

FUTURE EVENTS

- 7 May** May Fayre, High Street, Leighton Buzzard (Ken 01525 372036)
- 9 May** Anoraks' Meeting 7.30pm at 41 Corbet Ride, Leighton Buzzard (Victoria 01525 385097)
- 17 May** Climate Change Sub-Group meeting 7.45pm at The Globe, Dunstable (Peter 01582 663915)
- 4 June** Monthly Meeting 7.30 for 8.00pm at 41 Corbet Ride, Leighton Buzzard (Victoria)
- 6 June** Linslade Woods Action Day – meet Knaves Hill footpath entrance at 10am to put in new barrier on the bridleway (Esther 01525 237760)
- 13 June** Greening of Leighton Buzzard, 7.30pm The White House, Leighton Buzzard (Victoria)
- 23 June** National Bike Week Stall in Leighton Buzzard High Street (Barry 01525 851113)
- 3 July** Monthly Meeting 7.30 for 8.00pm at The Globe, Dunstable (Peter)
- 7 July** Houghton Regis Carnival (Peter)
- 28 July** Linslade Canal Festival (Victoria)

Subscriptions are 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.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING ON 2 MAY 2007

Present: Victoria Harvey (Facilitator), Heather Fox, Jane Brown, Albert West, Peter Hatswell, Barry Metcalfe, Michael Taylor, Ken Barry.

Apologies: Stella Goddard, Chris Stevenson, Gladys Knight

Road Protests

a. Wing Hill Bridge

Ken reported that this had been a very successful protest. Over 100 people had attended including Andrew Selous MP who had given a very supportive speech. The event had got good publicity in all the local papers and had made the front page of the LBO. Both BBC South and Anglia News had given good coverage to the event and had included an interview with one of Stella's children. The police closed the roundabout to enable a considerable number of cyclists, both children and adults to make several circuits while others handed out leaflets to waiting motorists, many of whom voiced their support. Andrew Selous had followed up the protest by writing to Cllrs Tom Wooton and Val Letheren and to Dr Stephen Ladyman, Minister for Transport. Victoria had contacted John Brown of GoEast who had confirmed that money may be available for a bridge. She will be contacting Bucks and Beds County Councils to persuade them to put in a bid.

b. Wing Bypass Meeting

This had been a very successful meeting at Stewkley Village Hall to discuss the alternatives to a major road scheme. 138 people had attended. The meeting was chaired by Stephen Joseph of Transport 2000 and there were very good speeches by Ian Smith of the Influencing Travel Behaviour branch of the Highways Agency, Tom Cohen of Steer Davis Gleave and Sean Kelly. The comments and questions from the audience had been very positive, and the representative of Bucks County Council had promised to consider

the alternatives when the report has been finalised. A total of £281.87 in donations was collected in support of the campaign.

c. Other road matters

Peter reported that the Government had been forced to provide details of the amount of CO2 generated by road transport but had been reluctant to publish the information.

Markets

Heather reported on her attendance at the pre-trial hearing on Wendy Fayre. A room had been set aside to show all the evidence and there are 180 witnesses for the prosecution. Wendy Fayre are to be represented by a QC. It was revealed that Wendy Fayre had previously traded as Wendy Fayre Heritage but had become bankrupt. The trial will commence on 4 June. The company are due to take over the markets on 21 May and members were asked to keep a look out for any changes or disturbances, and to contact Trading Standards on 01234-228280 if they suspect any illegal trading is taking place.

Green Fayre

It was generally agreed that this had been a successful event, and Peter was thanked for all his work. There had been 3 good talks and lots of interesting stalls, but the numbers attending had been a bit disappointing in spite of the distribution of lots of posters and leaflets. It was thought that a future event might be better if held on a Saturday at an earlier time. Jane thought the posters could have been more eye-catching and outlined a system called AIDA for promoting awareness which we could put into practice in future. It was noted that our posters had to compete with circus posters which were very bold and colourful. It was thought that we could have tried more publicity in the local papers bearing in mind that there is less awareness of FoE in Dunstable than in Leighton Buzzard. It was suggested that we arrange a further event later in the year perhaps with a different title, a different venue (possibly the Methodist Church), a different theme (possibly eco-friendly housing). Jane agreed to contact Andy Gayler to discuss the possibility of having a series of articles on environmental matters in Dunstable local papers which would give more publicity to FoE.

May Fayre

Our stall numbers are 38 and 39 near Corals. The stalls will consist of a game updated from last year, climate change display, standard leaflets and bric-a-brac. Victoria and Ken will set up the stall from 8.00am, and Ken can help until midday. Albert can help from 11.00 to 1.00. Peter and Michael can help from 1.00 to 4.00 and can help to pack up. More help is needed to set up the stall and Victoria will phone around for assistance.

Bike Week

This is from 16 – 24 June. The Cycling Forum are out of action as Esther is getting married, so the organising will be down to us. Victoria and Barry will arrange for an information table in Leighton Buzzard High Street between 10.00 and 12.00, and will get permission from the police and SBDC. Barry will supply the information and will pass details to Ken for a press release. Emphasis will be placed on how cycling can improve health, lower the number of road accidents and increase life span. Manchester FoE's website on www.loveyourbike.org will be a useful source of information.

FoE National Conference

To be held 8-10 September. Victoria has drafted a motion calling for more help and support from FoE HQ on promoting local sustainable development. Godalming & Guildford FoE have offered their support on the motion. Victoria will email a copy of the motion to all members. The group supported the principle of the motion and were happy to see the email version and make any comments on it by email.

Local Group Support Fund

Victoria needs to apply for a grant of £1200 to enable Lyn Sloman, expert on alternatives, to attend a Steering Group. Ken and Peter endorsed Victoria's application.

Proposed Wind Farm at Podington

Nick Rau of FoE has cycled round the area where the wind farm is to be located and has done a lot of research into the matter. He has advised that this is an ideal site for a wind farm and all members are urged to write to Bedford Borough Council in support of this application.

Climate Change Consultation

Peter is co-ordinating our submission to FoE on The Big Ask. He advised that we will need to look at what action we can take locally and what we can do in our everyday lives. He is setting up a sub-group which will be meeting at The Globe in Dunstable at 7.45pm on 17 May. The Guardian has produced an interesting article on climate change and Peter will email details to members. The meeting will discuss updating our displays for our stalls at the Houghton Regis Carnival and the Kite Festival.

Future Dates

- a. Anorak's meeting on 9 May at Victoria's house – to discuss Planning Bill and housing.
- b. Greening of Leighton Buzzard – next meeting on 13 June.
- c. The next members meeting on 4 June will be held in Victoria's garden instead of in the Crown. The discussion topic for the meeting will be waste and alternate weekly collections.
- d. The next Linslade Woods Action Day will be on 6 June
- e. Houghton Regis Carnival - 7 July.
- f. Live Earth Concerts – 7 July.
- g. Waste Day of Action can no longer be held on 14 July as this clashes with Leighton Buzzard Carnival.
- h. The July members meeting will be on 3rd at The Globe, Dunstable.
- i. Victoria suggested having a stall at the Linslade Canal Festival on 28 July.
- j. Public Exhibitions on the Draft Orders for the M1 Jct 10 to 13 Widening will be held as follows:
Monday 21 May 2-8pm The Riverside Conference Centre, Gipsy Lane, Luton LU1 3JH
Friday 18 May 2-8pm and Saturday 19 May 10am-4pm Flitwick leisure Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, MK45 1TH
Saturday 2 June 10am-4pm Harlington Village Hall, Sundon Road, Harlington LU5 6LZ
Saturday 9 June 10am-4pm Toddington Village Hall, Leighton road, Toddington LU5 6AN

Other Business

- a. Ken reported that the planning application for a filling station on the Linslade Western Bypass had been withdrawn.
- b. Natures Harvest in Leighton Buzzard are now selling recycled paper.
- c. Victoria reported that public consultations on local bus services are to be held at the British Legion Hall in Leighton Buzzard 1.30 – 4.00 on 16 May.
- d. Peter mentioned that a petition has appeared on Tony Blair's 10 Downing Street website campaigning for the Leighton Buzzard to Luton via Dunstable railway line to be resurrected. The petition can be found at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/dunstablerail/>.
- e. Several members attended Robert Stobovonich's funeral on Friday 27 April. It was a very moving event with 300 people present. Robert was an actor, a singer and a FoE activist with a particular interest in corporate justice campaigns. He will be greatly missed.

CONTACTS

Officers

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