

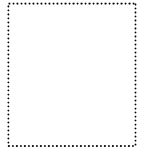


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

February 2012 No. 290 Newsletter

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



February Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Bromley's Area Action Plan

Rob Bristow from Bromley Civic Society shares with us the latest developments concerning the planning applications for major new developments in and around Bromley Town Centre

Tuesday 7th February - 7.30pm.

In this Issue:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|-------|
| Diary Dates | 2 | Solar subsidy | 8,9 |
| Jean Lambert MEP | 3 | Top 10 wins of 2011 | 10,11 |
| Transport info | 4,5 | FoE post-Durban | 11 |
| One and a half wins | 5 | CAAT: Not OK | 12,13 |
| Campaigns info | 6 | WDM – Climate loans | 14 |
| Incinerator battle | 7 | Bromley FoE contacts | 15 |
| Queen's Gardens | 7,9 | Non-members section | 16 |

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY.

Contact details inside front cover.

Bromley FoE – almost 40 years old – see page 3

Diary dates:

- Feb 1st (Wed) Country Market, 10 am – 11.30 am, Orpington Village Hall
Feb 4th (Sat) Friends of the Earth Regional Gathering,
Bonhill House, Bonhill Street (nr Old Street underground)
- Feb 7th (Tues)** **Bromley FoE's February meeting:** Rob Bristow from Bromley
Civic Society: Bromley's Area Action Plan
- Feb 21st (Tues) Sevenoaks FoE's February meeting - Charles Nouhan,
Recycling Manager Sevenoaks District Council on Waste
- March 6th (Tues)** **Bromley FoE's March meeting:** Jean Lambert – Green Party
MEP on How Green is Europe?
- March 17th (Sat)** **Bromley FoE Campaign stall – Energy Campaign**
March 20th (Tues) Sevenoaks FoE's March Meeting - Bees – either a talk or a film

Note: - Sevenoaks FoE meetings take place at 26 Beechy Lees Road, Otford, TN14 5QJ, 01959 524906

Friends of the Earth Greater South East Regional Gathering

A get-together for Friends of the Earth Local Groups and activists. A chance to meet staff and each other, share ideas, information and experiences, brush up on skills and plan for the year ahead. It's on Saturday 4th February, 11am – 5pm, at Bonhill House, Bonhill Street, near Old Street Station.

January meeting report –

None received by the time this newsletter was compiled, I'm afraid

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!

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY:**

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

**Lecture by Jean Lambert,
London member of the European Parliament, on
HOW GREEN IS EUROPE?**

Bromley Friends of the Earth is pleased to announce a major event to mark the group's 40th anniversary. The group – one of the first environmental organisations to be formed in Britain – has invited Jean Lambert, a London Member of the European Parliament representing the Green Party, to give an inaugural anniversary lecture on *How Green Is Europe?*

The event will take place at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, just off Bromley High St, at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 6. All are welcome. Entrance is free and there will be refreshments.

Jean Lambert is eminently qualified to speak on the subject, having been an MEP since 1999. She is active in many policy-making groups in the European parliament, especially human rights, energy, and diversity. She has also campaigned for action on London's illegal air pollution, opposing nuclear trains passing through the capital and increasing the number of 'green' jobs.

Jean, a former teacher, said: 'As a Londoner I am committed to making the capital an inclusive and sustainable city.'



**Jean Lambert MEP
Guest speaker at
Bromley FoE's
March meeting**

**Tuesday 6th March
7.30pm**

Transport info, from Ray Watson

The myth about new jobs

One of the arguments consistently put forward by airports – including our own Biggin Hill – is that expansion will create more jobs. Not always so, according to research by a group opposing growth at Gatwick Airport which has now been passed to the government ministry looking into the future of aviation.

Some of the points made:

- Between 1998 and 2004

despite a 30% rise in air passengers the total employment attributed to airports and airlines actually went down.

- The Airport Operators

Association has forecast that by 2030 an increase of 104 per cent in the number of passengers passing through UK airports will produce a 21% increase in jobs.

- UK residents took 41.5 million more return flights for leisure in 2005 than foreigners came here for leisure. Thus the aviation tourism deficit is costing the UK about 900,000 jobs as a result of people spending their money overseas instead of the UK.

While no one is saying that people should not travel overseas, it is important that the negative cost to the country of aviation should be taken into account when the government acts favourably towards airlines and airports like the current tax breaks they receive. And you can add to that the cost of local environmental and climate change damage.

Fares unfair

There is enough gloom about as it is, but the annual anger about inflation-

busting rail fare increases does not look as if it will be ending soon. Apart from the fact that the rises may mean that some people will not be able to afford to travel to work and thus may become jobless, passenger groups are beginning to focus on the fact that similarly large rises are scheduled for next year and 2014. They aim to challenge the government's policy of applying increases based on inflation plus 3 per cent.

What is behind the policy is the fact that the government annually pays out £4 billion to subsidise the railways (compared with fares income from passengers of £5.7 billion) and it now wants to get that down by £1 billion.

Another slap in the face for public transport that will drive more people onto the roads, adding to more noise and air pollution.

Boris bus starts rolling

We all saw the photos of mayor Boris joyfully launching his new bus, a replacement for the bendy bus of which he has been sternly critical. The new double-decker has an open platform for access just like the old Routemaster type. Some have said the new version is nothing more than an expensive election year vanity project to fulfil a pledge the mayor gave before he was elected.

Well, no less than £7m has been spent so far on its development though for that we get another six – and the type is better on carbon emissions.

/continued on next page

Items in brief + Transport info, *continued*

One-and-a-half wins

Bromley FoE recently joined others in objecting to two planning applications – and we came away with one win and one deferred decision.

The successful objection was about a scheme for dozens of heavy lorries to be used to deliver soil and other materials for use at Cherry Lodge Golf course, Biggin Hill. Bromley Council threw out the plan on the basis that there would be major inconvenience in the area, together with excessive noise and pollution.

The second application was for building homes and other buildings on Kent County Cricket Club's ground at Beckenham. Strong opposition was voiced by residents at a council committee hearing, based on the loss of four football pitches and the density of the proposed housing. Councillors also questioned whether the cricket club would benefit financially and deferred a decision until more information was provided.

The votes are in...

Bromley FoE's well-attended annual meeting saw the re-election of Sheila and Ann as joint co-ordinators, and also other office holders. Sheila and Ann expressed their thanks for the help given by a large percentage of members in keeping the group running.

There was a brief discussion on fund-raising, recruiting new members and future campaigning, ideas for which will be taken forward.

Transport info, *continued*

But that is still a staggering amount of money for us taxpayers to find, vanity project or not.

Real-time help

Much more practical is a new service from Transport for London where passengers can access live information about bus arrivals at their stop via TfL's website by using a web-enabled phone or a fixed computer. Simply tap in your bus stop number – which can easily be found on the site by entering the route number or the street name -- and up comes live information about arrival times, destination and other information. There is also a text version available at 12p a time.

The system was successfully trialled last year and will now be rolled out to cover all of London's 19,500 bus stops.

Noisy progress

Sometimes technology generates unexpected problems; in this case the electric car. Such vehicles move almost silently and that has resulted in worries for drivers and pedestrians. Apparently, a road safety danger arises if pedestrians cannot hear a vehicle approaching, while drivers, used to listening to engine and gear change noise, are unnerved by the quiet.

What to do? Electric car companies are bringing in sound engineers to create artificial noises while the car is in motion. Everybody happy?

Campaigns, Energy and Climate info – from Ann Garrett

Our next stall will be on Saturday March 17th from 2.30 - 4.30 pm in Penge High Street outside Boots which is near the precinct containing Iceland. We will be carrying on with the Final Demand (Big Energy Conversation) and now have plenty of leaflets to give out as well as petitions to be signed. I've already posted several of these to National FoE. Your help would as always be much appreciated. We also eventually hope to have some new membership forms for the stalls to help attract people to joining our group.

Other future campaigns will include making a Buzz about Biodiversity (Save the Bees) and Greener Products (tackling companies about their environmental impact).

Energy and Climate

Feed-in Tariff Campaign

Last December a High Court judge ruled in favour of an application by Friends of the Earth and two solar companies - Solarcentury and Homesun - for permission to challenge the Government plans to cut the Feed-in Tariff for solar PV.

The appeal ruling meant that the organisations could submit a legal bid to block the Government's decision. The legal challenge centred around Government plans to slash feed-in tariff subsidies - payments made to households and communities that generate green electricity through solar panels - on any installations completed after December 12th 2011.

Andy Atkins FoE Executive Director said: " We're delighted the High Court

has given the go-ahead to our legal challenge - we believe Government plans to abruptly slash solar subsidies are not only unfair, but illegal."

On January 19th Government ministers said that if they lost the court case they will fund the higher rate solar subsidy for another three months. Given the gravity of our climate situation this seems very short-sighted to say the least.

World's Largest Solar Plant Powers Up

Some mainly good news from Spain - very recently on an empty mountain plateau in Andalusia, the last of 600,000 parabolic mirrors were connected, and Andasol, the world's largest power station became operational.

It's an exciting and shining example of what renewable energy can offer. An ample underground spring system supplies water for the turbines and there are 2,000 hours of sunshine per annum as the main energy source.

However there are problems and these are due again to the possible slashing of Spanish feed-in tariffs. Andasol's director Rainer Kistner says that the business prospects look bleak if this happens, and is stressing the importance of government guarantees for investors. Companies behind Andasol are very nervous at present about future projects as a result of concern about supporting feed-in tariffs. These are essential if renewable energy is to work.

A burning issue – Bromley FoE objects to incinerator plans

Kent Council have applied for planning permission to build a waste-burning incinerator right on the Bromley borough boundary at Orpington Bypass. The application appears to claim that it will be wood-burning to produce some electricity. However, further examination reveals that it will also burn industrial and domestic waste – not so clean, after all, and with possible dangerous emissions. BFoE sent this objection opposing the scheme

I am instructed by Bromley Friends of the Earth to lodge an objection to the proposal to install an incinerator at land between Orpington Bypass and M25, a site that is on the Bromley border.

Reasons for the objection:

1. The site is in the Green belt and is designated an area of outstanding natural beauty. Planning guidance states that there is a presumption against development in the Green Belt unless there are exceptional circumstances, none of which appear to be apparent here. Indeed, the development would turn the area into an industrial zone.
2. Wildlife and ancient woodland would be adversely affected.
3. Emissions from an incinerator burning industrial and domestic waste (and not wood alone) may include noxious particles which might impinge on fruit and vegetable growing at nearby farms and surrounding residential areas. Even burning 'clean' wood such as furniture and fencing (as

stated in the application) risks dangerous emissions caused by such wood having been treated by creosote, stains etc.

4. The frequent use of heavy lorries delivering to the site would add to CO2 emissions at a time when the Government is struggling to meet its legal targets. Further, such lorries would adversely affect residential areas, given that some loads would travel several miles to and from the site.

I would appreciate receiving notice that this message has been received and, eventually, the result of the application.

Objection to Queen's Gardens planning application

The planning application proposes an extension to the Glades commercial area beside the present Leisure Centre with five new restaurants. This would encroach on a green area where the present Italian Gardens are, and which is designated as public open space.

In the Area Action Plan report, the inspector concluded that that if the Glades and Council wanted this facility it should be within the building itself opening on to the Garden or that a single cafe on the terrace or part of the hard standing might be appropriate.

At least one of Bromley FoE's members has registered an objection, thus:

/continued on page 9

FoE says - Govt starts new process to cut solar subsidy payments

Government moves to cut solar subsidies by early March - reducing the uncertainty hanging over the solar industry since Ministers attempted to rush through payment cuts in December - have been welcomed by Friends of the Earth.

The solar industry was left reeling - and 30,000 jobs thrown into jeopardy - when the Government announced plans last year to abruptly cut payments for any solar scheme completed after 12 December 2011 - 11 days before an official consultation into the proposals had even closed.

Shortly before Christmas - following a legal challenge by Friends of the Earth and solar firms Solarcentury and HomeSun - the High Court ruled that the Government's plans were illegal, saying Ministers could only alter the payments after going through Parliamentary procedures - allowing industry time to plan for change. Last week the Government challenged the ruling in the Court of Appeal, and a decision is due within the next few weeks.

LATEST INFO - The Court of Appeal today (Wednesday 25 January 2012) unanimously rejected Government attempts to overturn last month's High Court ruling that its plans to rush through sudden cuts to solar tariff payments are illegal. The Government is now seeking permission to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Friends of the Earth is also calling on Ministers to boost certainty for solar by using the multi-million pound tax

revenues generated by solar firms - enabling more homes, businesses and communities to switch to clean British energy.

Friends of the Earth's Executive Director Andy Atkins said:

"At last the Government is taking steps to sort out some of the uncertainty that's crippling a thriving UK industry - planned cuts will at last allow solar firms to start planning for the future. Solar payments should be cut in line with falling costs - but by trying to rush through payment before the consultation closed Ministers created a shambolic mess that threatens 30,000 jobs and the future of the industry.

"Ministers must urgently use the millions of pounds in tax that solar firms generate to safeguard this industry and the jobs and businesses it has created. We must do more to protect cash-strapped families from soaring fuel bills - that's why we're campaigning for the Government to fix our broken energy system and enable more people to plug into clean British energy."

Notes to editors:

1. Friends of the Earth's legal challenge to cuts in solar incentives is part of its Final Demand campaign, which calls for energy we can all afford and a public inquiry into the power and influence of the Big Six energy companies.
2. The Government's proposals have already had a devastating impact. Countless planned clean energy

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Govt starts new process to cut solar subsidy payments, *continued*

schemes have been abandoned and thousands of jobs are under threat. In December construction firm Carillion warned 4,500 workers their jobs were at risk because of the Government's proposals. Examples of solar energy projects that have either been scrapped or are in jeopardy are available from Friends of the Earth's press office - please call 020 7566 1649/ 07712 843 209 for more information.

3.. In November last year research by Element Energy, commissioned by Friends of the Earth and the solar industry, showed that the premature cuts could threaten 29,000 jobs and lose the Treasury up to £230 million a year in tax income. It showed that additional costs to lift the cap off the scheme will be more than equalled by extra tax receipts to the exchequer and saving on unemployment benefit that would have been paid to sacked solar fitters.

4. Friends of the Earth is calling on the Government to:

Establish a system which enables feed-in tariff payments to fall from mid February 2012, in line with the falling cost of solar technology, in a way that supports the continued growth of the industry and jobs;

Increase the overall budget for feed-in tariffs using tax revenues generated by jobs created by the scheme - this will enable more households to benefit from solar power.

Exclude housing association, school, council and other community projects from the damaging proposal

to give multi-building projects even lower financial support.

Only require solar projects on homes to install loft and cavity wall insulation where possible - rather than imposing much tougher energy efficiency conditions which would make 9 out of 10 households ineligible for the scheme.

Relax over-strict energy efficiency proposals which will prevent 90 per cent of households applying for solar tariff payments and new measures to boost clean energy for social housing schemes.

Objection to Queen's Gardens planning application, *continued*

I wish to object to the above on the grounds that it would take up too much open space which in its present form is greatly used and enjoyed by the public.

The development proposals would not comply with the AAP pledge that no green space would be affected, and there is also the fact that part of the site is in the Bromley Town Centre Conservation Area.

A small cafe for the use of the garden users would be acceptable, but certainly not a large commercial development, which would affect cafe trade in the Bromley North Village area, and spoil the present ambience of Queen's Gardens.

FoE - Our top 10 wins from 2011

January isn't the happiest of months - what with money being tight and trousers tighter after the December indulgence-fest. So allow us to cheer you up with news about the good things Friends of the Earth got up to in 2011.

1. Mega incinerator scrapped

It would have cost £400 million, burnt valuable materials and belched out climate-changing emissions. But, supporting the local community, we made sure this dirty proposal went up in smoke.

2. Slashing councils' CO2 emissions

Along with our amazing local groups all over the UK, we ran a campaign called Get Serious About CO2. It aimed to get councils cutting CO2 emissions - and it worked. More than 20 now have targets to slash emissions by at least 40% by 2020.

3. Warmer rented homes

An incredible 100,000 people supported our 2-year campaign to make cold homes more energy efficient. We got a law passed so that from 2018 landlords will be fined if they don't improve the coldest rented homes.

4. Energy-efficient homes in Northern Ireland

Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland led a coalition of groups in a campaign to tackle energy-leaking homes. It convinced the Assembly to commit to a major programme of renovating homes so they use less energy.

5. A greener bank

Our campaign with other groups got all 3 major political parties to commit to a Green Investment Bank. The bank will help promote the growth of clean energy and energy-saving technology.

6. Fewer plastic bags in Wales

Our local groups in Wales succeeded in cutting the carriers. Their campaign got the Welsh Assembly to introduce a 5p charge on carrier bags, meaning less waste and more resources.

7. Love story in milk

Two milk bottles met, fell in love and went viral. Nearly a million people watched their touching tale of why recycling is so important. They even won us an award. See what you think of our own dairy-based Romeo and Juliet.

8. About 3,000 people laughed at us

Our comedy gig sold out and brought the house down, with stars including Tim Minchin, Richard Herring and Badly Drawn Boy. The money raised helps fund our fight against climate change.

9. Our High Court victory

We took the Government to court after it slashed payments for solar energy without waiting for its own consultation to end. And we won. The Government is now back in court trying to overturn the decision. Win or lose, David Cameron must support UK solar to help more families free themselves from soaring fuel bills.

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FoE and International Climate - Pushing for a strong, fair agreement after disastrous UN climate talks in Durban

In Durban, countries delayed taking action on climate change and shifted responsibility onto poor countries.

A new treaty will give all countries the same responsibilities for cutting greenhouse gases. The new treaty will not take effect until 2020 - but scientists have warned that we need to cut global emissions well before 2020 to avoid catastrophic climate change.

The targets until 2020 are too low - Current pledges to cut emissions for the next 5-8 years will put us on course for 4-6 degrees of global warming.

Loopholes remain

The EU can still increase its emissions and meet targets because of carbon accounting loopholes. Even though rich countries are responsible for the majority of emissions, they have benefitted the most from burning fossil fuels and have the resources to make emissions cuts.

This will leave millions at threat from increasingly frequent extreme weather events, and will hit the world's poorest people hardest.

Delaying action will also fail to drive clean growth and create green jobs through investment in renewable energy sources.

The Kyoto Protocol will be discussed next year - what emissions targets will be set and over what period of time.

A Green Climate Fund to help poor countries adapt to climate change has

been established, but it has no money in it.

The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action will be agreed in 2015, and needs to be fair, rules-based and in line with science.

Friends of the Earth will now be working hard to:

Push rich countries to reduce emissions in line with science, and provide finance and technology for developing countries to act.

Make sure that finance for the green climate fund comes from innovative public sources and not from risky carbon trading schemes.

Promote clean and affordable energy as an alternative to fossil-fuels and a solution to energy poverty.

We have little time left to avoid catastrophic climate change, which makes our campaigning work in this area even more important.

Top Ten Wins of 2011, *continued*

10. A fund to tackle climate change
We successfully lobbied for a Green Climate Fund, where rich countries provide money for developing countries to tackle climate change. We now need to make sure that developing nations have a say in how the fund is run.

How do we do it? Through your support. Thank you for making it all possible. Here's to an even better 2012.

January Meeting Report – Ray Watson

Bromley has more green open space and recreational areas than any other London borough – 3000 acres, in fact, used as parks, sports grounds, playgrounds, even cycle paths, a BMX track and cemeteries.

How is it all kept under control? That was the question answered by Patrick Philips, Robert Shrembi and Toby Smith from the council's open space unit at BFoE's January meeting.

Much of the physical work is done by an outside contractor who is charged with keeping the areas clean, safe and tidy. Their work is carefully supervised by the council's own staff.

To give one small example of the size of the problem: the council is responsible for no less than one million square metres of grass verges – which, strangely enough, bring more complaints than other potential problem because residents quickly notice an uncut verge outside their home.

The unit looks after 36,000 trees on the borough's streets, works with schools to maintain their sports fields, ensures that 65 playgrounds are safe and litter-free, keeps an untold number of ditches and gulleys free of blockages, controls 300 park events annually – like fetes and pageants – organises litter-picking in the borough's woodlands, and visits schools to educate pupils about the value of parks and open spaces. Also on the job list: fining owners whose dogs fouled parks.

The overall aim was to make the green space user-friendly and active, and, by maintaining them to a high standard, to make residents respect them more. Vandalism was a costly problem – one person was recently jailed for causing 50 cases of damage totalling £20,000 to park buildings.

However, the introduction in recent years of new programmes to involve residents more in the future of their local park had brought a decline in

vandalism and outbreaks of graffiti. The team said it was all about local empowerment and getting people to take on a little more responsibility.

The creation of the Friends of Parks project had been a great success, resulting in 31,400 hours of free voluntary work, worth £200,000. Once a group was set up, the council helped with some funding and practical help with items like tools, but most decisions about a park's future was left to residents. The 56 friends groups also organise all the gardening work to keep their park tidy. Overall, the groups had brought in £300,000 in grants and donations.

It was pointed out that this was extremely helpful in the light of budget cuts by the council – the unit had suffered redundancies among its staff and grants to some sports clubs using council land and facilities had been reduced.

The aim now was to be innovative to tackle the amount of work that needs to be done. So, said the team, they would be working even more closely with the community – their greatest asset

CAAT – This is NOT OK (more about the campaign)

The UK government claims it has a "responsible" attitude to arms sales. Yet it spends public money on persuading some of the world's worst human rights abusers and most unstable regimes to buy weapons. This is NOT OK.

While UK weapons were being used against civilians in Libya, a government department and David Cameron were promoting weapons sales in the Middle East. This is NOT OK.

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CAAT – This is NOT OK, *continued*

In 2011, the government helped organise a massive arms fair, DSEi, in London. Thousands of arms sellers and buyers from across the globe gathered to deal in death. Clarion Events, the private company that owns the arms fair, says that the arms fair is supported by the government, so it must be OK. DSEi is due to return in 2013.

Add your voice to help us send a strong message to the government and Clarion Events that **This is NOT OK**

After UK weapons were used in Libya and Bahrain, we took a 4000-strong petition to Downing Street. Help us boost the numbers for each of its next stops: Vince Cable, former arms trade critic; Lord Green, who set aside his moral objections to arms sales to become Trade Minister; London's mayoral candidates; Party conferences, and more!

Together, we can end government support for the arms trade and end the arms fair. Whether you have 2 minutes or 2 hours, take action with us.

1 minute: Sign the petition to say **This is NOT OK**.

1 more minute: Share the petition by email or on Twitter or Facebook. Or order our **This is NOT OK** leaflets to give to friends and family.

2 minutes: Email your MP about arms sales to the Middle East. It takes just two minutes with our template letter. If you have a few more minutes, please

personalise it to make your action even more effective.

15 minutes: Reply to your MP - We've provided suggested responses and up-to-date news to help.

30 minutes - 3 hours: Get on the streets Order posters, leaflets and resources. Borrow a CAAT tablecloth. Have a look at our top tips for planning a street stall, and have a think about ways to make your stall have visual impact.

2 hours + Plan an action. Need inspiration? This year, anti-arms trade campaigners have shut down the Business Department, stepped up the pressure on Vince Cable, visited Number 10 and staged a die-in on the steps of the Treasury.

See the CAAT website at www.caat.org.uk for more information.

From CAAT's Events Diary

April 17th 2012 Global Day of Action on Military Spending

The UK's military budget is £33 billion a year, yet 56,000 nurses are expected to lose their jobs as cuts are implemented across the public sector. On 17 April, take action in solidarity with peace protesters around the world to say This is NOT OK.

May 2nd 2012 Challenge arms company BAE at its AGM

In 2011, BAE armoured vehicles made in the UK were deployed in Bahrain against democracy protests. CAAT will be at BAE's AGM in 2012 to make sure the awkward questions get asked.

WDM - Some success on climate loans!

For the past two years WDM along with the Jubilee Debt Campaign have been campaigning for the UK government to deliver its climate finance to help countries cope with climate change as grants through the UN Adaptation Fund rather than loans through the World Bank.

With the UK's latest announcement of climate finance made in Durban, South Africa, we saw significant movement on this issue. Two major things have happened.

Firstly, the UK government has announced it will put £10 million towards the UN Adaptation Fund. This is the first time that the UK has said it will contribute to the fund, despite being on the fund's board.

Secondly, the UK announced that it would give another £85 million through the World Bank's adaptation fund. Although it's disappointing that the money is going to the World Bank, the good news is that this time the UK has given the majority of its money, £70 million, as grants, not loans.

By finally agreeing to deliver most of its climate funds to help developing countries cope with climate change as grants, rather than loans, the government has finally followed its own stated position. Both coalition parties made pre-election pledges to deliver climate change finance for adaptation as grants and yet failed to deliver on this when it came into power.

WDM and JDC campaigners have done an amazing job in bringing this issue to the attention of politicians and

decision makers in a way that they could not ignore. This success is not only significant in terms of this announcement. One of the reasons we were campaigning against climate loans, even though the funds the UK is offering are not that huge in terms of global climate finance, was to ensure that loans are not seen as an appropriate way for finance for adaptation to be provided in the future. The UK was the first country to give its funds as capital, meaning that the only way it could be passed on was as loans.

However, there is still a long way to go. With climate change more serious than ever, and the outcome of the climate talks in Durban meaning that serious international action has been put firmly on the backburner, adaptation funding is critically needed by communities who are finding their way of life destroyed due to climate related impacts.

Whilst it's good news that the government has finally given some money to the UN Adaptation Fund, it's a tiny amount compared to what is being channelled through the World Bank, and institution that has been repeatedly responsible for reinforcing global power imbalances. And although we are pleased to see UK money being given as grants instead of loans, the struggle for climate justice has a long way to go as long as the World Bank is involved.

More info about WDM at www.wdm.org.uk.

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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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