



**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# **December 2008** **No. 252** **Newsletter**

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## **December Meeting**

**Friends Meeting House,  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley**

### **Our annual Social Evening**

Please bring seasonal food / drink  
(preferably Fairtrade)

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by  
**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.** Contact details inside front cover.

***Don't forget – December's meeting is our annual social event***

**Diary dates:**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tues)**

**Bromley FoE's December meeting** – Our annual social evening. Please bring seasonal food and / or drink, preferably Fairtrade

**December 6<sup>th</sup> (Sat)**

**Annual Climate Change march.** Start at Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park at 12noon to march on Parliament. Our group will meet at 11.45am on the island (approach via underpass) with the large memorial arch.

**January 6<sup>th</sup> (Tues)**

**Bromley FoE's January meeting – our AGM** plus speaker Mike Greenough's different view about renewable energy. Is it up to the task?

**Time to be merry (i.e. our December meeting)**

This December we shall again have a social evening – no speaker, just a chance for the group to meet up and chat. Also, we invite members to tell a joke, read a poem, sing or play an instrument (three minutes per person maximum, please!). Please advise Sheila or Ann if you wish to give a bravura performance!

We would welcome contributions of seasonal food and drink, preferably Fairtrade. Note that hall rules prohibit alcohol – but there will still be Sheila's excellent punch!

**Action please, for 2009 (i.e. our January meeting / AGM)**

The strength of any FoE group is in the actions of its members. One of our aims for 2009 is to be more active in supporting the many campaigns being fought by National FoE. To do that we need more campaigners to be appointed at our AGM in January and also to fill one or two vacancies such as press officer.

None of these tasks need to be onerous and nor is experience necessary – there is detailed information available. Nor need they be time-consuming – as ever in FoE you give only what you can; there is no pressure to do more. And you will find them stimulating and be proud you are making a contribution.

Please volunteer!

**Next Newsletter - copy details:**

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.**

**by post** to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS

**by phone** to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: [johnstreet@gn.apc.org](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reason

## November meeting report – by Anne Clark

We were very pleased to have Darren Johnson, Green Party Member of the London Assembly, visit us again. "How Green is Mayor Boris" was the theme, but we were reminded of the achievements over the last 8 years.

There had been a vast bus improvement programme due largely to money from the congestion charge, which had proved successful lessening traffic at first, in the very centre of London. Darren had disagreed with new road building expansion & the extra runway at Heathrow. £21mn was not enough to deal with cycle lanes but, with the Greens' encouragement, had been increased to £63mn. The Green party had also offered much advice on recycling, cleaner vehicles, & an extra 25 pounds congestion charge on "gas guzzlers". Mayor Livingstone supported the Heathrow expansion but changed his mind later.

Since Boris has been mayor he is being encouraged to keep to the 6% reduction in CO2, but some matters under review are likely to be scrapped - even climate change & housing policies. A reduction in council tax was called for and he questioned certain Green incentives, all to be seen in a Jan/Feb budget.

Green party members had far less influence over mayor Boris than over Ken Livingstone. He is proposing a new airport in the Thames estuary and expansion of London City airport, when there is the channel tunnel and Crossrail. The London Assembly has a good international reputation to share ideas but Boris has been dropped from the present Climate Change panel

internationally. There is a 2012 commitment in overall planning regarding London's back gardens, trees etc. with some positive initiatives & though the mayor has power over local councils for large applications, heated arguments over green space issues have ensued.

Transport: A 'bike hire scheme is proposed (as in Paris) for London & keeping the budget up for cycling. The mayor has scrapped the extra congestion charge for "gas guzzlers" and maybe the Western extension link. He wants to allow motor cyclists in bus lanes and rephase traffic lights but Darren wondered if this was cyclist or pedestrian friendly as there had been no consultation.

Transport for London is short of revenue with the pedestrianisation of Parliament Square at risk as is the 100 squares programme. A "low emissions" zone for lorries & coaches has been brought in, as pollution in London has exceeded limits. The Greens have not so much influence on the budget now, but the mayor is under scrutiny from all political parties including the Environment Agency, wildlife trusts, and planning permission will be needed for over-paving garden areas. Old water systems must be renewed. Water use and shortages are to be investigated.

Renewable energy: There is now a good Green Homes Service to advise on insulating & how to reduce CO2 emissions. A report will soon be out from a trial in Kirklees where they are testing how much fuel bills can be cut.  
*/continued on page 5*

## Campaigns information- – Ann Garrett, campaigns co-ordinator

### Renewables Campaign

A big thank you to all who turned up to support the stall on October 25th (about 13 in total) and particularly to Dan for organising signature wall and emailing photos to the press. 150 post cards were signed and there was some excellent local publicity.

It is important now for the follow-up in getting local organisations and businesses to sign the new lot of large post cards and take posters to display. We have till March/09 to make our contacts and/or get friends to pass on the information. Your support will be very welcome.

### US Democrats Green Jobs Plan

It was very heartening to learn that Barack Obama is promising a \$150bn 'Apollo Project' to bring jobs and energy security to the US through a new alternative energy economy. It will be his top priority, and could be vital in influencing the rest of the world.

The project would involve creating 5 million new jobs, and expanding renewable energy which should supply a tenth of America's electricity within four years. Other aims include insulating a million homes in a year and to put a million rechargeable 'plug in hybrid cars' on the road by 2015. Investment in clean engine technology is something we certainly need to pursue in this country and links into the EU Renewables Directive.

### Mini Nuclear Power Plants

How do you react to the news that nuclear power plants smaller than a garden shed and able to power 20,000

homes will be on sale in the US within five years?

This is from scientists at Los Alamos, the US laboratory which developed the first atomic bomb. The miniature reactors will be factory-sealed, contain no weapons grade material, have no moving parts and will be nearly impossible to steal because they will be encased in concrete and buried underground.

The US government has licensed the technology to Hyperion, a new Mexican-based company, which says it has taken orders and plan to start mass production within five years. They will cost about £13 million each, and for a community with 10,000 households that is a very affordable \$250 per home according to Hyperion.

The reactors will be delivered on the back of a lorry. How about it folks - Hyperion could become a multi-national local nuclear energy supplier! Perhaps this could be part of an interesting discussion at next meeting.

### Pick up the challenge!

The threat to food from biofuels, GM pressures and the need to focus on the true cost of keeping livestock will be an important issue that FoE will campaign on in 2009. National FoE will be providing the ammunition on the subject but we need someone to keep the group aware of the campaign.

An interesting subject that affects us all! If you would like to discuss getting involved – devoting however much or however little time you have to spare – then please talk to Ann, Sheila or Ray.

## November meeting report, *continued* + Climate March, December 6<sup>th</sup>

### November report (*cont'd from page 3*)

Tougher guidelines are to be implemented with the loss of so many of London's street trees with Boris promising 10,000 new ones.

Plastic recycling is hopeful with a new high-tech, all plastic sorting plant in Dagenham. Its success could collect up all rubbish plastics eventually. Darren ended by saying he would continue to do his best -- having an influential role on the environment.

Questions included 'garden grabbing' by developers, the Green Belt, an amnesty on illegal immigrants, & tightening controls on brown site land. If the new mayor is all for allotments, why are they building on so many? Schools must continue to be encouraged to recycle, and more recycling of grey water and cooking oil. Roof gardens are also being praised.

After the break, we celebrated the Climate Change Bill being passed. Now aviation & shipping emissions must be targeted with 80% CO2 reduction to be aimed for. There could be a development off Blackbrook Lane on Green Belt land, and another application for a hotel and hanger at Biggin Hill airport had been received. Mention of a possible visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology next year ended the evening.

**Green Energy for Schools: (John and Sue Bocock)** - The Co-op is investing another million pounds in its Green Energy for Schools Scheme. This is for fitting £20,000 worth of Solar Panels on school roofs. Use of solar panels can act as a powerful demonstration to pupils, teachers and the local community of solutions available to tackle climate change. / *continued on page 9*

### Climate March, December 6<sup>th</sup>

This year's national climate change march on Saturday December 6 (see page two for more details) goes to Parliament Square to demand that Government acts on vital aspects of climate. Speakers will include Nick Clegg, leader of the Lib Dem Party, Michael Meacher MP, former environment minister, Caroline Lucas, leader of the Green Party and journalist George Monbiot.

Coachloads of environmental groups from all over the country will meet up at 12 noon to start the march from Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park. There will also be music -- and hundreds of banners, including that of Bromley FoE. In past years the march has attracted several thousand people. It's a fun atmosphere.

The March on Parliament has four main themes:

- 1. NO** to a third runway at Heathrow and to aviation expansion/
  - 2. NO** new coal-fired power stations as planned at Kingsnorth on the Medway.
  - 3. NO** to the expansion of aggro fuels because of their negative impact on forests, the climate and world food supplies,
  - 4. YES** to a renewable energy revolution and green jobs.
- Join the march!** Next year may be too late!

## Renewables Day of Action, from Dan Sloan

Here's the text of the press release issued after the day of action on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bromley Shoppers Join the Energy Revolution**

Bromley Friends of the Earth were out in force on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October asking shoppers in Bromley High Street to support them in trying to stop the Government from wriggling out of its commitment to delivering 15% of our energy from renewable sources by the year 2020.

Members of the public were being asked to send a postcard to their MP, asking them to write to Gordon Brown urging him to keep his promise. We need to build a home grown UK energy industry that will help us avoid disastrous climate change while generating billions of pounds worth of business, hundreds of thousands of

jobs and a clean, secure energy supply for the UK.

The Government has been pushing for get-out clauses in the European agreement. Ideas have included, for example, allowing countries to count investment in renewable energy projects overseas towards their national targets, despite these projects having no impact on our own domestic emissions. Another idea has been to give credit for coal power stations which demonstrate capture and storage of carbon dioxide emissions underground – a technology which is unproven on a commercial scale

Bromley Friends of the Earth were also asking the shoppers to sign their "Graffiti Wall" petition, which will also be sent to parliament to support the postcard campaign.



## Climate Change Bill – Turning Up the Heat

**This appeared as an editorial in The Guardian on October 29<sup>th</sup> and is © The Guardian.**

A revolution in slow motion, the climate change bill has been two years in the making. In 2006 Friends of the Earth began a campaign, which was picked up first by the Conservatives and soon after by the government, for a law committing Britain to a sharp cut in greenhouse gas emissions. Yesterday evening the bill finished its Commons stages. It was a radical moment, unmatched anywhere else in the world, the drama only slightly diminished by the threadbare debate that preceded it.

With the law comes a new reality. Parliament has set demanding targets and deserves congratulation for that. But it has barely begun the task of finding a way to meet them. All the laws in the world will not stop carbon levels soaring to dangerous levels if they do not lead to policy action. The long passage of the bill has been something of a placebo, giving the impression of progress without, so far, producing much in reality.

The new climate change secretary, Ed Miliband (whose brother David originally gave the bill government backing) has been admirably ambitious, accepting that aviation and shipping emissions should, in some form, be included in overall reduction targets and raising the proposed cut in greenhouse gases by 2050 from 60% to 80%. He now has to show that these impressive goals can be something more than legislative fantasy.

The low-carbon future always seems to begin tomorrow. If the law works as it should, governments will have no option other than to get it under way today. It should be a straitjacket, binding departments into policies they would not otherwise follow: no new third runway at Heathrow, and no new coal power station at Kingsnorth.

But the shame of busting five-yearly carbon budgets may turn out to be much smaller than the political pain caused by enforcing emissions reductions. The call from both main parties for lower petrol prices is just a small hint of contradictions to come.

In the meantime, the task of mitigating climate change is getting harder. Yesterday's Living Planet report from WWF International warned that human demands on the planet's resources have doubled in 45 years, and that 75% of people live in countries that demand more resources than they can provide.

The new Garnaut report from Australia warns that emissions are running away, increasing by 3% a year to 2030, making a mockery of British targets. Some scientists are close to panic: a recent collection of essays from the Royal Society suggested targets will never be met, and that the world should attempt "geoscale" interventions instead, such as dimming the sun. That sounds like fantasy. The better alternative is to make the climate change law work.

## Transport information - Ray Watson, transport campaigner

When London mayor Boris Johnson chose Bromley for his first People's Question Time since his election six months ago he knew he would be among friends – well, mostly.

On behalf of Bromley FoE I asked him a question: Given his approval for a huge increase in flights from London City Airport and his support for an extra airport for London in the Thames estuary, do Bromley residents have anything to fear from you regarding the expansion of Biggin Hill Airport? His immediate reply was: 'No, no, no'.

That may seem very satisfactory because it was on the record, witnessed by a 600 audience and broadcast by a radio station. Except that here we are dealing with a politician.

Later in the proceedings Boris was challenged by Crystal Palace residents about a scheme to build houses on parkland, something he opposed in his election address. His response was that he would not be interfering in planning applications – that was down to local councils.

So, as Bromley Council has the authority to approve planning applications from the airport, and while the mayor refuses to use his powers to get involved, just how much is his promise worth, especially in the knowledge that the council is sympathetic to the airport's expansion plans? Not a lot is my guess.

### **Hotel plan re-emerges**

Meanwhile, the airport is continuing its growth – for example, more hangars –

by sometimes using its ability to avoid getting planning permission by using special Permitted Development rules available to airport that restrict the council's powers to refuse permission. But one such plan that will have to be approved fully by the council is a forthcoming application to build a hotel.

Twice such a plan has been turned down by Bromley and, on appeal, by the government. While the council argued against it merely on grounds of poor design, government ministers ruled against by pointing out that planning guidance demanded that such a hotel should be viable based on custom from aviation activities alone and not from outside sources. Why the council did not use this powerful argument still baffles residents.

And lurking behind all this is the fear that if the hotel fails to get sufficient business the airport will use that as an excuse to demand that the council removes restrictions and allows it to take more flights.

### **Success for rail**

While cars and airplanes gather the headlines when there is talk of congestion and the need to build more roads and airports, rail remains the forgotten Cinderella of transport. Yet last year the rail system turned in 30 billion passenger miles, a record for peacetime. This beats the 1946 post-war figure of 29 billion which was helped by the rail network being a third larger than today (until Dr Beeching swung his axe in the Sixties).

*/continued on next page*

## Transport info – *continued* + Mayor's Question Time in Bromley

### Transport info (*continued*)

It also flies in the face of there being more congestion and of higher fares, some of which have exceeded inflation and sometimes have been pushed up to extraordinary levels to deter passengers from using the most popular trains. Compare that with the fact that the real cost of motoring has fallen 10 percent in the last decade.

With roads becoming evermore congested travellers will inevitably turn more to rail. The pity is that virtually no additional track is planned and most rail development money is going on first aid schemes to extend platforms and build more coaches. The forecast is that demand will outstrip the additional capacity that these improvements will bring.

High-speed services are needed if we are to get people out of their cars or off emission-belching short-haul flights. Surely, in this fast-moving age we should be able to link London with Glasgow in three hours and with Paris in five?

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### Green Energy for Schools

(*continued from page 5*)

We have nominated our local primary school, Raglan, which is already an eco-school and has achieved so much in raising awareness of environmental issues. We will know by February 2009 whether our bid has been successful or not. Keep your fingers crossed!

(St. George's Primary School Bickley was successful in the first round and has several solar panels on its roof.)

### Mayor's Question Time

When London's Mayor Boris Johnson held a people's questions meeting at Bromley Civic Centre recently he revealed some new initiatives, mostly involving transport:

- The Freedom Pass may be extended to 24 hours
- Bus and tube fares in the middle of the day may be reduced
- Bromley is to get two more transport safety teams, one based in central Bromley and the other at Crystal Palace.
- The Thames bridge scheme at Thamesmead has been dropped. - a project opposed by Bromley FoE.
- The mayor is considering a contra-flow system for Blackwall Tunnel
- He wants unused spaces to be taken over by his office to encourage allotments and beautification of the capital
- He refused to get involved in the row over the London Development Agency plan to build homes on Crystal Palace Park, which is metropolitan open space land, saying it was for Bromley Council to decide.

The audience were asked to vote on two questions:

1. Did they favour road pricing? 71% voted against.
2. Should the mayor use his powers to stop more supermarkets being built? The vote was 58% in favour, 41% against.

## Bromley's Area Action Plan consultation process

A new draft of Bromley's Area Action Plan for Bromley Town Centre has just been published.

Bromley Council are asking for comments on the Area Action Plan with a deadline of February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **This is what the Council's press release said:**

Last year we asked for comments on our ideas to rejuvenate Bromley town, the borough's major retail, leisure and employment centre. As significant changes emerged from that consultation, we have now amended our draft Area Action Plan and are about to begin another round of consultation. Once adopted, the AAP will guide the way future planning applications are judged over the next fifteen years.

Julian Benington, executive councillor for local economy said: "We believe the AAP will help to create a more attractive and successful town by ensuring a balance of commercial, residential, leisure and community facilities, reinforcing its status as one of London's main centres. However, this Plan is not just about buildings, it is about people. Our aim is to bring the greatest possible benefits to the community, improving the quality of life, employment opportunities and access to facilities for our residents and businesses."

From 17 November, copies of a summary leaflet will be widely distributed throughout the town, to residents, businesses and visitors, and

sent to those who have previously registered interest.

Copies will be available in all our libraries and council enquiry points, where the full draft AAP document and a sustainability appraisal will also be available to view.

### **Changes to the previous draft of the Area Action Plan**

The main changes are increases in the number of "dwellings" to be permitted on some of the opportunity sites, e.g.

Site A – Bromley North Station – increase in number of residential units from 250 to 400 and the timescale for this has been reduced from 10-15 years to 0-10 years

Site D – Hill car park – site deleted

Site E – Pavilion leisure centre – timescale has been lengthened from 0-5 years to 10-15

Sites G & H – West side of High Street (from Churchill Theatre to Oxfam) – merged into one site and an increase in the number of residential units from 500 to 1,200 units

Site J – Bromley South station – deletion of mixed use development including 500 residential units

Site K – Westmoreland Road Car Park – increase in the number of residential units from 100 to around 280, with the possibility of even more as it's so close to Bromley South station.

## Site B, Tweedy Road, Bromley – Broomleigh to appeal

Broomleigh have appealed against refusal of planning permission for “3 part three/four storey and 1 five storey linked blocks comprising 72 units consisting of 18 studio flats as part of a foyer scheme for young adults, 14 one bedroom, 56 two bedroom and 2 three bedroom flats, semi-basement parking for 34 car with access from Gordon Way.”

### **Bromley Council’s reasons for refusal were:**

- 1 The proposal represents an overdevelopment of the site lacking in landscaping and with buildings of inappropriate design, excessive bulk and size, out of character in the street scene and contrary to Policies H7 and BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan.
- 2 The proposal by reason of its mass, size and siting would be harmful to the adjacent conservation area and the listed buildings of Bromley and Shepperds College contrary to Policy BE13 of the Unitary Development Plan.
- 3 The proposal would be harmful to the amenities of the occupiers of Bromley and Shepperds Colleges by reason of visual impact and overlooking and loss of privacy contrary to Policies H7 and BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan.
- 4 The proposal would not respect the amenities of the future occupants of the development thereby contrary to Policy BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan.
- 5 The proposal would not provide adequate parking spaces contrary to Policy T3 of the Unitary Development Plan.

The appeal will be dealt with by written representations from the appellant (Broomleigh) and Bromley Council and not by a public hearing. Previous comments (i.e. objections) will be available to the planning inspector; additional comments need to reach the planning inspector by December 16<sup>th</sup>.

If the decision goes against the Council, it is possible for there to be an appeal to the secretary of state, but this is an expensive process and the Council might well decide that it's not the best use of public money.

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### **It takes all sorts ---**

Odd things happen when you are out and about with Bromley FoE.

At the High Street demo in October it was pleasant -- and unusual -- to hear a lady say: ‘And thank you for standing out in the cold to help the environment’. Not so pleasant was when a thickly-set, shaven-haired man in a black shirt pushed his face close to one of the group and snarled: ‘You Nimbys. People have got to live somewhere etc etc’

The saddest refusal to sign our protest card was by a lady who said: ‘I can’t sign because my husband already has’. And a surprise came at the Petts Wood speech by CND’s Bruce Kent. A little grey-haired lady from Sevenoaks came up to our stall and handed over a £5 note, saying: ‘Well done!’

## FoE's Change Your World – FoE's Legal Eagles

Three lawyers work from Friends of the Earth's Underwood Street office. They help local groups, individuals and communities stamp out environmental injustice, and also support friends of the Earth's campaigns. Lawyer Gita Parihar tells us more.

### **What do you do?**

We advise campaign teams on legal issues, provide them with legal support and bring cases on behalf of Friends of the Earth to support campaigns. Friends of the Earth is taken seriously because we are prepared to take the Government and other public authorities to court to hold them accountable for their actions in the areas on which we campaign.

We also run the Rights & Justice Centre, through which we bring cases on behalf of individuals and community groups faced with environmental problems. These relate to Friends of the Earth's campaign aims; raise wider issues around environmental law; or are brought on behalf of people who face a disproportionately high level of environmental problems but have difficulties in accessing legal advice.

### **How does your work support Friends of the Earth's vision?**

Friends of the Earth has a vision of a thriving planet and a good life for everyone, now and for the future. Often poorer communities are particularly affected by pollution or other environmental damage — and find it hardest to challenge it. We are specifically working with these groups, taking cases of environmental injustice to court. We help them challenge bad decisions by the Government and

other public authorities, and campaign for better environmental rights for everyone.

### **Tell us more about the fuel poverty case?**

With rising fuel prices, fuel poverty is rapidly becoming a national disaster - 5 million households in England won't be able to afford to heat their homes properly this winter. Truly energy efficient homes that are easy to heat and keep warm are the solution to the fuel poverty crisis, but the Government has never had a proper strategic plan to make this happen.

Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged are taking the Government to court because it has failed to meet a legal commitment to eradicate fuel poverty - an obligation that we campaigned for seven years ago. We now want to make sure it is enforced in practice.

### **What role will you play in this case?**

We got permission to take the case to a full hearing, despite Government objections, and the hearing takes place this October. We will act for and work with Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged campaigners to make sure we have the strongest possible legal arguments, evidence and strategy.

### **How can local group members contact you?**

Local groups who would like environmental legal advice can call our free advice line which operates between 6.30-8.30pm on Wednesday evenings on 0808 801 0405.

## FoE's CYW – Campaign Actions

### **Biodiversity - biofuels target vote approaches**

Over 100 local groups have spent their summer campaigning against the European Union's proposed target that biofuels should make up 10 percent of road fuels by 2020. Local groups have raised public awareness that biofuels are a false solution to climate change and taken that message to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) through a postcard action.

Several MEPs have fed back that this issue rocketed up their agenda once they realised the extent of public feeling. Some groups have arranged photo opportunities to hand over signed postcards before the vote takes place this October in the European Parliament.

### **Biodiversity - GM debate re-ignited**

The biotech industry has been pushing hard to present genetically-modified (GM) crops as the solution to the food crisis and it looks like the Government might be falling for the hype.

But GM crops will not feed the world's poor - no GM crops are proven to increase crop yields or resist droughts and floods. Big business is using them to seize further control of the food chain and causing real problems for farmers the world over.

We're working with Friends of the Earth Africa. Its co-ordinator Nnimmo Bassey said, "Prince Charles' comments should be a wake-up call to remind those who are ravaging our environments that they will one day be called to account."

### **Biodiversity - Stop Europe's unfair trade deals**

The EU is still pushing ahead with 'Economic Partnership Agreements' (EPAs) with Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. These bilateral trade deals will open up the markets in those regions to EU goods, services and investment.

Opening up these markets could damage livelihoods, jobs and the environment. And now, new FoE research also suggests that EPAs may have severe impacts for forests and biodiversity in Africa, and for communities who rely on them for their survival.

We are calling for the EU to adopt a new approach to international trade which protects the environment and helps developing countries tackle poverty.

### **Climate change - home grown renewable energy**

From wind, waves and tides to sun and geothermal, the UK's energy resources are vast and untapped. Exploiting these would help cut down our carbon emissions and improve our energy security. Along with improvements in energy efficiency, renewable energy could shrink our carbon footprint and create jobs and thriving green industries in the UK.

However, to date, we get less than 2 per cent of our energy from renewable sources. An EU law under discussion could improve this, but the UK has been proposing loopholes that could prevent an energy revolution here and send renewable energy developers elsewhere.

## CAAT – Help us end the Uncivil Service

### Help us end the uncivil service

We are calling on UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), the Government unit that promotes UK exports, to end its support for the arms industry. Until April 2008, UKTI had existed primarily to support and promote the interests of civil business. However, at that point the Government finally responded to public pressure by closing DESO, its arms sales unit.

Now, 200 of its civil servants have a remit to promote military sales, using taxpayers' money to maximise the profits of international arms companies, with little regard for the devastating global consequences of their work.

UKTI now employs as many civil servants to promote arms sales as it does for all of the remaining sectors combined!

Not only is this a disproportionate use of public money, it highlights the on-going precedence given to the arms industry by the Government at a time when investment in alternative technologies is desperately needed to address pressing environmental issues. These issues are a real threat to global security, but relatively ignored by the Government whilst they bow to the pressure exerted by arms industry lobbyists.

By continuing to offer such unquestioning support to the arms industry, UKTI is helping to sustain a dangerous and corrupt trade. UKTI's work supports:

- The sale of arms to countries involved in conflict, when it has long been established that the majority of victims are civilians.
- The export of arms to repressive regimes, including to countries which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office deems to have a 'concerning' record on human rights.
- An industry known for its secrecy and corruption, led by companies such as BAE Systems, which in the last year has had seven separate deals under investigation.

CAAT is calling for an end to the uncivil service. We are starting our campaign by sending the Chief Executive of UKTI a clear message that the work it carries out on behalf of the arms industry is unacceptable.

The Government must begin to recognise that public opinion is against its disproportionate support of the arms industry. The decision in July 2007 to close DESO, after a long running campaign led by CAAT, removed a direct route to government from which arms industry leaders had previously benefited. The heads of top arms companies such as BAE and Rolls Royce voiced their outrage at the decision, indicating how dependent they are on government support to sustain their deadly trade.

The launch of UKTI: Armed and Dangerous marks the next step in CAAT's campaign to end government support for the arms trade and we need your help!

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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vacant

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#### Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

#### Trade Justice / FairTrade

Liam Padwick

*email – liam.padwick1@ntlworld.com*

#### Real Food:

Diana Hurd 020-8402-7586

#### Waste (Recycling):

Debbie Witherick 01689-858748

*email -*

*deborah.witherick@btinternet.com*

#### Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352

*tamaragalloway@yahoo.com*

#### Bromley FoE web site:

[www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)

Peter Gandolfi

*famgando@hotmail.com*

### Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

### Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson on the number shown above.

### Disclaimer

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

**Reuser Column**  
**Don't throw It away - Reuse It!**

If you have any items to sell, or anything that you require, please send details to the Editor. Items will be displayed for three months, the number in brackets after an item indicating for how long it has appeared. Could you please contact us if an item has been sold/obtained, so that it can be removed from the newsletter.

Any donations to Bromley FoE generated from this column gratefully received!

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**Non-members' Section**

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth, BFoE, then hello. We are an active local group affiliated to national Friends of the Earth concerned with promoting the understanding of environmental issues. We also campaign on these issues at a local, national and international level.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please contact either of our co-ordinators, Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley (that's towards the bottom of the High Street and on the right going south). If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

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**Membership Application/Renewal\* Form** (\*please delete as appropriate.)

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email [raywatson@iclway.co.uk](mailto:raywatson@iclway.co.uk).

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my £8 annual subscription. I also enclose a donation (optional) of ..... To help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

Do you have any hobbies or interests that may be of use to the group?

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