

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

**22 September** Cycling Day of Action, 11am South Street, Leighton Buzzard (Victoria 01525 385097)

**24 September** Sub Group on Membership 8pm at The Globe, Dunstable (Jane 01582 475693)

**10 October** Monthly Meeting 7.30 for 8.00pm venue in Leighton Buzzard to be arranged (Victoria)

**14 October** Working party to build Otter Holts (Chris 01525 382343)

**22 October** Family Fun Day in Linslade Woods (Times to be confirmed) (Esther 01525 237760)

**12 November** Monthly Meeting 7.30 for 8.00pm at the Globe, Dunstable (Peter 01582 663915)

### **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**Present:** Victoria Harvey (Facilitator), Heather Fox, Chris Stevenson, Albert West, Barry Metcalfe, Peter Hatswell, Ali Hines, Michael Taylor, Sylvia Lay-Flurrie, Ruth Harris, Jane Brown, Liam Green, Nick Lander, David Oakley-Hill, Eileen, Ken Barry.

**Apologies:** Stella Goddard

#### **Updates and Celebration of Successes**

a. Climate Day

The display in Nature's Harvest had received good press coverage and had been very successful.

b. Market

Wendy Fair have been convicted but are appealing.

c. Millers Dairy Site

The appeal had been turned down by the planning inspector. The proposed development is out of proportion with the site and there would be insufficient parking places. Barry had spoken at the appeal.

d. Linslade Wood

There had been an excellent turn-out for the Family Fun Day on 4 August, but Esther had been left to look after the children without any assistance. More help is needed next time. The next event is to be held on 22 October – time to be confirmed.

e. Greening

Chris has arranged a working party to build otter holts on Sunday 14 October. Barry confirmed that the Greensand Trust had already built one on the Ouzel. The Greening Group are to get funding from the Greensand Trust and hope to arrange a meeting in October. Plans for Christina's wildlife garden have been abandoned but there is the possibility of a similar project for Brooklands School. Victoria is investigating.

#### **Transport in Leighton Buzzard**

a. Linslade Western Bypass

This is expected to be opened on 14 September. We need to keep up the pressure on Bucks CC for traffic lights in Stoke Hammond and Wing, new bus services and a commitment in respect of a cycle bridge for the Wing Hill roundabout. We should also be ready to write to the papers when it becomes evident that the bypass has not solved any traffic problems in Leighton Buzzard, or has created further problems. Michael Taylor pointed out that if and when the Dunstable Northern Bypass is built we must ensure that constraints are imposed to prevent lorries travelling through Dunstable High Street.

b. Wing Bypass

£13,800 has been raised but £6,200 is still required. Donations have been received from the Rothschilds, National FoE and a number of parish councils. Wing Parish Council had given £500. The third meeting of the steering group is on 21 September. Bucks CC is expected to make a decision in October or November. Victoria appealed for ideas for future action.

#### c. Buses

Due to public pressure services to Heath and Reach have been increased. Sylvia has written to the LBO to say she has obtained a bus pass but there are no buses to use it on. She has also emailed Cllr Brian Sadler to explain that other councils are doing a lot better. She spoke about Huddersfield where there is a proper integrated transport services where pensioners get cheap travel on trains as well as having bus passes and many have given up using their cars. Everyone is asked to take part in a letter writing campaign to wake up our county councillors. The lack of buses can also be mentioned when completing the Council's traffic light survey form. Sylvia is also contacting Andrew Selous, the 50+ Club and the U3A about the lack of public transport.

#### d. Cycling Day of Action 22 September

This is part of the In Town Without My Car event and will be held in South Street, Leighton Buzzard. Barry will contact South Street Residents Association and Victoria will notify the police. The event will start at 11am and we need lots of cyclists, children and banners.

### **Waste Day of Action**

Originally to be have been held on 15 September. Has been postponed for the present in order that we can concentrate on traffic lights campaign. Chris will do some preliminary research on the Tescopololy Website.

### **Windfarms**

FoE have asked us to support a planning application for a wind farm at Petsoe Manor Farm north of Milton Keynes. Heather thought that wildlife might be affected and will contact the RSPB to find out whether they have any objections. Michael pointed out that we may have to support anyway as global warming will have an even more serious affect on wildlife. Victoria will ask FoE for further information.

### **Housing Strategy**

Victoria will circulate the details of the response to the Core Strategy discussed at the meeting with Luton FoE. David is an elected member of the committee for the Luton Assembly. They are holding a meeting on 11 September 10 – 2.30 at High Town Community Centre, Luton at which Victoria is speaking. The meeting will be followed by a workshop and will be an opportunity to talk about energy efficiency, public transport, green corridors , housing etc.

### **Luton Northern Bypass**

We need to press for the no-road option as recommended by Alan James in his report. If the road goes ahead it will be very destructive to the countryside, in particular the AONB, and will not reduce congestion. People are urged to write to the Development Plans Team at South Beds District Council, District Offices, High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1LF or email [localplans@southbeds.gov.uk](mailto:localplans@southbeds.gov.uk) and ask that the alternatives to a road are properly examined and to look at the possibility of tram or rail links. Peter and David will liaise and produce an email for circulation to all interested parties. The deadline for comments is 28 September. Ken has sent a press release to the Dunstable Gazette.

### **Climate Change Bill**

This is going through the Commons this autumn. The Conservatives are supporting so the strategy is to focus on key New Labour MPs to stop the Bill from being watered down. Our nearest are in Bedford where there is no FoE group. David will write to his MP.

### **Attracting New Members**

Jane suggested setting up a sub group to look at ways of attracting more members in Dunstable. She has approached the property manager at the Chiltern Gateway Visitor Centre on Dunstable Downs and he has agreed that we could have a display and a table for leaflets there without charge. Dunstable library have also agreed that we can have a display. Jane is to contact the press and other Green groups in Dunstable to start a Green Awareness Campaign with a newsletter. There are ideas in the February/March edition of Change Your World. It was agreed that we should have a brainstorming session at our October meeting about the future direction of the group. Jane's sub group will be meeting on 24 September at 8pm at the Globe, Dunstable.

## **Future Meetings**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October in Leighton Buzzard – venue to be arranged

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November at the Globe, Dunstable.

## **Motions to FoE Conference**

It was agreed that we would delegate decisions on motions to Victoria, Barry and Ali, who will be attending the conference.

## **Other Business**

- a. Peter mentioned the recent article in New Statesman magazine about the criteria used by the Government in assessing viability of road schemes. It is alleged that the rules are bent to discount all environmental considerations and that roads are built purely for political reasons.
- b. Druuske Hawkridge, a member from Heath and Reach, had complained to Waitrose about the selling of organic vegetables in non-recyclable plastic trays, whereas Tesco use compostable trays. To be noted for future Waste Day of Action.
- c. The Community Tree Trust have arranged seed collection events as follows:
  - Sunday 7 October Kempston Wood End map ref: SP996467
  - Sunday 14 October Wooton Wood, Wooton map ref: TL000450
  - Sunday 28 October Flitwick Wood, Flitwick map ref: TL026350All events 10am – 3pm or part thereof. Enquiries: Colin Carpenter 01525 716371

## **CONTACTS**

### **Officers**

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South Beds FOE Website: [www.southbedsfoe.org.uk](http://www.southbedsfoe.org.uk)