



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**

**December 2020**

No 395

**Our Next Meeting**

**First Ever Lockdown  
Social!**

*Festive fun including a quiz*

Attendees are invited to:

Wear a Christmas jumper  
and/or wear a seasonal hat made  
from recyclables

**Virtual meeting**

Due to Coronavirus and following advice from Friends of the Earth, our  
December meeting will be a virtual one. See page 2 for full details.

Usually 7.30pm The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Everyone always welcome

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**NEWSLETTER**

## December Meeting Participation

If you would like to be involved in the December Monthly Meeting, then it will be a virtual Zoom meeting once more. Please let us know if you'd like to attend by either emailing [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or leaving a message on 020 8289 1503, and we will then send you details of how to join in, nearer the time.

You can either join using your computer (with video or without) or on a smart phone. Usually a phone number to dial in from any phone is issued with this type of meeting, but due to high demand at the moment, this function has been disabled.

Specific meeting content details are below. The first half will be our speaker and the second half will be for BFoE business.

*If you can't attend this meeting, or just find yourself with some spare time, perhaps we can encourage you to become 'Armchair Activists'. Do your own bit of campaigning, perhaps inspired by something in our newsletters, and let us know what response you get.*

### Diary Dates

**Please note that due to the Coronavirus, many events have had to be cancelled**

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec (Tues)** BFoE Monthly Meeting 7.30pm. OUR FIRST EVER LOCKDOWN SEASONAL SOCIAL! This time our evening of Festive Fun will be from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. You are not restricted to non-alcoholic punch this year! As we are not constrained by the rules of the Meeting House, you can have a tittle., if that's your thing. Afraid it's "bring your own", as with the Festive Food. It's also 'get out that Christmas Jumper' time and you are invited to make a Christmas hat from recycled materials. Maybe we can vote for the best one! And there will be a seasonal quiz.

**5<sup>th</sup> Jan (Tues)** BFoE Monthly Meeting 7.30pm. It will be our AGM when we approve the accounts, report on the previous year and confirm campaigns and posts held for the coming year. Speaker also to be announced.

This is correct at the time of going to press but obviously will be updated in the next monthly newsletter. If you need any further information on any events in the meantime, you can email us on [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)

**If any of the items in this newsletter make you angry, delight you, enthuse you or cause you any emotion other than apathy, then please jot down a line or two and send it into the newsletter.**

**Note that there are several internet links in this newsletter which may be impractical to type into a browser. If you would like access to any of them then please let us know and we will sent you an electronic copy of the newsletter where you can just click on the links.**

## November Monthly Meeting Report

Peter Gandolfi

We had a talk by Frank Kelly, Director of the environmental group at Imperial College London.

Why do we accept dirty air when this is shown to shorten life expectancy?

The major sources of pollution are:

Power Generation - coal, diesel, biomass and gas.

Road Traffic - petrol and diesel.

Shipping, Metal Industry, Wildfires and Desert Dust episodes.

Shipping is one of the most polluting forms of transport as a very dirty fuel is used.

20th Century London was based on coal and had severe pollution episodes such as the great London smog on September 1952. A graph showed that there were up to 1000 deaths a day, with 12,000 extra deaths over the whole period.

In 1956 the clean air act banned the burning of coal inside the city limits and lead to a great decrease in smoke and sulphur dioxide.

There has been a dramatic increase in car use over the years, resulting in new pollutants Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Particulates from exhaust emissions.

These 2.5 micro sized particles are exceedingly small, even on the scale of a human hair 60 microns across, 30 could fit across the width of a hair.

60% of NO<sub>2</sub> is produced by road transport.

These emissions can have a short term effect, usually on those with underlying conditions, or more serious long term effects built up over decades of breathing bad air.

Measuring equipment is now portable enough to measure in the real world, and a comparison was shown of a walk through Hyde Park, compared with a walk through Oxford street, which showed a significant decrease in lung function when walking along Oxford Street.

Work in the US has suggested that children living near roads develop smaller lungs than those further away from roads. Pollution can affect all our organs and can have a lifelong impact.

In urban areas, traffic is the main source

### Next Newsletter Copy

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views, articles for sale will all be considered for publication. Please send them to the editor via one of the methods below to arrive not later than **midnight Friday 18th December**

**Post:** 17 Everard Avenue, Hayes, Kent BR2 7LR

**Email:** Robert.clark9@btinternet.com (please write 'Newsletter' in the subject line)

**Disclaimer:** Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth.

of modern air pollution – tiny particles and Nitrogen dioxide. Two thirds of car’s particulate pollution is from sources such as brakes and tyres.

There is no such thing as a zero emission vehicle.

There was time for a few questions at the end. These included:

Q - What can one do to decrease pollution around schools?

A - Get schools to understand what it does to them. Restrict traffic, road blocks etc.

Q - Are levels of Cadmium in the air measured?

A - Yes, there are a few roadside devices that measure the levels of all airborne metals.

Q - How effective are hedgerows in removing pollution?

A - Much better than other forms of barriers. Dense hedges can give a 50% reduction.

Q - What was the abbreviation NRMM on one of the charts?

A - NRMM stands for Non Road Mobile Machinery such as diggers and cranes which emit a sizable contribution to overall pollution levels.

## Second Half

Peter Gandolfi

Judy reported that the Bromley Environmental Alliance now has a name - **Bromley Environment Network (BEN)**. An Organogram was shown displaying the structure of the organisation, now consisting of 12 local groups. Its structure was discussed and Judy asked for comments by email.

Sheila had taken part in a London Co-

ordinators Zoom meeting with co-ordinators from 12 other group. (See report page 12.)

Metro mayor meeting report – Ann had participated in a Zoom FoE meeting re the 2021 Metro Mayor Elections, which had been a good opportunity to talk to others. Points discussed included: Climate action plan, a need for rethinking and making all accountable, and to ensure that those elected keep to their pledges.

Plastics – Annette said that the national campaign was now completed, and she requested sustainable Christmas ideas for the newsletter.

Social Media update – Emmanuelle reported that notices have been put up in Bromley about switching off engines to limit pollution, and our Facebook account has been updated appropriately.

Local planning updates – Tamara pointed out that the government was about to close its consultation on its proposals for the planning system, that could dramatically weaken environmental protections, and that it was the last chance for local residents to comment.

## Twenty Twenty

20:20 vision is held up as an ideal, something nearing perfection. What were we expecting last year as we neared the year 2020? It was seen in with the usual celebratory gatherings and parties and crowds watching fireworks, never dreaming that twelve

months on, these happenings would be a distant dream. Then the terms 'lockdown', 'furlough', 'PPE', 'social distancing', 'bubble', and 'R number' had not entered our vocabulary. Little did we think that a year on we'd be wearing face masks in public, be nervous of using public transport, not be frequenting theatres, cinemas, sports events, clubs or even getting together in each other's homes or meeting in a café or restaurant. Sadly, lovely initiatives like shared books in station waiting rooms have ceased. Strangers are given a wide berth when we meet on the footpath, but often accompanied by a friendly greeting.

There were some positives, particularly in the early days; an enhanced sense of community as we all clapped for the NHS, the wonderful peace and quiet with almost no traffic, being able to walk along the middle of the road, the sky empty of planes, families out together for walks and bike rides and people's greater awareness and appreciation of nature. Many people came forward to help vulnerable neighbours. But negatives have crept in: businesses closing, redundancies, a proliferation of disposable plastics from PPE and masks, millions of pairs of disposable gloves used and discarded by the NHS each day. And the traffic has returned. No longer can we walk in the middle of the road.

The worst thing is maybe the uncertainty. Where is it all going? We feel we no longer have control over our lives. And nobody is asking, "What are you doing for Christmas this year?" because nobody knows.

## **Miller's Mutterings**

Chris Miller - Court Lodge Farm

No fog, yet more rain. Up until 27th October, we have had 130 ml of rain during the month, about the same as last year, so we are grateful that we had the seed ready to plant otherwise we might be in the same position as last year. Peter was out spraying for aphids and found that the ground wasn't too soft, one of the benefits of not ploughing. All the crops have germinated well, albeit a bit messy from weeds but we will sort that out in the spring if necessary. Peter has been busy digging a 2ft trench around one side of the big black barn to lay a drainage channel, because water was getting into the barn. As the ground slopes away it was quite a job to get the drainage pipe levels correct, but he achieved it.

You may have seen on Countryfile about oil seed rape. The ban on neonicotinoids has allowed the flea beetle to become a major pest in all brassica crops, of which oil seed rape is one. This is also going to have an effect going forward on our ability to supply sufficient oil for bio fuel. Various farming methods are being trialled ie companion planting, the use of sewage sludge and leaving long straw stubble. You can make bio fuel from other crops but will there be enough to go round?

I spoke to Dave Gunn recently who cuts and clears the Chelsfield Green and he was saying that he normally makes about 35 bales off that field but due to the weather only made 3 bales. Perhaps that is why the wild flowers were not so

abundant this year.

We have had very large flocks of Canada and Greylag geese coming in the morning, grazing, quite a sight. Lots of sightings of buzzards and occasionally a kite. The pied wagtails are still around the yard and garden, you can't mistake that walk with any other bird. We were very surprised to see a small flock of swallows weaving and diving about the house and yard for quite some time on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, two weeks after they had left the yard, but guess that they are definitely on their 6000 mile journey back to South Africa.

The weather looks quite warm for the first week of November but just as fog in October suggests a cold winter, so a cold November signifies a mild winter.

There are some depressing quotes for this month but the following is a little cheerier.

Ice in November to bear a duck,

The rest of the winter'll be slush and muck

## **Bromley Church House Gardens Lake**

Carolyn Sylvester from Friends of Bromley Town Centre Parks and Gardens group, took this photo of the lake in the sun after there had been a good night's and early morning's rain in October, after a long dry period.

The water levels are still low, but improved. These are measured regularly by Paul Rainey (a Bromley FoE member)!



She reported that the moorhens and mallard ducks were doing well on an island on the Glass Mill lake nearby.

## **Lockdown Walks**

Robert Clark

A suggestion was made at the last monthly meeting the we could include recommended local walks for people to undertake during lockdown and prolonged isolation.

To kick things off, I would like to suggest Farthing Downs in Coulsdon. It is an extraordinary crest of a long hill covering a wide area of chalk and flint downland. Cattle are being used on parts to maintain the grass and the precious ecosystem.

There are information boards one of which shows an old reference saying that to walk the ridge is like riding the back of a huge beast, and this is how it feels once you sit atop the brow.

There is a circular walk taking in the downs and surrounding area, details of which are on the circle of information boards.

You can either get there by car or public transport. If you do go by car and the road along the down is at all busy, I would suggest parking as soon as you see other cars parked. It is not worth battling your way to the car park at the far end of the narrow road.

By public transport, I believe you can get the 119 bus from Bromley etc to Croydon East station and then it is a 6 minute rail journey to Coulsdon South. This brings you within a 5 minute walk of the downs.

Please send other suggestions to the Editor.



## Climate Justice Can't Happen Without Racial Justice

If you've wondered how the Black Lives Matter campaigning of the past year or so impacts on seemingly unassociated campaigning organisations, then have a look at this TED Talk. Here, MP for Tottenham David Lammy explains the link and calls for Black and minority leadership on international climate issues.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_lammy\\_climate\\_justice\\_can\\_t\\_happen\\_without\\_racial\\_justice?utm\\_campaign=tedsread&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=tedcomshare](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_lammy_climate_justice_can_t_happen_without_racial_justice?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)

## Save Swanscombe Marshes

News from the RSPB

One of our members, Ian Holder, who works for the RSPB has brought to our attention that there is a proposal to build a 'Disney-style' theme park on the Swanscombe Peninsula in North Kent. A brown-field site that is considered by developers to be a wasteland has a greater variety of breeding birds than either Rainham Marshes or Dungeness RSPB reserves, and yet doesn't have any protective designations currently in place.

Swanscombe Marshes is also incredibly important for a wide variety of invertebrate species, including the critically distinguished endangered jumping spider(!), which is found in just two sites in the UK.

For this reason, the RSPB is supporting Buglife in campaigning to

oppose the development and get the site designated as a SSSI. Buglife says 'The London Resort Theme Park' would be NO FUN FOR NATURE.

Please help Buglife to protect this wildlife haven from an unnecessary and ill-thought development, saving it for future generations to enjoy by signing the petition in the link below:

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns/save-swanscombe-marshes/>

Please share with your friends and family. The more people that know about it and share the information, the greater the chance of stopping the development.

Learn more by listening to this podcast:

<https://theplanetpod.com/save-swanscombe-marshes/>

## Plastic Free Christmas Ideas 2020

Annette Rose

I joined a great Zoom meeting organised by Plastic Free Chesterfield. There were 56 people on the Zoom meeting and here are just a few of the ideas that we pooled together and some links to find out more!

Wrapping

Wrap with fabric, make fabric bags, newspaper, paper tape, plastic free sellotape, string, twine. Ecovibe tape, old maps, brown paper which could be printed on with potato prints, decorate with pine cones, dried natural materials, evergreen leaves. Furoshaki—wrap presents in a scarf or fabric - see

Youtube, make labels and tags from old cards.

**Decorations**

Pine cones, threaded popcorn, cranberries, paper chains, wooden decorations, salt and flour decorations baked and painted, gingerbread men.

**Crackers**

Ditch them, make your own—you can buy the snaps separately, buy plastic free.

**Plastic Free Presents**

Food wraps, water bottles, a recycled planter planted with bulbs, wellies planted with bulbs, Christmas puddings, cookies, food hamper with fair trade food, experiences, promises—give a voucher for something e.g to bake a cake, do some gardening etc. Make a present using crafts—knitting, crochet. Recycle presents or buy pre-loved. Use local shops when possible or Etsy, charity sites, Ebay. Board games bought second hand. Plants in Coir pots. Herbs.



magazine subscriptions, chutneys, pickles, soap, bar shampoos, wine, buy a tree to be planted.

### Useful Links

Ethical Consumer magazine, Beekinder.net, Just Little Changes, Ecovibe, Ethicalmuch.com. Traidcraft, Plastic Free Shop.

Facebook pages—Plastic Free Tips, Less Plastic Living, Plastic Free Christmas, Plastic Free Chesterfield.

## Woman's Hour Power List

BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour has published a Power List of the most influential women of each year.

This year the emphasis is on 'Our Planet' and the list is of thirty inspiring women for whom environmental and sustainability matters are a priority.

The programme on Monday 16th November ran through the whole list, briefly speaking to some of those included. Over the following few weeks, longer interviews will be held with the top ten in the list. Number one is Caroline Lucas, the green MP for Brighton Pavilion.

Well worth a listen on BBC Sounds.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5f6X3JsVjcGXfXstdbYxhkk/womans-hour-power-list-2020-the-list>

## Terracycle

Geoff Pryce

I recently emailed Terracycle with a query and my email and their response

are below.

Hi

What a wonderful scheme, thanks.

I know that you have many ways that you can extract the various elements of the waste to create new products, which is great, but wondered whether finding ways to re-purpose some of them could be even more environmentally friendly.

I really don't know the economics or environmental impact of these options - so could you advise me on this?

With some imagination some of the waste I would have thought could be re-purposed without the need to sort, clean, pulp or granulate to create new products – how does the environmental impact of each option compare?

If there was a great way of re-using some waste do you make suitable waste that you collect available for people to use in this way?

Many thanks  
Regards  
Geoff Pryce

Hi Geoff,

Thank you for your message.

TerraCycle has strict contracts with all the brand partners who sponsor the free recycling programmes stating that all material collected will be recycled. We report to our brand partners the volumes of waste collected and recycled through their programmes every year and because of the Agreements that we have with our brand partners we are unable to re-purpose. Also on each of

the recycling programme pages, you can see how many pieces of waste have been received (and this updates in real-time as the waste is received and checked in at the warehouse) on each of the programmes and the amount of money this has raised for schools, charities and non-profits.

Here is a link explaining the Economics of the type of waste we are recycling: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJduZur7uwo>

We are always looking at ways our Brand Partners can improve their packaging to make these widely recyclable. This is also the reason that we have started Loop.

Here is a link to our Loop website, where you will find more information about exactly what it is they do: <https://loopstore.co.uk/>

I hope this helps, please do let us know if you have further questions.

Kind regards,

Vithusha - Customer Service Executive  
TerraCycle Europe

## **Bromley Council Energy**

Tweet from Cllr Will Harmer

Following Bromley Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2029, tonight I was delighted to support the Council going to 100% renewable energy for all our gas and electricity over the next few months. That will mean we will move c.£13m of council spend over 5 years to be

invested with green energy providers to create even more incentive for investment in Renewables.

## **XR GONE**

Judy Palmer

We have been sent a link to a video posted on YouTube by Extinction Rebellion (XR) Hastings which is only 3 mins long. It is rather moving, but as Parisia Wright says, it's important to emphasise, when your *'reliance and patience and courage and determination is being tested, it is good to view a video or art to remind you of why your efforts must continue'*.

Anyway, here is the link.

<https://youtu.be/HZijWVAE8>

## **Digital Training Campaigning Course Opportunities with Friends of the Earth**

Judy Palmer

Bromley FoE is part of the Friends of the Earth Action Network, and as such we have been informed that they are hoping to set up two training courses in the new year.

If anyone is interested in either of the courses you would be liaising with our Admin Team afterwards, as we have to adhere to the GDPR rules already in place. But if you would like to follow this up, please either contact [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or [tom.wright@foe.co.uk](mailto:tom.wright@foe.co.uk). Here is the relevant information:

## **Digital training campaigning courses**

We're gathering expressions of interest in two potential training courses and I'd love to know if you'd like to take part. We aim to run both courses in early 2021, if we get enough interest in them.

### **1 Engaging a digital audience**

A 4-week course aimed at groups who already have (or want to build) an email list or want to use digital petitions and e-actions as part of a campaign. We'll cover best practice, showcase successful examples and help you make your emails and petitions interesting and fun.

Find out more : <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/engaging-a-digital-audience-register-your-interest>

### **2 Using social media to campaign**

A 3-week course aimed at groups who want to grow their social media presence and explore how to measure their impact. We'll look at Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and delve into best practice for posting content, paid promotion and analytics.

Find out more : <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/using-social-media-to-campaign-register-your-interest/>

## **London Co-ordinators' October Zoom Meet-Up**

In this Zoom era, the twice-yearly London Co-ordinators meetings which are normally held at the Printworks have taken place online. The meet-up

was hosted by Ted Burke and Fiona Whyte. About a dozen London groups were represented.

### **Group Updates**

As usual we started with each group giving a short update. Two reported difficulty engaging with their Conservative administrations or MPs. A number of groups were now meeting via Zoom; some had not had any meetings but had been working behind the scenes. Increased use of social media was reported. For many groups the Heathrow issue had dominated; several were engaging with their councils on Climate action, many groups reported new members and had participated in the Clean-Up.

The introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) had met some hostility from the public, so the Ealing group were trying to convince people. In Wandsworth the LTN had only lasted a few days! Hounslow has introduced a scheme upcycling clothes. Merton had had a socially-distanced tree planting!

Challenges faced included protecting green spaces, air pollution, jobs and recent flooding, deprived members of the community having been most adversely affected by both pollution and flooding. Richmond and Twickenham have launched a Sustainability Guide. Brent were involved in a Tree Strategy which was very time consuming and were thinking in terms of tree planting. Wandsworth had linked up with Richmond and were looking for collaboration with other groups. They are keen on Urban

Greening—open spaces, rewilding, trees – climate change and energy sources.

There was an increased tendency to use social media for campaigning.

Tottenham & Wood Green had lobbied their MP on the Climate and Green Recovery and were involved in a battle to save a local green space – the petition has 950 names. Muswell Hill were campaigning on the Green Recovery campaigning and asking their MP to write to the Chancellor.

I reported on our Zoom meetings and speakers, our Clean-up in September, our input into the Bromley Environmental Plan and Town Centre consultations, reminding the Council to look at infrastructure with regard to meeting its CO<sub>2</sub> targets eg affordable zero carbon homes, ongoing plastics campaigning and our part in updating the next revision of the Bromley Biodiversity Plan.

### **London Mayor and Assembly Elections**

Ted then introduced the next section of the meeting re the May 2021 Mayor and Assembly elections. “**Theory of change:** if we get enough LA candidates taking pledges then we’ll have a really strong London Assembly which is holding the Mayor to an ambitious set of measures to tackle the climate crisis in London.”

We were put into break-out groups to discuss how to influence London Assembly candidates, what information we needed to find out and what resources and support we needed. The London Climate Plan was seen as a priority, finding out where the

candidates stood and what they were committed to; possibly having face to face meetings. There was widespread interest in running environmental hustings. Networking and information sharing between groups was suggested.

### **Nature Campaign**

The final section was concerned with the focus for the new Nature campaign, asking for our views on the importance of various aspects, for example:

- highlighting the biodiversity crisis, including species loss

- reconnecting people with nature where they live

- one important aspect of nature, such as rivers

- the impact of global trade, including food and farming, and the UK’s footprint overseas

Ideas put forward included planting trees, increasing biodiversity, raising awareness of species loss, getting people excited about nature, and highlighting the mental health benefits of nature.

### **Bromley Open Space Strategy**

There is a wide ranging consultation now underway about the future management strategy for the Borough’s open space, with feedback sought until 7th January 2021. The aim of the Open Space Strategy is to set out priorities and allocate resources across council-owned and managed open

spaces in future years, while at the same time conserving and enhancing them.

The scope of this proposed management strategy includes both local parks and also the larger open spaces that the Council manages in partnership with idverde, including the country parks, as well as allotments. Views are sought from both groups and from individuals.

[https://www.bromley.gov.uk/press/article/1699/open\\_space\\_strategy\\_consultation](https://www.bromley.gov.uk/press/article/1699/open_space_strategy_consultation).

When the consultation period is closed, the Open Space Strategy will then be incorporated into formal Council policy in spring 2021.

## Planning for the Future Government Discussions

Tamara Galloway

Back in August, Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and acquaintance of the developer Richard Desmond, launched his ‘Planning for the Future’ consultation, considering responses to proposals for ‘radical reform’ to the planning system in England.

These proposals divide land into three categories, *Growth* areas suitable for substantial development, *Renewal* areas suitable for development and *Protected* areas.

Local people would have their views taken into account when the local authority originally creates a map of

these areas, but after that would have no say on individual planning applications.

I believe that most ordinary people will think the details of these areas are a matter for their local authority. However, when a developer makes a ‘concrete’ proposal to build a monstrosity near them, they’d be much more likely to object – but according to these proposals, by then it’d be too late. So, these proposals will be extremely damaging to communities, local democracy and the environment.

Now the deadline for responding to this government consultation was on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October. I sent my response on behalf of the Green Street Green Village Society. Bromley Council sent a response seeking to help preserve the environment and character of Bromley Borough and pointing out that the proposals remove a significant amount of control from the Council and other Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

I also wrote to my local M.P., Orpington Constituency’s Gareth Bacon, before the debate on the Housing White Paper that was held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Here’s his response:

Dear Ms Galloway,

Thank you for writing to me about the upcoming debate on the Housing White Paper.

I am planning to attend this debate and have put in a request to speak to the Speaker’s Office, although that does not guarantee that I will be called. However, along with many colleagues I have been having private meetings with

Richard Clark

senior government Ministers on the Planning White Paper and we have made our views clear.

I must stress that the debate on Thursday is a backbench business debate and, as such, will not decide the issue. The government will consider the responses to the White Paper consultation and legislation will probably follow in due course - the debate on that will be far more important. The purpose of Thursday's debate is to show the government the strength of feeling amongst MPs on the current proposals in the hope this will lead to changes being made to the White Paper and the draft legislation that will follow it.

As to my own views, I think that reforms are needed to what is a 60-year old system with its roots in a 'command and control economy' developed after the Second World War.

I am pleased that the Green Belt remains protected but I have certain concerns, including the numbers produced by the housing algorithm, the likelihood that attempting to hit such numbers could lead to intensive densification in a way wholly inappropriate to local communities and who it is that will be responsible for designating 'Growth', 'Renewal' and 'Protected' zones. The White Paper is insufficiently clear on this point, and there are indications that in Greater London (of which Orpington is a part) that power could legally reside in the hands of the Mayor of London. This is not something of which I would be supportive.

While Orpington is part of Greater London, it is historically part of Kent and has far more in common with neighbouring Sevenoaks than it does to central London.

This is an issue that will be occupying much of my time in the coming weeks and months and I will post further updates on my website and social media.

Yours sincerely,  
Gareth Bacon MP

Since these discussions in Central Government are ongoing, especially if your M.P. is one of the other Bromley Borough M.P.s, please write to them expressing your views about the proposed removal of rights to object to specific planning applications.

## **Campaigns**

New FoE campaign areas!

Recently Friends of the Earth have re-organised their campaign areas into the following:

**Climate** - this covers  
Heathrow  
Green & fair recovery  
Climate friendly communities  
Renewable Energy

**Nature** -  
Trees & bees

**System Change** -  
Trade  
Planning & Environmental law  
Anti-racism

## **Consumption -**

Food & the environment  
Plastics

This gives local groups many opportunities to engage with other organisations to work on an issue within their community.

We have our AGM In January which gives us the ideal opportunity to discuss any thoughts and ideas you may have to work on any of these areas. Please take the time between now and then to have a think about it and join us on January 4th! Or if you are unable to, send an email to [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) and we will add the thought to the list.

Judy Palmer

## **Climate, Energy and Transport**

### **US Election**

Scientists have been heartened by Biden's belated ambition to address what he calls 'an existential threat to the environment'.

He has now stated the importance of re-joining the Paris Climate Agreement, much to the relief of environmentalists.

This will also result in executive action to halt new coal mining and oil drilling on federal land.

Ann Garrett

### **Melting Ice Flows**

There are serious concerns about the world's ice. In June, the north eastern Siberian town of Verichoyansk, set

the record for the highest temperature ever recorded in the Arctic Circle.

Summer temperatures in the town, which lies 3,000 miles east of Moscow, hit 38°C .

In July, methane, one of the most damaging greenhouse gases, started leaking from beneath the seabed in Antarctica for the first time ever. This information has caused research scientists to say 'we may have now passed a long-feared tipping point. Sadly, we may soon look back on the Covid-9 pandemic as the good old days, before climate change raced away from us'.

Ann Garrett

## **Renewable Energy**

Now some encouraging news - The government's commitment to renewable energy could galvanise a sector that is exceeding expectations and bring with it a decade's worth of industrial opportunities for young people, increasing new jobs. This will encourage investors and graduates, and also provide work in the building, construction and maintenance industries, supporting The Green New Deal and New Lucas Plan's initiatives.

There is hope that within the next ten years there will be enough offshore wind turbines to power every home in Britain, including more world-leading floating windfarms.

At the beginning of November, the government set out plans to use offshore wind power as a backbone of

Britain's carbon neutral energy future, calling for 10 times the existing offshore wind capacity by 2030, or 40GW, including 1GW of floating turbines.

Ann Garrett

### **Transport by Ann Garrett**

There is much conflict at the moment about congestion charge expansion in order to fill a vast hole in London's transport budget.

In the 17 years of operation, the congestion charge has been accepted with relatively little opposition and been encouraged by environmental anti-pollution campaigners.

However, with the proposal to increase the congestion zone as far and wide as to the orbital roads that ring the inner London boroughs - the North and South circular - used by hundreds of thousands of cars a day, there is severe conflict of interest.

This coincides with the worrying upsurge in traffic due to the pandemic. The proposed increase could encourage more people back into using public transport, which itself needs to become more carbon neutral to meet emission targets.

### **Plastics**

#### **Reusable Cups and Coronavirus**

Research by scientists has shown that reusable cups are safe to use as long as they are washed properly (Greenpeace Connect Magazine).

There is a call to get reusable cups back on the menu in the major coffee shop chains including Starbucks and Café Nero.

Annette Rose

### **Reusable packaging**

A YouGov poll earlier this year showed that nearly 60% of people would be interested in reuse schemes for dry goods. In Greenpeace's new 'Unpacked' report they suggest these innovations:

Water and fizzy drink refill stations in supermarkets

Milk machines to use to refill your bottles

Cleaning products in concentrate form that can be diluted at home

Plastic-free cosmetics to dispense into refillable containers

Annette Rose

### **Present Wrapping**

With Christmas coming and present wrapping imminent you might like to know about Sellotape's new plastic free tape. Sellotape Zero Plastic Adhesive is £3 a pack. The company says 'It's fully biodegradable and compostable with the same stickiness as our Original Golden Sellotape.' There are alternatives, though, including using paper tape, twine and reused ribbon. Or you could put your presents in cloth bags that can be used again or be part of the present.

Annette Rose

### **Cheese Packaging Recycling Programme**

Cathedral City cheese is leading the way

byworking with Terracycle to recycle any flexible cheese packaging whatever the brand. At present, these wrappers almost always end up in landfill. The wrappers will be recycled into picnic benches and gardening tools. There are at least 2 drop-off points in the Bromley area which you can find easily by putting your postcode in the Terracycle website map search, or google Cathedral City wrapper recycling.

Annette Rose

## Supplies That Don't Cost the Earth

*This is a regular reference point for useful and practical resources, helping us to sustain the greenest lifestyles we can. These are not recommendations from Bromley or National FoE, but are just suggested by BFoE members. Any suggestions or reviews gratefully received. bromleyfoe@gmail.com*

"Sweet Freedom" is a palm oil free chocolate spread with all natural ingredients and only 13 calories per



teaspoon. An ethical replacement of that well known product for use in sandwiches, pancakes, etc. Available from Iceland.

## No/Low Waste Shops

Alexander Stores, 61 Beckenham Road.

Green Room, Station Approach, Hayes.

The Burlington Food Hall, Chislehurst High Street (Next to the Post Office):

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

## Internet

If You Care products including recycled tin foil and sandwich bags: <https://buyifyoucare.com/>

<https://www.peacewiththewild.co.uk/>

Wide range of biodegradable and natural products

<https://www.mygreenpod.com/>

'Ethical' products news and advice

<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/>

[www.greenfinder.co.uk](http://www.greenfinder.co.uk) - a useful

directory of environmental companies for all kinds of things.

*Naturallythinking*, Unit 2 Mill Lane

Trading Estate, Mill Lane, Croydon, CRO

4AA, 020 3856 3588: [https://](https://naturallythinking.com/)

[naturallythinking.com/](https://naturallythinking.com/)

*Crowdfarming*, wide selection of directly

supplied products from farmers around

the world, many organic: [https://](https://www.crowdfarming.com/en)

[www.crowdfarming.com/en](https://www.crowdfarming.com/en)

## Facebook

*Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond)*

Consumer action!

*Hayes Life Freebeecyclers* There may be something similar in your area.

## Reuse

If you have any items that you no longer need and that could be of use to someone then please let us know and we will publish them in the Newsletter. Alternatively, you could bring them along to our monthly meeting and put them on the table in reception. Any donations to BFoE from sales will be greatly appreciated.

## List Of Roles

Everyone can be contacted via the groups email address: [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)

### Acting Co-ordinators/Mentors:

Sheila Brown 01689 851605  
Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295

### Treasurer:

Sheila Brown

### Press Team:

Ann Garrett

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown

### Outings Organisers:

John & Sue Boccock 0208 290 0485  
Merchandising: Anne Clark

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 07414 920920

### Newsletter Production:

Dan Sloan

### Instagram and Twitter Admin:

Emmanuelle Coetzee

### Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689 820469

### Admin Team:

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

### Bromley Environmental Network BEN

#### Reps:

John Pavitt, Judy Palmer

### Web Site & Technical Support:

Peter Gandolfi, Mary Ingledew

### Refreshments

Mary Ingledew, Sylvia Chance

### Meeting Reporters:

John & Sue Boccock, Anne Clark, Annette Rose, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown - further volunteers for this team would be welcomed

**Campaigns** (Categories about to change. See item on page 15)

### Nature/Trees:

Diana Hurd, Judy Palmer, Annette Rose, Tamara Galloway, Ruth Fabricant

### Anti Fracking:

Ann Garrett, John Catlin

### Plastics:

Annette Rose, Sheila Brown, Emmanuelle Coetzee, Ruth Gardner, Judy Palmer, Ruth Fabricant, Viv Gardiner

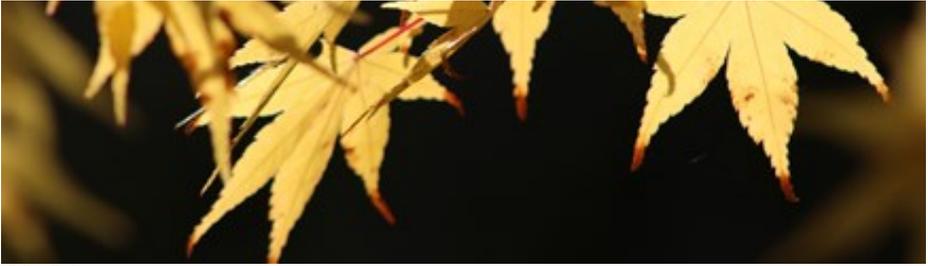
### Climate:

Sam Gee, Ann Garrett, Tamara Galloway, Ruth Fabricant, Judy Palmer (liaison with Climate Alliance)

**Planning Monitor:** Tamara Galloway, Ann Garrett

### Newsletter Editor:

Rob Clark 020 8289 1503  
[robert.clark9@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.clark9@btinternet.com)



## Non-members Section

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth (BFoE) then hello to you. 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 acting co-ordinators Sheila Brown or Ann Garrett (their details are inside the back page of this newsletter.) Alternatively you can come along to one of our 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, on the right going down. 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 (\*delete as appropriate)

I would like to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my annual subscription (£8 single/£15 couple/family.) I also enclose a donation (optional) of £..... to help towards the work of our local group.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: ..... Phone No: .....

Email address: .....

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

.....

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 [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or contact one of our co-ordinators via their details inside.