

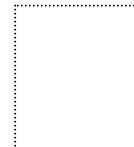


**Friends of
the Earth**

Bromley

December 2012 No. 300 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
email: r.watson865@btinternet.com; website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk



December Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Bromley FoE's 40th Birthday Celebration and Festive Fayre

*Poetry readings from Roisin Robertson and Ann
Garrett; other contributions welcomed*

Tuesday 4th December - 7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER *****

Contact details inside front cover.

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40 years of Bromley FoE – Birthday celebration on December 4th

Diary dates:

Dec 1st (Sat)

Annual Climate Change march: Gather 12noon Grosvenor Square to march to Parliament Square www.campaigncc.org

Dec 4th (Tues)

Bromley FoE's December meeting: It's our 40th birthday celebration plus our annual Social and Festive Fayre

Jan 2nd or 8th

Bromley FoE's January meeting and AGM: Sue Holland, Bromley's Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Officer

Bromley FoE needs new Treasurer - Your help needed!

At the Bromley FoE annual meeting in January we shall need to elect a new Treasurer, following Debbie's decision to relinquish the job she has handled for two years. Can you help? Obviously, the group cannot operate without a treasurer so please give this request serious consideration.

The task involves entering subscription payments, banking cash and listing items of expenditure. The job is much easier now that the work is computerised, using Microsoft Excel. Some treasurer training and help is available from FoE Underwood Street.

If you would like more details, please contact Sheila Brown or Debbie Witherick (see the contacts list at the back of the Newsletter).

Meanwhile, our grateful thanks go to Debbie for the work she has put in, whilst juggling family and work pressures. A job well done!

January meeting and AGM

The Bromley FoE January 2013 meeting falls on a public holiday – the new date and venue have not yet been confirmed. Contact Sheila Brown for more info.

This will also be the group's annual meeting. Thoughts, suggestions, ideas etc for our future activities are welcome. We will also elect officers, including a new treasurer, and our joint co-ordinators Ann and Sheila would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to take on a job and help to run the group.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by *** **SUNDAY 16TH 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.

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

November meeting report, Ray Watson

Craig Bennett, FoE's Director of Policy and Campaigns, used the November meeting to lift our eyes to the challenges of the earth's next four decades – and to the actions that would help win the battle.

His talk, entitled Sustainable Development in a Time of Planetary Emergency, outlined the problems currently faced by the earth, giving as examples familiar ones like climate change and the effect of melting ice caps and rising sea levels.

Scientists, he said, were still of the opinion that in 40 years we could reach a tipping point at which reversing climate change would be impossible. Some areas of concern such as bio-diversity, agricultural use of pesticides and rising sea temperatures were well above levels that had been predicted only a few years ago.

Within that 40 year period, he said, the planet could be hit by the perfect storm – economic breakdown caused by food and water demands that would increase by 50 per cent due to a rising population, together with a similar rise in energy demands. Forty years may seem a distant date, but by then today's five-year-old child would be only 45 years old.

Craig said that we had to get people to recognise that we were solely dependent on the earth's natural resources. He quoted the case of the Chinese who are buying up land outside their borders to feed their increasing population.

Another example was that millions more in third world countries were using their growing affluence to change their diet to include more meat, with the result that much more land was needed to meet that demand.

Water was becoming more and more scarce yet more and more of it was required; it took 23 gallons to produce a pound of lettuce, but 1630 gallons to produce a pound of pork.

What was the path to beating the emergency facing the earth? Craig said it was important to remember that we had had success in the past and could do so again. Forty years ago when FoE was formed people had little awareness of environmental problems. We environmentalists should be proud that we had educated them; most people now recognised the dangers. The need now was to shift thinking on a stage where people became more engaged in problem-solving and policy-making.

He saw this as a route map breaking down all the difficulties we might face by 2050 together with a detailed plan by 2020, with areas of concern listed within smaller target groups under five separate themes: climate and energy; land use and food and water; nature and bio-diversity; economics and resource use; fair and planned transition to ensure that the more needy were not forgotten.

To meet these challenges we needed to look for different ways of solving problems.

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Campaigns

High Street Stalls

An enormous thank you to those who turned up in bitter cold to leaflet for two hours for the Clean British Energy campaign stall on October 27th. The response was really encouraging as it wasn't easy.

It was also good having Rob's wind turbine to attract the public or knock us out as the case might be!

The next Bromley High Street stall will be on March 16th/13. This will be based on the new Make It Better campaign, formally known as 'Greener Products', which will focus on multi-national companies, big chains and their products. There will be letters to give to local supermarkets and other retailers.

Crystal Palace Park Update

Campaigners fighting planning permission for housing on public land in Crystal Palace Park are pleased to be granted a Court of Appeal hearing.

Plans to build luxury apartments on open Metropolitan land were given the go-ahead in 2010, following a public inquiry. Some of our members attended this and we have been involved in supporting the campaign for several years.

The apartments are part of a £68 million master plan for the park but the Crystal Palace Park Association believes that it would set a precedent for sale of parkland across the country.

Ringers Road Development in Bromley

The planning application is now with the Council, but sadly the developers have not listened to our request for a reduction in height or stepping down to take into account the surrounding mainly Victorian residential area. This means that a precedent has now been set for the Ethelbert Road area development. All very disappointing as we spent two sessions with the architects and management staff explaining our views, and also completed feedback forms.

Climate and Energy

Sellafield Nuclear Plant

Concerns over wider risks of the UK's largest and most hazardous site have reached critical when a public spending watchdog said its clean-up plans faced 'considerable uncertainty'. The National Audit Office said there were plans to replace Sellafield's aging nuclear reactor, but the owners won't say how long it will take and what the cost will be. Sellafield stores high and intermediate level radioactive waste - enough to fill 27 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Geothermal Power in Japan

To end this section on a more optimistic note, it has been good to learn that white heat from the geothermal gorge near Yuzawa City in Japan, has attracted developers with plans for a geothermal power plant. This is particularly good news since the nuclear industry is in crisis since the Fukushima disaster.

/continued on pages 9 and 14

Let's end this year with CELEBRATION, *Anne Clark*

From getting as wet as I've ever been at the Queen's Jubilee River Pageant, - even though many a FoE campaign has taken followers home soaked to the skin, to joining in the celebrations of the Olympics and Paralympics. Although not everyone was as enthusiastic as I was, it did point out that public participation, i.e. volunteers & helpers, can get things done.

When I first backed national FoE, not quite 40 years ago, they successfully prevented international trade in endangered species and banned imports of Baleen whale products ('save the whale'), they had returned 1,500 non-returnable bottles to Cadbury/Schweppes HQ to promote re-use, 'acid' rain, ozone layer holes, lead in petrol awareness and so much more over the years.

And we must give OURSELVES a big pat on the back for sustaining LOCAL awareness, successfully campaigning to recycle all those cans at weekends using our home-made can crusher, enthusing the public and starting the ball rolling on paper and glass recycling, growing now to most plastics too. Well done helpers.

Travelling down to Newbury to make that huge line of protest against the bypass cutting through the lovely countryside.

Promoting bicycle riding with "Bike to the Future" in Bromley; litter picking and plant growing in schools; using allotments and growing our own; pushing our local supermarkets to cut down on pesticides in our foods.

Showing our unease at local garden centres at over-use of peat, which won't last forever.; lobbying local garages against Shell's bad practices ; saved Hayes Common from becoming a huge roundabout (slight exaggeration) - the Heathers look lovely!

Bringing to the public's attention deforestation, lack of forethought by some landowners in growing Palm Oil when destroying the Orang-utan's habitat, slave labour, etc.

Appreciation of our world and the gift of all that's in it should be passed on to the next generation hopefully keeping them clear of greed and corruption.

Now, as we live on an island, surely we can develop some sort of clean energy using sun, wind and water. Time is of the essence now – and encourage those Bees !

Anyway, well done Bromley FoE over the years, and we even have a smashing Newsletter now.

CELEBRATE !!!!

November report, *cont'd from page 3*

He declared that the route map was the way forward for FoE's longer-term planetary emergency strategy; in the intermediate term a detailed programme would be drawn up and meanwhile we would concentrate on three major campaigns: clean energy, saving the bee and the new Make It Better campaign that is still under wraps.

Letter sent to local press on Clean British Energy – Ann Garrett

Dear Editor,

Bromley Friends of the Earth members collected signatures on their Clean British Energy campaign cards on Saturday October 27th. The cards are to be sent to David Cameron asking him to switch the Government to more alternative energies for an environmentally improved future. They are concerned that the Big Six energy companies are still making vast profits and that energy bills are increasing all the time, making it tough for people during times of cuts and austerity.

A fairer energy system means securing investment from independent generators as well as small and medium-sized suppliers.

Friends of the Earth and other eco groups want a system that allows community groups, individuals and councils to generate their own Clean British Energy that is low-carbon, sustainable, affordable and which brings benefits to the UK economy.

Ann Garrett (Bromley FoE campaigns co-ordinator)



Backing a loser?

'There is no money' is the cry from politicians -- and then they announce that astronomical sums are being considered to spend on projects like the Thames Estuary airport promoted by mayor Boris Johnson. The figure for constructing road and rail links is said to be a colossal £30billion – and that would come out of the public purse.

At the very same time two events further undermined the project. First, the Chinese Government said they would invest heavily in the Spanish company that owns Heathrow airport, instead of the Boris scheme, which would be a rival. Then, business leaders, who might expected to support the Thames airport, told the mayor it was impractical and might end up as a pricey white elephant. They quoted several cases of out-of-town airports that had failed.

This last move is significant because the Government says that the £50 billion cost of building the airport would be provided by the private sector. That must now be in doubt.

Of course, the ordinary taxpayer must wonder if the private sector would really come up with the money, given its undoubted skill in eventually persuading Government to pay up or suffer in seeing a pet national project fail. He must also wonder if he would see any of the benefits in return for his tax money disappearing into the Treasury to feed grandiose projects.

Also, there was another recent example of how mega-cost transport projects can eat up the money: the

Government said it would pay out billions in compensation to house owners affected by the much-criticised High Speed 2 rail link from the capital to Birmingham.

Down the road...

The parlous state of the European economy is, strangely enough, giving a helping hand to environmentalists pushing governments to meet their carbon reduction targets – fewer cars are being sold, with recent figures showing a fall for a twelfth consecutive month.

Sales in Germany in Sept were down 10.8 per cent, France 18 percent, Italy 25 per cent, Spain a hefty 37 per cent – and Greece by no less than 48 percent. And the UK? The figure was, surprisingly, up four cent.

But do not get too excited. Older cars on the road are generally less efficient when it comes to pumping out the particles.

Pedal power

The austerity gloom has brought another bonus for the environment: sales of eco-bikes have shot up. But what is an eco-bike?

They are cycles that come in all shapes and sizes – commuter machines, small-wheel folding cycles and mountain bikes. They are powered by a battery pack attached to the frame, unlike the petrol-driven mopeds of the Fifties. The rider can speed up a getaway, from traffic lights, for example, by giving the pedals a few pushes.

/continued on page 10

FoE - Ash tree disaster: why politicians must see the wood for the trees

Oliver Hayes of FoE writes: What do ash trees, badgers, buzzards, public forests and bees have in common? Trouble, that's what.

On my "in trouble" scale 1 = caught smoking by your mum, and 10 = Lance Armstrong. And on the green equivalent of this scale badgers, buzzards, public forests and bees have hovered around 9 of late.

There's a common thread to their strife: the Government and its disregard for the natural environment. More detail below.

But there's also a common thread to the solutions they're crying out for: Friends of the Earth campaigns standing up for our environment and the people who rely on it. We're doing it with more urgency than ever - read on to see how you can join the campaign to save our bees.

Ash trees

Let's start with ash trees. I had to go over the numbers several times before they really sank in: almost 80 million trees are threatened. Ash is the third most common tree in the UK - we're talking about the potential transformation of our countryside.

It's a nightmare for the species that rely on ash - and for all of us who love these beautiful trees.

So how has this happened, and what can we do about it?

Government acted far too slowly. As a Friends of the Earth investigation revealed, officials have known about

so-called Ash dieback since 2009 - some suggest even earlier. But because they dithered - if you can call three years' delay a "dither" - the disease is now in wild trees throughout the UK and is predicted to spread uncontrollably over the next decade.

And our investigation showed a fear of upsetting trade deals was at the heart of government inaction. The risk to big money contracts was seen as more important than the risk to our woodland.

But there's something we can all do - right now. A group of experts has developed ashtag - a quick and easy way for people to spot and photograph diseased trees, then send them to the body responsible for our trees and woodland. This simple act will help officials quickly build up a picture of where the disease has reached, and help combat its spread.

Last weekend in the countryside where I grew up I couldn't believe the beauty of the autumn colours. I now live in South London, where the colours range mostly from tarmac black to concrete grey - but kaleidoscope trees light up our cities and parks.

So if you're making the most of the sunny autumn weather, please download the app from www.ashtag.org and help do your bit.

Ray Watson writes: A combination of factors looks like fuelling a hefty increase in food prices.

Drought and floods – whether caused by global warming or not -- are a factor, but the most important is the world's ever-increasing population, meaning that every year it is necessary for farmers to exceed the previous year's production. And that is where climate extremes come into play. America's grain output suffered enormously this year through a widespread drought burning up its mid-west bread basket. The same happened in Russia and the Ukraine, both major exporters.

The result of this is that grain prices have increased so heavily that farmers across the world are having to slaughter millions of animals because they cannot afford to feed them. US farmers are said to have killed so many that the national herd has fallen to the smallest number since 1973.

This is having an effect on market prices: slaughter on such a scale has brought a glut of meat, with the result that prices have fallen to the benefit of the consumer. But next year it is anticipated that the reduced herds will mean a shortage of meat in the markets and thus prices will rise.

Some experts predict a 14 per cent increase in the cost of a basket of foodstuffs in 2013 – something that will not help the Government's hopes of cutting inflation.

Is this another blow struck by climate change?

Judy Palmer writes: The last month has been an interesting one in that the Group registered with Friends of the Earth after reaching agreement with the Council on a site on Tugmutton Common near Orpington, to go ahead with creating one of the national 60 Bee World sites.

Tugmutton Common is next to Locks Bottom (and also is the site of one of the Borough's Green Gyms) and the plot we will be working on to create our Bee World lies sheltered behind a line of trees and a stream.

It is a grassland site and bordered by hedges, two wooded copses and some allotments at its furthest end. The area already has grasses and one or two wildflowers identified and with the inclusion of our finished plot should be a very useful and pretty pathway for bees and other pollinators.

Some of the group have been for a visit to view the plot and decided that we would begin work digging it over and sowing the seeds in early Spring next year.

We will be busy though, so only partial hibernation for us!

Campaigns info, cont'd from page 4

The Japanese government said it will aim to triple renewable energy sources, including geothermal, by 2030. It has set aside \$115 million to pay for geothermal energy surveys. There are challenges, however, as it can take up to 20 years to set up a plant, as it takes time to win the trust

/concluded on page 14

From Biofuelwatch via Greenpeace

I work for Biofuelwatch who have recently worked with Greenpeace head office on biofuels. There is now another threat to the globe's forests - biomass.

You can probably remember the fire at Tilbury a month after it switched from coal to biomass. RWE have submitted plans to burn trees at Tilbury for another 12-15 years. The power station would have shut by 2016 if it had stuck with coal.

Burning biomass creates 50% more carbon emissions than coal from the stack and can create a carbon debt of centuries. Would you be able to promote this alert:
<http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/2012/tilbury-alert/>

If your local group could discuss this campaign to see if you could help us stop it that would be really appreciated.

FoE's Change Your World on the Make It Better campaign

At the beginning of November, we'll be launching our new Make It Better campaign. For the past year we've been investigating the potential environmental and social impacts of household brands. We'll be kicking off the campaign by revealing the findings so far. Becky Slater tells us more.

Our research team have been digging deep into companies' manufacturing processes. We've been trying to trace

products all the way along the supply chain — from raw materials to store. We've been to see environmental and social damage overseas — damage the evidence suggests is linked to everyday items we all know.

We'll be calling for iconic brands — and other companies—to support laws to ensure that all businesses have to reveal the impact of their supply chains. When companies have to report on the human and environmental impacts of their products, it will be easier for them to take steps to protect people and planet.

We need your help to encourage companies to play their part. Visit <http://bit.ly/S27z21> to sign up for our Make It Better Action Pack. We'll post it to you on the day we launch. In just 30 minutes you'll be able to ask companies to help make it better.

Transport, *cont'd from page 7*

While electrically-driven bikes are almost unknown in the UK, they are popular in Europe where there is much more of a cycling culture than in Britain. For instance, 310,000 were sold in Germany last year, a 50 per cent year-on-year increase, while the total for Western Europe was 700,000.

Advantages? No insurance or licence is required if the bike has a maximum speed of 15 mph and weighs less than 40kg, you travel faster with little effort — and you cut carbon emissions .
Disadvantage: they can cost £1000 or more.

The Shorts Page

Bags of promise

A new effort is being launched by environmentalists to wean consumers off using plastic carrier bags, which, it is generally accepted, disfigure the landscape and damage wildlife.

The campaign, backed by CPRE, Keep Britain Tidy and other groups, calls for a charge on plastic bags in England. Ireland has had a similar scheme for over 10 years and Wales introduced one last year, while Northern Ireland joins up in 2013. Scotland is consulting on the issue.

Wales reports that there was a 96 per cent cut in usage after only six months.

While plastic bags do the most damage, it might also be fruitful for Government to investigate the use of unnecessarily large paper bags handed out by fashion retailers and department stores.

Get on your green bike!

FoE is again organising a money-raising Big Green Bike Ride next April, following the success of last year's event. It will cover two days – April 27 and 28 – starting in central London and travelling the 85 miles to the New Forest. Riders can take part for one day or both.

All meals will be provided and tents or log cabins will be available for overnight use.

Riders are asked to organise sponsorship to the value of at least £300 for national FoE funds, but FoE

members can elect to have 20% of that sum go to their local group.

More details from www.foe.co.uk

Food miles and miles

Two surprising – and sobering – figures emerged in a presentation by the Vegetable Society to Biggin Hill Horticultural Society: Britain now imports 95 per cent of its fruit and 50 per cent of its vegetables. The produce comes mostly by road from Spain, Portugal, France and Holland but in addition we all know about avocados from Peru and beans from Kenya.

Add to that the cost of disposing the tonnes of food waste we throw away and you will begin to understand why food miles continue to grow despite the need for Britain to meet carbon reduction targets.

Picture Perfect Energy, from Change Your World

In July, FoE launched a competition to find a photo that captured the potential of renewable energy.

The photos showed renewable energy in beautiful settings; they also told the human stories behind some inspiring schemes.

You can see a gallery of the winning images at <http://bit.ly/OBUSdA>.

You can also find out how to use the photos in your area at www.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/cbe

MARINET – Common Fisheries Policy Reform campaign

Stephen Eades, Co-ordinator, writes:

We have been advancing the **Common Fisheries Policy Reform campaign** since the AGM in September, and members have been asking me where this campaign now stands. We have also been developing a new level of campaigning to be delivered at the international level in order to secure our objectives for the CFP campaign. These objectives are based on the enforcement of marine law, and the new work and objectives are being developed in conjunction with national Friends of the Earth.

In order to inform members both on the CFP campaign and this new international legal campaign, I have appended below a short briefing based on an email which was sent recently for Marinet Steering Group members and representatives. Please circulate this advice to your members, and I would be happy to answer any queries.

Briefing: Marinet CFP and Fisheries Campaign in 2013

Although the CFP reform process is stumbling through its parliamentary procedure (The European Parliament's Fisheries Committee's meetings to consider the draft text of the new draft CFP Basic Regulation keep getting postponed and shunted into the future), we have not been idle. Let me explain where we are and what we are doing.

Firstly, you will know that we are seeking to amend the new CFP Basic Regulation (law) so that it delivers food

security, annual catch quotas based on stock sizes which have first been restored to their maximum levels of abundance (so that they can deliver food security - which means closing some fisheries until stocks are rebuilt) and the use of marine reserves centred on spawning and nursery grounds to enable stocks to be rebuilt.

None of these key policies are in the new draft Basic Regulation at the present time - you may ask, what is? Answer: little has changed, other than a commitment to decentralise fisheries management and a commitment to abolish discards - but both are vaguely defined and still only in a draft text.

Our amendments are being mucked about with by the Parliament's Fisheries Committee - there were over 2,400 amendments tabled so to make things practical for the Committee they are being amalgamated and condensed. Hence, our actual amendments have disappeared! However there will be an opportunity to table them in their original form when the Parliament as a whole - in plenary - considers the new draft CFP Basic Regulation. No date has been set yet, but it will be sometime in the first half of 2013. That is when we will table the amendments, and we may ask you, our members and supporters, to lobby MEPs strongly for them.

However, be under no illusion. CFP reform is failing. Worse, it is being further undermined by a weak definition of Descriptor 3 in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Descriptor 3 defines "good environmental status" for commercial

MARINET news, *continued*

... fish and shellfish stocks, and sets the **legal standard** with which CFP management of fish stocks must conform. If there is a strong MSFD legal standard for Descriptor 3, then that's very good news. However, the reality is that the EU countries are currently conspiring to corrupt it, and adopt a very weak legal standard - see John Stansfield's Blog on this whole CFP business
<http://www.marinet.org.uk/blogs.html>

Secondly, we are planning to engage three Marinet members (Tom Appleby, Clare Regnart and Deborah Wright) on a combined academic and research project which will demonstrate the current illegality that exists in the way the UK government manages fish stocks within UK territorial seas (out to 12 nautical miles), and thus reveal and document the **legal imperative** for urgent reform in UK and EU fisheries management policy and practice.

This work will have strong academic credentials, be properly peer reviewed, and thus be a contribution of significant weight in the arguments for reform of our (UK and EU) fisheries and the rebuilding of fish stocks. This work will also examine wider CFP issues, such as the EU subsidies which support over-fishing.

Thirdly, we are planning a major conference in the UK in early 2013, in conjunction with the FOE Biodiversity Department (Paul de Zylva) and its Biodiversity agenda, in order to secure funding for our CFP legal work, and to take the whole issue of the decline of fisheries and marine ecosystems to the United Nations. The plan is to ask

the United Nations, in conjunction with a worldwide alliance of marine organisations, to start to seriously enforce the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

This is in conjunction with a new principle for marine management which we are pioneering for the planet's oceans: The Principle of Worldwide Marine Protection - see Deborah Wright's statement of this principle on our blog page,
<http://www.marinet.org.uk/blogs.html>

Fourthly, we have produced a **draft of this proposal** for the major conference in early 2013 for consideration by national Friends of the Earth. This follows a discussion and agreement earlier this month between David Levy (Marinet chair) and Paul de Zylva (Head of FOE Biodiversity Team) to advance this proposal as apart of a wider FOE Biodiversity initiative which is aimed, as is our proposal, at the United Nations. Our proposal (the marine component of the larger FOE proposal), is now with Paul de Zylva in a draft form for his consideration and development.

So, we are working strategically. The legal approach offers us the best bet, both at UK and UN levels. The planned conference in 2013 is high level, and will raise the game.

If you have not yet visited our new website, please do so. We would like to know what you think

Prompt Payment code, *Peter Gandolfi*

The Prompt Payment Code (PCC) requires companies to honour current terms and contracts, and settle outstanding bills in a reasonable time.

Seeing a live Parliamentary debate on the PCC campaign I was shocked to find that the future of many Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) is being threatened by the selfish attitude of the “big boys.” The power behind the campaign is Labour MP Debbie Abrahams. She called for a boycott of Sainsbury’s. From what I saw of the debate the cause has all party support.

The current default UK position is that, where no terms are agreed, payment should be made within 30 days. However, according to the latest research by payment organisation Bacs, owners of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are currently waiting an average of 28 days longer than their original payment terms to have invoices settled. Large companies are the worst offenders, accountable for 48% of late payments reported by SMEs, according to the research.

SMEs are failing daily due to late settlement of accounts. The recovery of this country’s economy is dependent on the success of these enterprises. If each SME employed one extra person this would solve the unemployment problem and create a further 1.5 million jobs. The Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, Michael Fallon, has written to all companies listed on the FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 share indices to encourage them to sign up to the Prompt Payment Code saying that the names of companies

which do not sign up will be publicised in the New Year.

Ms Abrahams and several groups – including the Federation of Small Businesses, the Forum of Private Business and the Institute of Credit Management – wrote to the 75 FTSE 100 members that haven’t signed up to the PPC in July. They were hoping to tackle the £36.4bn small and medium-sized companies are owed in outstanding bills, the average outstanding bill being £45,000.

While 10 more companies signed the PPC – including Serco, Vodafone and Reckitt Benckiser – 60 did not respond, four said they would not sign the code and one sent a “holding letter” that was not followed up. Sainsbury’s, SABMiller, Rio Tinto and GKN all refused to join the code.

Sainsbury’s recently contacted their non food suppliers to inform them that payment will be settled in 75 days rather than the 30 originally specified. I have written to the Chairman of Sainsbury’s expressing my distaste of these tactics saying that I will not be shopping there in future and will be asking my friends and acquaintances to join me.

Campaigns info, *concluded*

and co-operation of local people - a bit like the wind turbine difficulties in some of the UK’s country areas. Getting people to understand and accept the urgency of the impact of climate change is the real dilemma.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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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 or Sheila Brown on the numbers 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!

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.

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 r.watson865@btinternet.com.

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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