route” posters. It was suggested that we put up posters saying “Don’t Vote for any Routes”. Chris had already put up some notices in Ledburn saying “No M-Way at all”. There is to be meeting on 25 September at 7.45pm at the Kings Head, Aylesbury. Denvil Coombes’s report has confirmed that public transport alternatives have not been properly considered and that the Council’s traffic modelling could be improved in some areas. There has been a meeting with Gareth Emerson of Bucks CC at which it was revealed that there is also a funding problem for the road. Aylesbury FoE are applying for a grant of £40,000 to carry out a proper traffic modelling exercise by Steer Davis Gleeve. Victoria and Andy will produce a press release on this.
- b. Sustainable Travel Site in the South of Leighton Buzzard, Victoria is chairing a meeting on 15 September at which all the parties involved will discuss who is to pay for the sustainable transport.
- c. Millers Dairy Site: We need to get people to contact their councillors on this and convince them of the opportunity to make the junction safer by widening the pavement and installing a cycle lane. The planning meeting is currently set for 11 October. Ken and Victoria have been leafleting and have spoken with County Councillor Brian Sadler. Chris has also contacted SBDC and he and Victoria have put up posters at the site. All members are advised to write to John Ellis at SBDC. Andy advised that we need a more “hard hitting” poster and leaflet and he will liaise with Stella regarding the design. Victoria will re-send the press release and arrange for further leafleting at the site

## **Green Infrastructure**

- a. Greening of Leighton Buzzard: The next meeting is at 7.30pm on 21 September at the White House. Victoria and Stella will produce a poster and Victoria will do a press release. Andy Jones the Tree Officer will be attending the meeting.
- b. Linslade New Wood: A meeting had been set up with the landowner after Heather had threatened to go to the press. A Friends of Linslade New Wood meeting is to be held at 7.30pm at Stockgrove on 27 September.

- c. Clipstone Brook: Chris had arranged a meeting on 28 September to plan the arrangements for tree planting later in the year.

### **Future Meetings and Events**

- a. New Members Meeting on 25 October: to be advertised in the local press and Leighton Buzzard library. Hugh Ellis of FoE will be speaking. Jules suggested that a new members meeting could also be held in Dunstable in the future.
- b. Next members meeting is on 9 October at the Globe in Dunstable. Peter kindly agreed to take the minutes in Ken's absence.
- c. Anoraks Meeting: 3 October at Victoria's house.
- d. Members Meeting: 6 November at the Hunt Hotel, Leighton Buzzard.

### **Other Business**

- a. Alison has been to see the Ovaltine Site at Kings Langley and would like to organise a group visit for the future. April 2007 was suggested.
- b. Jules mentioned Cafod's campaign about where gold comes from and circulated a petition. It was suggested that this could be brought to the New Members Meeting.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Stella for her hospitality.

## **CONTACTS**

### **Officers**

Co-ordinator: VICTORIA HARVEY, 41 Corbet Ride, Leighton Buzzard LU7 2SJ  
01525-385097 [vharvey@bopenworld.com](mailto:vharvey@bopenworld.com)  
Treasurer: KEN BARRY, 97 Bideford Green, Leighton Buzzard LU7 2TJ  
01525-372036 [kenwbarry@aol.com](mailto:kenwbarry@aol.com)  
South Beds FOE Website: [www.southbedsfoe.org.uk](http://www.southbedsfoe.org.uk)