

FUTURE EVENTS

- 18 October** Day of Action on EU Renewables Directive – 10am near Market Cross (Victoria 01525 385097)
- 6 November** Public Meeting: Is the Government Failing us on Climate Change – 7pm at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London (opposite Euston Station)
- 11 November** Members Meeting 7.30 for 8.00 at The Crown, Leighton Buzzard (Chris 01525 382343)
- 6 December** Campaign Against Climate Change March on Parliament

Greening Events

18th October – Leighton Middle School – Riverside flower planting at 2pm – changed from 19 Oct.

- **10th November – Vandyke Curve (Narrow Gauge Railway) Clearance and wild flower planting. 10.15 to 4pm (latest). Meet at Vandyke Curve, near the junction of Vandyke Road and Meadway, on the opposite side of the road to Vandyke School, where the railway line crosses Vandyke Road. Please bring boots or strong shoes, old warm clothes and waterproofs, gloves and a packed lunch. Be prepared to tackle brambles, plenty of tough weeds and litter!**
- **15th November (confirmed) – Pulford School hedge planting (changed from 1st Nov)**
- **16th November – Mountbatten Gardens planting 2-5pm.**
- **22nd November – Lovant Drive (postponed from 18th October).**

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING FOR LEIGHTON BUZZARD GROUP ON 15 OCTOBER 2008

Present: Victoria Harvey (Facilitator), Heather Fox, Pete Jardine, Barry Metcalfe, Annie Taylor, Chris Stevenson, Albert West, Ken Barry.

Apologies: Stella Goddard, Andrea Curd

Renewables Campaign

This is a national campaign aimed at preventing the government from reducing its commitment that 15% of all its energy will be from renewables by 2020. We will meet in the town centre near entrance to Waterbourne Walk at 10am on Saturday and will need to get as many people as possible to sign postcards for sending to Andrew Selous MP. Victoria will pass details to Ken for a press release.

Planning Bill

All members are urged to write to Andrew Selous MP, as the Conservative's opposition to the Bill appears to be weakening under pressure from the CBI. Victoria has copies of a standard letter which includes an invitation to attend a briefing by FoE.

Greening Group Updates

Wild flower planting on 18/10 will start at 2pm on the river bank near the bridge with planting of snowdrops, bluebells, meadowsweet, roses, loosestrife and campion. Planting at Pulford School has now been changed from 1/11 to 15/11.

Western Linslade Development

There are 3 consultations – the first is on the South East Plan and Victoria is to write with objections, then (2) the AVDC Consultation and then (3) the planning application. We will need to arrange a public meeting at either St Barnabas Church Hall or Southcott Community Centre on a date in November or December (but try to avoid the 6th Dec). Ken will let Pete have details of the contacts in order that he can book the hall. We will arrange for speakers from AVDC Planning Committee and Beds Planning.

Setting up a Limited Company for Greening Group and Bus Project

Victoria and Chris want to apply to Access for Nature for a grant to pay part-time salaries and for providing bus information and will therefore need to set up a limited company. It was formally agreed that they will investigate the matter further and bring to the next meeting. An 'Adopt a Bus Stop Scheme' was suggested.

Transport Updates

a. Wing Bypass

Bucks CC had expressed their appreciation at working with FoE. Victoria is attending a meeting for an update with Sean Kelly and members of Aylesbury Vale FoE tomorrow. Arguments about finance for the cycle bridge on Wing Hill are still ongoing and we may need to start pressing again for action.

b. Exemplar Site.

The number of houses being built has been reduced as a result of the 'credit crunch' and this is threatening the provision of bus services.

c. Luton Northern Bypass

The Council are spending over £100,000 on an Alternatives Report and the consultant is Tim Allen recommended by Stephen Joseph of Campaign for Better Transport. Victoria is organising a meeting with interested parties on 28/10. The Beds Rural Transport Charity will be arranging workshops at the end of November.

Linslade Woods

It was revealed that Arnold Whites have bought the field south of Linslade Woods and intend to plant it with 80% willow for coppicing and 20% for a hay meadow. They will be working closely with South Beds Foe and Friends of Linslade wood in developing the design. Victoria will produce a press release in co-operation with the Greensand Trust and Friends of Linslade Woods.

Local Food

We have an excellent display in the Library thanks to Stella and Annie, with good press coverage thanks to Annie. There is still the need to distribute the directory of local suppliers to more people and to look out for more names to put in the directory. Pete had produced a very good draft advertising poster for Jeff's market stall which sells local fruit and vegetables Annie is to do an article for LBNews on Farmer Gates who supplies Jeff's stall. We will be having a stall at the Christmas Market planned by I Love LB for 30/11. Annie has some ideas for community gardening which could be included on the stall. We will need to consider a demo against McDonalds for late January and Annie and Heather will do some further research. Victoria suggested a tentative date for March/April for organising a meeting of all interested parties including I Love LB to work to make Leighton Buzzard a sustainable town.

Other Business

a. Ken and Barry had both received replies from Andrew Selous regarding the Competition Commission and supermarkets.

b. Planning application no 08/0269 concerning the erection and operation of 3 wind turbines near Podington is being considered again and letters of support should be sent to D Bailey, Head of Planning, Bedford Borough Council, Town Hall St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1JS

CONTACTS

Officers

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