

FUTURE EVENTS

28 September Clearing vegetation from Canal bank 10am – 4pm (Barry 01525 851113)

15 October Members Meeting 7.30 for 8.00pm at The Crown, Leighton Buzzard (Chris 01525 382343)

18 October Day of Action on EU Renewables Directive – 10am near Market Cross (Victoria 01525 385097)

11 November Members Meeting 7.30 for 8.00 at The Crown, Leighton Buzzard (Chris)

Greening Events

- **18th October – Leighton Middle School – Riverside flower planting at 2pm – changed from 19 Oct.**
- **1st November (confirmed) – Pulford School hedge planting**
- **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!**
- **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 16 SEPTEMBER 2008

Present: Victoria Harvey (Facilitator), Stella Goddard, Heather Fox, Ian Kidd, Mary Matthews, Pete Jardine, Barry Metcalfe, Annie Taylor, Ali Hine, Ken Barry.

Ian was thanked for allowing us to use Greenways for the meeting.

Grant from FoE

A grant of £1180 had been received from FoE's Local Groups Support Fund. This is to cover the costs of gazebo, display stand, flip chart and paper pens etc, creating and designing exhibition of our local work and achievements and general expenses for 6 months' work on the exemplar scheme. A further £250 had been received as a result of winning the Earth Movers Award.

Update from FoE National Conference

Ali reported that this year's conference was an amazing experience. The motions passed included: Getting young people involved, A stronger voice against nuclear power and Waste and Recycling. Our representatives abstained on the motion on Peak oil and fuel prices and the motion on Population was not passed. There were some inspiring entries for the Earth Mover award. Victoria was given a very warm reception in respect of her presentation on the Exemplar Scheme, including the civilising of Billington Road, bus services every 15 minutes, information screens in new houses, cycle parking for new houses and the town centre, the achievements of the Joint Transport Strategy as a result of the protest against the Stoke Hammond Bypass which had cost Bucks CC £900,000, the lobbying for new bus services, the good publicity achieved locally and nationally including a major article in the Guardian, the South Street Campaign, the Station Travel Plan, the Alternatives Report for the Luton Northern Bypass, planting trees

and the campaign to get a cycle bridge on the Wing Hill Roundabout and the demonstration against plastic bags. As a result South Beds FoE achieved the Earth Movers Award. Other news from Conference included the possibility that the EU would reduce their target for biofuel in petrol from 10% to 5%.

Library Waste Recycling

Annie had discovered that paper waste from Leighton Buzzard Library was not being recycled. She had produced a draft press release which had been sent first to councillors. She had received an instant response and within a week a recycling programme for Library waste had been implemented. Annie will produce an article for our website on this.

West Street

David Bowie's reply to Victoria's email had stated that the West Street scheme is not actually a shared space scheme and pedestrians and cyclists do not therefore have priority. There are to be ramped pedestrian crossings and a mini roundabout for junction with Bridge Street. It was pointed out that the ramps already installed are too small and are not slowing traffic sufficiently. We want clear signage and evidence on information given to schools. Town councillors appear to be anti-pedestrian and Beds CC are lacking in competence. Barry is to write to the Council about the ramps being inadequate, and Victoria will follow up with concerns on child safety, greening and signing. Heather will arrange to see Cllr Brian Sadler about his anti-children attitude.

Day of Action on Renewables

To be held between 10 and 11am on 18 October. Victoria will provide details. The planting on the river bank is to be changed from 11am to 2pm.

Future Meetings

Agreed as 15 October and 11 November at the Crown. Barry mentioned that volunteers were required for clearing vegetation from the canal bank on 28 September.

Local Food

The exhibition had been arranged in the Library for 2 weeks starting from 4 October. Dunstable FoE are also having a stall at a Food and Culture event at Dunstable Downs on this date. Our display will consist of 3 panels aimed at encouraging people to buy local ie local shops, cafes, farm shops, box schemes. Ian mentioned that Greenways will be selling home-grown vegetables for Buzzards under the LETS scheme, and will also have information on LETS. Annie has written to Waitrose to enquire whether we can add them to our list, but has not received a reply in spite of chasing up. Annie has carried out a lot of research and has produced lists of local suppliers. She will add Greenways website to the list as well as FoE's Shop Locally website. Annie has also produced maps including a fun map of the town centre, a 'Dear Mum and Dad Letter' and a panel on facts on food-miles. Ian offered to put up the displays in Greenways after they are removed from the Library. Annie will produce a press release based on the National FoE format. It was also agreed that we should consider having a stall at the Christmas Fayre on 29 November.

Other Business

Stella was thanked for her work in designing the bus display in the High Street.

CONTACTS

Officers

Co-ordinator: VICTORIA HARVEY, 41 Corbet Ride, Leighton Buzzard LU7 2SJ
01525-385097 vharvey@btinternet.com
Treasurer: KEN BARRY, 97 Bideford Green, Leighton Buzzard LU7 2TJ
01525-372036 kenwbarry@aol.com
Climate Change Co-ordinator PETER HATSWELL, 86 Half Moon Lane, Dunstable LU5 4AD
01582 663915 hatswell@tesco.net
Secretary: CHRIS STEVENSON tel 01525 382343 postmaster@stevenson59.f9.co.uk
Publicity Officer: ANDY GAYLER andy_gayler@yahoo.com
Dunstable contact RUTH HARRIS SMALL, harris-small@ntlworld.com Tel 01582 758 483