

FUTURE EVENTS

- 17 June** National Bike Week Celebration of Cycling Cycle Rides for those who rarely ride a bicycle starting in Church Square, Leighton Buzzard – 12.30pm 8 miles around scenic Linslade and 2.30pm 5 miles around Leighton Buzzard (Barry 07932 590237)
- 23 June** National Bike Week Stall in Leighton Buzzard High Street (Barry tel 01525 851 113)
- 3 July** **Monthly Meeting** 7.30 for 8.00pm at The Globe, Dunstable (Peter 01582 663915)
- 7 July** Houghton Regis Carnival (Peter 01582 663915)
- 28 July** Linslade Canal Festival (Victoria 01525 385097)

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 4 JUNE 2007

Present: Victoria Harvey (Facilitator), Heather Fox, Stella Goddard, Chris Stevenson, Gladys Knight, Pete Jardine, Albert West, Barry Metcalfe, Ken Barry.

Apologies: Janine Skinner, Peter Hatswell, Michael Taylor, Jane Brown

Windfarms

A further email had been circulated from Nick Rau of FoE asking members to write again to the planning committee with further information in support of the planning application for a windfarm at Podington. The application is going before the planning committee on 11th June.

Transport

a. Buses

We were pleased to receive a cheque for £750 from Beds Rural Transport Partnership for a bus travel display at the end of Leighton Buzzard High Street. We accept gratefully accept the grant and agree to carry out the proposed project in accordance with the specifications form Bedfordshire Rural Transport Partnership. After pressure from Victoria, Beds County Council have agreed to hold a further public consultation on Saturday 21 July at Hockcliffe Street Baptist Church, Leighton Buzzard to review the bus network for the Leighton Buzzard area.

b. Wing Bypass

£40,000 is needed for the report. Bucks County Council are contributing £20,000 and National FoE are contributing £5,000. There has also been an anonymous donation of £10,000 so £5,000 will need to be raised from villages. Wing Parish Council may offer £500. Stella is producing a leaflet for distribution at Stewkley Village Fete and around the villages appealing for funds. Victoria will make enquiries as to whether there was any possibility of charitable status for the appeal

c. Bike Week

Victoria will arrange for an information stall in Leighton Buzzard High Street for 23 June. Barry has arranged two cycle rides from Church Square, Leighton Buzzard on 17 June. Barry or Chris will send information to Ken for incorporation in a press release.

d. Millers Dairy Site

The original planning application is going to appeal on 10 July.

e. Wing Hill Bridge

It was reported that funding is available from GOEast and Beds and Bucks County Councils have put in a bid.

Planning White Paper/Houghton Regis Carnival

The planning reforms are dominated by the Treasury's desire to streamline the planning system for the benefit of big business, and will mean that major projects such as roads, airports and nuclear power stations will be decided by quangos with no local involvement from either councils or individuals. FoE have produced a briefing paper, postcards and other materials which can be used on our stall at Houghton Regis Carnival, which will be devoted entirely to this issue. Michael and Peter will be setting up the stall at about 9.30am on 7 July. Albert, Gladys, Victoria and Ken agreed to help on the stall.

Waste Day of Action

This will now take place on 15 September.

Markets

It was reported that rents had been increased and 4 stallholders have left. The court case against Wendy Fayre has now started and is expected to last 3-4 weeks. Heather will be attending.

Linslade Canal Festival

This is being held on 28 July. Barry will book a stall.

May Fayre

In spite of a very wet day we had taken £57.45 on our stalls. It was considered that sale of bric-a-brac was no longer a profitable option and we may need to revise the format of our stall for the future.

Greening

Due to changes in the political make-up of the Leighton Linslade Town Council the Greening Group was now on hold and the meeting to be held on 13 June has been cancelled. Steven Lakin had advised that he would be in touch again soon with a new date and proposal for the Group to consider. The Friends of Linslade Woods are holding a working party on Wednesday 6 June to install a horse-friendly motorbike barrier at the Soulbury Road end of the public bridleway. Esther has suggested Saturday 4 August for the summer holiday family action day.

Energy Efficiency

Victoria has arranged for Renewable East to speak to South Beds District Council on Wednesday 6 June. The meeting is open to the public.

FoE Conference

There are a number of motions to discuss and FoE's Strategic Plan to consider. These will be discussed at the next meeting.

Reflections on Successes and Actions of the Group since Christmas

Members considered that our main successes had been the greening activities including the tree and wild flower planting, the Exemplar Sustainable Travel Site, the Wing Bypass campaign, the campaign for a bridge on Wing Hill, the campaign against Kate Barker and the Green Fayre. The campaign to save the markets and the banners across the M1 had also been good campaigns. Members thought that the most enjoyable activities were writing press releases, attending protest demonstrations, Linslade Woods and Clipstone Brook working parties, tree planting and letter writing. Constraints had been lack of time because of other commitments and fear of legal action. It was agreed that we need more active members, better communications, more people to liaise with National FoE and more people to contact local councillors and to get involved with fund raising. The discussion will be continued at our next meeting.

Visions for the Future

Victoria suggested that we should aim to make South Beds famous as a truly green district with cycling provision, public transport, trees and wildlife and energy efficiency. Stella suggested that we have display boards in the library promoting a Green Christmas.

Issues coming up

Issues for the future are the housing consultation, climate change legislation, waste and the alternate weekly collections and the Big Ask.

CONTACTS

Officers

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