

**SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH DECEMBER 2009**  
**FUTURE EVENTS**

- 5 December** The Wave - Stop Climate Chaos March in London. Assemble 12pm Grosvenor Square or meet at Leighton Buzzard Station at 9.45am.
- 5 January** Workshop at 6pm at 41 Corbet Ride. Banner making for the Wind Farm demo and garland making for installation of Annie's recycling centre (Victoria 07815 817 108). Bring food and drink, plastic bottles, aluminium cans etc
- 7 January** Installation of Annie's Recycling Centre in Parsons Close with photo shoot of people dressed in plastic bottles (Victoria)
- 12-15<sup>th</sup> January** Public Inquiry in Bedford on the wind farm at Airfield farm, Poddington, (as featured in the Age of Stupid). Demonstration at 8.30am in Bedford on 12 January (Victoria)

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING FOR LEIGHTON BUZZARD GROUP**  
**1 DECEMBER 2009**

**Present:** Victoria Harvey (Co-ordinator), Neil Tidey, Sylvia Lay-Flurrie, Mary McCabe, Chris Stevenson, Pete Jardine, Ken Barry

**Apologies:** Stella Goddard, Annie Taylor

**Report on Christmas Fayre**

A very successful FoE stall promoting action on the Biggleswade Wind Farm. This had been a big success in spite of the adverse weather. All helpers are to be congratulated.

**Station Travel Plan**

The launch will take place at Leighton Buzzard Railway Station tomorrow between 6am and 10am and 4pm to 8pm. At 8.36am there will be a race to the station between a cyclist, a walker, a bus traveller and a car sharer. The official opening of the new cycle racks in Southcourt Avenue will also take place and the Southcourt Avenue entrance to the station has now been made pedestrian friendly. Victoria, Pete and Ken will be attending as FoE representatives, Chris will be representing GoCycle and Sylvia will be attending as a bus user.

**Buses**

Sylvia is now represented on the PPG at her doctors' surgery and she will be using her influence to publicise bus details for travelling to the doctors and to local hospitals. She will contact Paul Dodge and Simon Archer at Arriva to get timetables installed in doctors' surgeries. Mary also agreed to contact the practise manager at Europa House.

## **The Wave - Stop Climate Chaos March - 5 December**

It was agreed to meet at 9.45am at Leighton Buzzard Station on Saturday 5 December to travel to the march. Ken will contact Alison Heywood and Peter Hatswell. All participants are advised to dress in blue.

## **National FoE Matters**

- a. More and more evidence of dumbing down as they have yet to replace the Planning Advisor. There is to be a further meeting with senior management. 18 local groups are now backing the protest and concern is continuing to grow.
- b. Get Serious Campaign - A number of councillors have already signed up. Victoria will lobby the Chief Executive of Central Beds Council. Kirklees Council are an excellent example of what can be achieved.

## **Greening**

There was good publicity in the LBO for the recent tree planting in Clarence Road with Hockcliffe Street Baptist Church. Some shrubs may be available for planting in the spring.

## **Biggleswade Wind Farm**

Letters are still being sent. (Write to David Lamb, Development Management (North), Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks walk, Chicksands, Shefford Beds SG17 5TQ Ref: Project MP/09/00118/FU. Refer to the Government guidance: Supplement to PPS1 Climate Change. The leaflets are on our website, [www.southbedsfoe.co.uk](http://www.southbedsfoe.co.uk)) Paul Brown has offered to speak to Central Beds. The Council desperately need experts to advise them on renewable energy. Victoria has contacted Nick Whitehouse of LB Society and an expert from Cranfield who may be able to help. Mary will also contact an expert who she knows. All members are urged to make a Christmas pledge to get someone else to write in support of the wind farm.

## **Poddington Wind Farm, Bedford - 12 January**

Featured in the Age of Stupid. The planning application was turned down by Bedford Borough Council. The public inquiry starts on 12 January. We will stage a demo at 8.30am in Bedford before the inquiry opens. A banner making workshop and party will be held on 5 January at 6pm at 41 Corbet Ride (venue subject to confirmation) - bring food and drink.

## **Installation of Annie's Recycling Centre in Parsons Close - 7 January**

We will be dressing up in plastic bottles and aluminium cans so that people are aware that putting these in the normal litter bins on the street in the town (rather than in their own home recycling bins or the new recycling centre) means they will go to landfill. The installation will take place on 7

January. We all need to save our plastic bottles and aluminium cans to string together to create garlands. A garland making workshop will be held in conjunction with the banner making on 5 January.

### **Western Linslade Development**

Bat expert Phil Irving is back from New Zealand so is now available for making a further report. Victoria will also arrange for Phil to produce another report.

### **Other Business**

a. Sylvia would like to brighten up the railway station by planting flowers especially in the neglected plant tubs. She will approach the head of London Midland, and also ask that they bring back the children's paintings in the booking office.

b. Ken mentioned that the government were considering selling off British Waterway's Property Portfolio which could lead to the dereliction or disappearance of canals. Objectors are urged to sign the e-petition on the 10 Downing Street website at

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/protectourcanals/>

### **Next Meeting**

This will be the workshop on 5 January.