



Friends of the Earth

Bromley

July 2011 No. 283 Newsletter

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



July Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

How to be human now (**) ...

The Commonwork story, 35 years on, exploring and sharing how to work towards a more just and sustainable future

Jacqueline Leach, Director, Commonwork, Bore Place

Tuesday 5th July - 7.30pm.

In this Issue:

Diary Dates	2	FoE Europe - Biofuels	9
Tea and Cakes	2	FoE Localism Bill	10,11
Campaigns info	3,7	FoE – Big Energy	12
June meeting report	4	Biofuels letter	12
Airport news	4,5,9	WDM – Gambling on food	13
Energy Bill	5	Greenpeace	14
All Around My Patch	6,7	Bromley FoE contacts	15
Transport info	8,9	Non-members section	16

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 17TH JULY. Contact details inside front cover.

() W.H.Auden – “To discover how to be human now / Is the reason we follow this star”**

Diary dates:

July 5th (Tues)

Bromley FoE's July meeting

Jacqueline Leach from Commonwork, Bore Place. It's a study centre and organic farm, working towards sustainable solutions in farming, the environment and education

July 9th (Sat)

Chelsfield Village Fair: Bromley FoE stall

July 30th (Sat)

Afternoon tea at Birch House (see below for details)

Aug 2nd (Tues)

Bromley FoE's August meeting

Sept 6th (Tues)

Bromley FoE's September meeting

Sept 9-11

Wendy Ahl from Care for the World International

Oct 15 (Sat)

FoE local groups conference, Nottingham University

Bromley FoE campaign stall, Bromley High Street

Join us for Tea and Cakes on the Lawn – and more!

Note the date for a fun event new to Bromley FoE: Saturday July 30 at 3pm. Where: Ray and Marina welcome you to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham Hill, for a social get-together -- and some surprise items too!. There are ancient woods to inspect for those who want a short walk.

Refreshments and snacks will be provided, with all of the £4 charge going to BFoE funds. Family members are welcome but places are limited so please let us know if you will be joining us – phone 01959 571566 or email r.watson865@btinternet.com. If et, we will go into the house.

Grays Road runs from the Spinning Wheel pub at the top of Westerham Hill towards Knockholt where it joins Cudham Lane South. Birch House is just over a mile from the Spinning Wheel or half a mile from Cudham Lane South. While there are spasmodic buses to the Spinning Wheel and Cudham Lane South, there are none through Grays Road. There is plenty of parking at Birch House.

Looking forward to seeing you for a relaxed afternoon.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 17TH JULY:**

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

Campaigns information, Ann Garrett

June 11th stall - thanks

Many thanks to those people who helped with the stall on June 11th. The Localism Bill wasn't an easy one to explain to the public, but we had a go with a useful bullet-point A3 poster synopsis from Tamara, and some home-made eye-catching signs. Also thanks to those members who have posted the amendments letters. The following notice was sent to the press.

The Localism Bill - get involved and have your say in local planning

Bromley Friends of the Earth held a stall on June 11th asking members of the public to sign letters to send to MPs proposing amendments to the Localism Bill currently in the House of Lords.

The bill aims to empower local communities which is excellent, but there are concerns that there is no official right to be heard in the neighbourhood planning process, and that the current proposal only allows for an independent examiner to decide whether people can have a say in person. Other suggested amendments are that people shouldn't be expected to write and pay for planning processes themselves, and that neighbourhood plans should ensure that climate change issues are tackled.

Please support by writing to MPs. Local people have a wealth of knowledge about their areas and it is vital to ensure that fully democratic rights are put in place.

The Great Energy Conversation

This will be the next campaign starting in July for our Summer stalls. During

this time we are going to shape and prepare the campaign, and this will be ready for the September launch and then our Bromley street stall on October 15th.

Activity 1 will involve doing a local energy survey, for which I have already been sent the materials. We can contact local shops and businesses as well as members of the public. The results will help us understand people's priority concerns on energy, which will also feed in to shaping the campaign nationally. It is hoped that we will be able to gain some press publicity prior to the October stall.

Activity 2 will be building case studies and community contacts, and also will focus on finding inspiring local energy projects on the ground.

Climate and Energy

Late in May, UK cabinet ministers agreed a far-reaching, legally binding 'green deal' that will commit the UK to two decades of drastic cuts in carbon emissions. The package will require sweeping changes to domestic life, transport and business and it is hoped will place Britain at the forefront of the global battle against climate change.

During the discussions there were disagreements over whether the ambitious plans to switch to more green energy were affordable. Chris Huhne has strongly backed the plans and encouraged the Government to accept the recommendations of the independent committee on climate

/continued on page 7

June meeting report, from Anne Clark

Martin Bishop, site manager at Bullers Wood School, Chislehurst, enthusiastically related his job looking after around 22 acres of grounds & woodland which surrounds the Victorian school with the William Morris decorated library.

He rations his time and allowances to take in injured birds and animals, has made a recovery aviary, & brought us a recovered blue tit and a magpie which seemed quite at home trotting about our feet!

School pupils learn to appreciate the wildlife and not to leave litter - which could injure animals such as a mouse that had become trapped inside a discarded CocaCola can. Martin is gradually opening up areas of woodland for lunchtime relaxation and hoping that maybe other school children may come to learn & visit in the future.

The undergrowth needs clearing and an old Edwardian pond has been unearthed with Martin being given money by the Chislehurst Society for its repair. As it is quite shallow, it could have been a watercress pond, or just decoration. In clearing the woodland, he is using old railway sleepers & chippings, making unique bird nesting boxes from adapted recycled plastic milk bottles, sanctuaries for hedgehogs, and bat boxes.

A rescued swan had been handed in to the school, but had to be passed on to another sanctuary although a kestrel (which had fallen in diesel oil) and a tawny owl had been given a new lease of life.

The schoolgirls are hopefully taught to appreciate their wildlife companions & the natural habitat with badger sets on site etc. Martin hopes to put information leaflets around and open up even more woodland, as it is a precious local gem in which he obviously loves working and hopes his environmental vigour rubs off on the youngsters.

The Airport Never Stops, Ray Watson

Just two months ago, plans to hugely increase hours of operation at Biggin Hill Airport during the Olympics were resoundingly rejected by Bromley councillors – by a 44 to 7 margin. Now we are back to the beginning, with the airport making a second, similar application.

This time the application, to be heard after the Newsletter went to press, was due to go before the council's executive committee and it is difficult to see how these seven councillors can change their mind, all having voted against the proposal last time round.

The application slightly trims from 10.5 weeks to 7.5 weeks the length of the period the airport wants to operate outside its current approved hours, and reduces from 26 to 15 hours each week the hours of operation outside the current lease, being a reduction from around 273 hours to around 113 hours of operations outside the lease.

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Energy Bill - 'Act now' appeal to council

Bromley FoE sent a delegation to Bromley Council, appealing for the council to influence the borough's three MPs in getting changes to the Energy Bill, now going through parliament.

The action was taken as part of a national drive by FoE to incorporate into the Bill powers to strengthen the role of local authorities in combating CO2 emissions.

Quentin Given, a senior national FoE campaigner, joined BFoE members Sue Bocock and Ray Watson at a meeting with Cllr Colin Smith, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for the environment, and Alastair Baillie, the officer leading Bromley's carbon reduction programme.

The council was presented with research showing that local authorities could have a major influence in reducing CO2 emissions in their area through planning and other controls, through transport policies and by educating home owners and businesses. FoE recognised that they would need both technical and financial help in this task and outlined how this could be achieved if there were provisions in the Bill. It was pointed out that already some 40 local councils from all political parties were supporting the amendments proposed by FoE.

FoE also argued that local jobs would be created if councils were able to take action on matters like better home insulation or installing renewable energy systems.

Cllr Smith said the council was always willing to work with groups such as FoE to help reach its targets for reducing CO2. However, it should be recognised that there were some areas, like transport planning, which were out of its hands.

It was agreed that FoE would draft a letter for Cllr Smith to consider sending to the borough's three MPs, asking them to support detailed amendments to the Energy Bill.

The Airport Never Stops, *continued*

The airport has also dropped its suggested pay-per-passenger sweetener that it offered the council, which some saw as a sort of 'bribe'.

Residents see the airport's action as showing a disregard for the community because the extra hours in the early morning and late at night would mean considerable disturbance for people living under the flight path. Indeed, many councillors who opposed the previous application said that the advantages for residents were minor in comparison with the disadvantages. They argued that there was enough capacity under the current lease to handle additional Olympics traffic which might amount to an extra 638 flights.

Last time council officers drew up a list of seven reasons why the plan should be rejected and these still apply. This was done after it became clear that the

/concluded on page 9

All Around My Patch, Sue and John Bocock

We are well acquainted with our patch, having lived in our present home for forty three years. Where is our patch? It is known as Bromley Town Ward and is bounded by Bromley South, Masons Hill, Homesdale Road Chatterton Village and the A21.

Housing

A true mix of housing styles are to be found, ranging from early Victorian terraced, suburban semis, pre-second world war and more recently, to some social housing included in a new seven storied block of flats in Homesdale Road.

Schools

We are well served by primary schools all within walking distance, amongst them Raglan School which is a shining example of an Eco-status school (since 1995). Raglan has also recently received "Outstanding" from the Ofsted inspection. It boasts an eco-monitor display showing the level of electricity being used in the school; it recycles 14 different materials and also has an eco-co-ordinator for environmental education whom we are fortunate to have in our local FOE group, Annette Rose. Our only secondary school (where our two sons went) is Ravensbourne in Hayes Lane; formerly a boys only school, but now mixed.

Shops

When we first came to Bromley, there was a selection of specialist shops in Homesdale Road which included a butcher a baker (no candlestick maker!) but a sewing machine shop which is now the only survivor. Perhaps indicative of the demography of this part of Bromley we now have a "funeral

parlour", the word "undertakers" having now died out!

Chatterton "Village" an estate agent invention? which offers a wider range of shops from the environmentally aware Co-op to specialists shops such as bakers, four hairdressers, Avicraft, a model makers Mecca and a wool and craft shop, cake decorating, a hardware, a pet shop, a combined Chemist and Post Office and a family run stationers, Diplocks. Three charity shops and an increasing number of oriental restaurants are both indicative of current economic and social changes.

Within the last few years a local artist / painted a mural of a street scene typical of the Chatterton Road area showing the four seasons. This has greatly enhanced the appearance of the Co-Op's side wall where previously there was often mindless graffiti.

Recreational facilities and open spaces

We have The Brickfield, formally a source of clay for the locally made yellow "London" Bricks, Whitehall Recreational Ground which has recently had a makeover largely due to the efforts of Mark Diplock and Jason Glen, both local residents. A meandering path with seats and flowerbeds weaves across the central area which has visually enhanced the previously rather barren empty space. There is also a small wildlife area with a pond, with the possibility of a small nature centre in the future. A circular peripheral tarmaced path provides

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All Around My Patch, *continued*

opportunities for jogging, cycling and walking, both with and without dogs. Responsible dog owners now seem to be more in evidence.

Public transport

We have a variety of bus services. The most recent being the single decker 336 which gives a scenic and circuitous tour of the area. Running between Catford and The PRUH (previously Farnborough Hospital)

Current trends

Regrettably, there have been many conversions of front gardens to car parks with a consequent loss of biodiversity and increased water run-off. More loft conversions are appearing or being planned, especially in the last three years. As a near neighbour said recently "It's cheaper to have a loft conversion than to move and is less disruptive to our children's schooling or to their friendships." There is now a slow increase in the numbers of solar energy collectors appearing on roofs. Under occupancy of many houses is also a noticeable factor which reflects the increasing numbers of elderly people.

Rat runs are a problem with increased car use. Our road is long, straight and a temptation for the "Speed Merchants" despite notices showing 30 mph. Our local Civic Amenity Site (The Dump) is one of two in the borough and is within walking distance. Each month the current recycling rate, (61 % in April) is updated and displayed to the large numbers of incoming motorists, (carbon footprints?)

Finally what are we doing to make our own home more sustainable and energy saving? A solar heating system on our kitchen roof heats our water when the sun shines. The house has external insulation on its solid brick walls. We compost food and garden waste where possible and recycle as much as we can of our household waste. Biodiversity is important but costs £35 a year, the price of not turning a front garden into a car park.

Campaigns info, *continued*

change for a new carbon budget which should aim to cut emissions by 60% by 2030. Ministers believe that off-shore wind technology companies such as Siemens, Vestas and General Electric will now be keener to invest in Britain.

It will be the job of the environmental groups to keep up the pressure to see that the Government adheres to these promising commitments.

German Coalition agrees to shut nuclear plants by 2022

Germany will shut all its nuclear power plants by 2022 and plans to cut power use by 10% by 2020. This decision has been drawn up in a rush after the Fukushima disaster. This is big reversal of the original decision to extend the lifespan of the old power plants. Obviously the country has really invested in green energies over the past 10 years which helps. But there is some concern by environmentalists that in order to sustain the decisions Germany will have to import power from Europe and also use coal-fired power stations. There is no easy answer.

Transport information, Ray Watson

Time for a rail shake-up

The recent report on the state of our railways puts the spotlight on areas that should concern environmentalists and passengers alike. It signals that rail journeys on some lines will increase, adding to overcrowding, and also that Government subsidies will be reduced, bringing the prospect of fare increases that might drive people back to the roads.

The McNulty report concludes that the basic problem is that our railways are inefficiently run compared with other European countries and this has led to a jump in Government subsidies to £5bn and this must change. The report says that £1bn can be stripped out of rail costs and cites European fares as being 30 per cent cheaper than ours while operating costs in Europe are 40 per cent lower.

Sir Roy McNulty, former chairman of the Civil Authority, suggests cost savings such as closing ticket offices at small stations, removing conductors and improved maintenance. Getting costs down is crucial for passengers and environmentalists because that is the only way to limit fare increases which are bound to follow as Government subsidies are reduced, thus possibly pricing some users off the railways.

Make them pay!

A little-noticed change in the law means that airport operators now have to pay for policing costs - and we are talking hefty sums here. For example, policing London City runs up a bill for the taxpayer of about £5.7m annually. In

2008 the Met paid out £24m for securing Heathrow, but recovered 70 per cent of that.

Shed no tears for London City. Its private owners raked in a profit of £50m last year.

Flying high

Watch out this summer for the launch of a cable car service crossing the Thames from Greenwich to Docklands. It will carry 2500 passengers an hour – and take cycles as well.

Ah, the French...

Most Parisians agree that their bike hire system, called Velib, has been a marked success from its launch in 2009. But not all. No less than 11,000 have been vandalised while 9000 have been stolen, one being found in north Africa. Let's hope that mayor Boris' copycat scheme is faring better.

Up for sale

While we sometimes get the impression that the march of airport expansion is inexorable, the aviation industry is not all success. Plymouth airport is to close, blaming the recession for reducing passengers to about 100 a day, while Newcastle airport has been put on the market because the seven local authorities that control it are facing ballooning debts. A £320m debt repayment is due later this year.

In 2007 Newcastle moved 5,624,000 travellers – but only 4,346,500 in 2010, a fall of 20 per cent.

/The final para is on page 13

Friends of the Earth Europe - Flying in the face of the facts

Aviation industry expected to launch biofuel targets as major international institutions recommend scrapping biofuel subsidies

Brussels/Paris, June 20, 2011 - European airlines fuelling aeroplanes with biofuels is greenwashing, and flies in the face of recommendations from major international institutions, Friends of the Earth Europe said today on the opening day of the Paris air show, Le Bourget.

The European aviation industry, with support from the European Commission, is expected to announce plans to use 2 million tonnes of bio-kerosene per year by 2020. This could require up to 3.5 million hectares, an area the size of Belgium, to grow, with serious environmental implications. KLM and Virgin Atlantic have already carried out test flights with various blends of biofuel, and Lufthansa launches its first commercial flight this year.

According to new analysis from Friends of the Earth Europe biofuels present the aviation industry with a convenient blind alley, facilitating the industry's expansion plans, avoiding pressure to reduce fuel use and diverting political attention from the real need to cut air travel in order to reduce climate change.

Robbie Blake, biofuels campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe said: "The European aviation industry is simply flying in the face of the facts. Biofuels exacerbate poverty and hunger, drive land-grabbing and deforestation, push up food prices, and threaten to make

climate change worse, not better. These new biofuel targets offer a convenient smokescreen for aviation industry expansion, but not the genuine emission reductions needed."

This week, G20 Agriculture Ministers will be discussing measures to reduce pressure on rising food costs, including recommendations by the World Bank, WTO, UN, OECD and others to scrap biofuel subsidies and mandates because of their impact on world poverty and food prices.

Europe's biofuel plans are causing social and environmental destruction. [5] Controversial crops to be included in the aviation biofuel mix include palm oil - the production of which is linked with tropical deforestation, irreparable biodiversity loss, and human rights abuses - and jatropha, promoted as a miracle crop, but in reality instrumental in driving land-grabs in India and Africa.

More info from: Robbie Blake, robbie.blake@foeeurope.org. Also see letter to MPs from Graham Hemington on page 12.

The Airport Never Stops, *concluded* vast majority of residents responding to a consultation exercise opposed the scheme. In fact 95 per cent (or 2081) individuals did, together with 30 residents associations and other groups, including Bromley FoE.

A report on the executive committee decision will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

FoE explains the Localism Bill

What is the Government up to?

The Localism Bill contains proposals including a new power of competence for local government, new neighbourhood plans and development orders, and a new duty to co-operate. Our concern is that these proposals fail to ensure that planning delivers on sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and fails to provide a right to be heard in neighbourhood planning.

What is the power of competence?

This is a new power for local authorities to enable them to do more in their role. However, the power of competence is not specifically linked to delivering on sustainable development which is a concern. In this section of the Bill powers are given to the Secretary of State which are disproportionate and amounts to the changing of legislation without parliamentary process.

What are Neighbourhood Plans?

Neighbourhood Plans are created by Parish Councils where they exist or by Neighbourhood Forums, which are new organisations set up by the Bill. These would set out "policies in relation to the development and use of land" in the area covered by the plan. The Secretary of State will publish guidance about what should be in the plan. As there has been no White Paper, it is unclear what the Government expects these plans to look like. Neighbourhood Plans are accepted if they pass a referendum by the local authority, and then act as the plan in that area. The examiner checks the plan to ensure that it is in line with the local development framework, and that it has had regard to national planning guidance.

What are Neighbourhood Development Orders?

Neighbourhood Development Orders set out types of development which are approved for the whole or part of the area covered by the Order. It can also say how certain developments should happen in different circumstances. Development that is excluded are county matters, major infrastructure projects, and waste. Planning permission can be granted by the order unconditionally or subject to conditions which are specified in the order.

What are Neighbourhood Forums?

The local authority designates an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum if it is established for the express purpose of furthering the social, economic, and environmental well-being of individuals. The membership is open to people who live in the area or who want to live in the area (at least 3 members must live in the area), and it has a written constitution. There can only be one Forum in an area, and the local authority is in charge of making sure that Forums and Parish Councils don't overlap.

What are my opportunities to be involved?

There has been no White Paper to comment on. You can write to your MP with your concerns about the Localism Bill and Friends of the Earth and other organisations are suggesting amendments to the Bill.

Localism Bill: Explained

There is currently no right to be heard in the examination of Neighbourhood Plans or Development Orders.

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FoE explains the Localism Bill, *continued*

Within the process itself, the Secretary of State has reserved the right to issue guidance on the following areas with regard to process: Giving notice and publicity Information and documents that will be made public Reasonable charges for anything provided as a result of the regulations Consultation and participation by the public Making and the consideration of representations including when they need to be made

The examination will no longer be undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate but by the "independent examiner". It is up to the examiner as to whether hearings are held on specific issues and whether cross-examination takes place.

What is the duty to co-operate?

This is a "replacement" of the regional strategies. There is acceptance that there needs to be some co-ordination at sub-national level between local authorities, but the duty to co-operate in the Bill is very weak.

What are the key messages?

- People must have a meaningful right to be heard in the planning process to ensure good decision-making.
- Planning is essential for the UK to meet the challenge of climate change.
- The purpose of planning is to deliver sustainable development.
- There must be an assessment of the equality impacts of Neighbourhood plans and Neighbourhood Forums must be subject to the Equality Act 2010.

Empowering people locally means that we need to address:

- Rights: by ensuring that all planning documents contain a right to be heard in their inquiry/examination, and that some decisions on applications can be subject to a third party right of appeal.
- Equality: ensuring that planning considers the equality impacts of policies and development management.
- Information: by requiring all information and meetings of the Neighbourhood Fora and Parish Councils to be made publicly available.

What changes do we need?

- A binding purpose for all plans to deliver sustainable development with the specific definition of living within environmental limits, ensuring a strong, healthy and just society, achieving a sustainable economy, promoting good governance, and using sound science responsibly.
- A binding duty on decision makers to ensure plans and decisions on planning applications contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions.
- A meaningful right to be heard in person throughout plan inquiries, including an amendment to the Planning Act 2008 to bring a right to be heard to bear on Infrastructure Planning Commission examinations of major projects.

More info from naomi.luhde-thompson@foe.co.uk

From FoE's Change Your World – Big Energy Conversation

This summer we're kicking off a Big Energy Conversation before the launch of our exciting new energy campaign in September. We want a future of clean energy that will cut carbon, create jobs, and free us from the control of big power companies and our addiction to pricey fossil fuels.

With rising oil prices and nuclear power in the spotlight again, it's crazy that clean energy is at risk. But it is. The feed-in tariff scheme, which pays people to generate their own green energy, is under threat. And the Government is limiting the amount of green energy projects it supports, whilst also planning to invest in a new generation of nuclear power stations.

But the UK has enough renewable energy resources to meet virtually all our energy needs. We need to change our energy supply to a combination of big projects such as offshore wind, mixed with homes, schools and businesses run as mini-power stations. We also need massive energy efficiency improvements, particularly in our homes.

So this summer we need your help to tackle the urgent threat to community energy — and to build the case for massive investment in new wind, wave and tidal technology.

We're asking you to start gathering evidence of the impact of the Government's indecision on its commitment to renewable energy. You'll also have an opportunity to assess the local potential for renewable energy generation (see back page for top tips on identifying

allies). Together we can use this research to show just how many people are interested in a clean, green energy future.

Biofuels letter from Graham

Graham Hemington has drafted this letter which he has already sent to Jo Johnson, MP for Orpington.

Biofuels - A False Solution

I am concerned that the Government continues to increase the use of biofuels, ignoring advice that they are harmful rather than helpful to the environment.

Research shows that biofuels:-

- Cause deforestation and diversity loss in producer countries.
- Threaten local people's livelihoods and their food supply.
- Increase greenhouse gas emissions, instead of reducing them.

Despite the above compelling evidence against biofuels, the Government is continuing the rush for biofuels in the UK.

Please do what you can to:-

1. Prevent the continued use of biofuels.
2. Encourage better public transport, greener cars and incentives for people to cycle and walk.

World Development Movement - Help stop gambling on food

Imagine waking up in the morning with a feeling of gnawing hunger and going to your local shop only to discover that your next meal will cost more than you earn in three days? That's what millions of people in the world's poorest countries are experiencing as food prices rocket out of reach.

The cost of food is shooting up worldwide because corporations like Goldman Sachs and Barclays Capital are betting billions of pounds on food and oil markets in secret, unregulated deals. This big-money gambling is increasing global hunger while investment bankers and hedge fund managers get richer and richer.

As a result, the world's poorest people, who spend the majority of their income on food, are suffering from malnutrition, hunger and having to forgo 'luxuries' such as medicine and education.

What can be done?

The same financial institutions that caused the global economic crisis have been responsible for helping to push an extra 44 million people into poverty since last June. WDM is pulling out all the stops to get key people behind our campaign to back regulation to promote stable and transparent food markets.

With your suggested donation of £xx, you can take action by helping to fund the following which will bring us closer to a campaign win:

+ A briefing for MEPs about the proposals going through the European parliament to encourage them to vote

in favour of legislation to curb food speculation.

+ A UK tour of a speaker from a country such as Kenya to represent people affected by food price rises and talk directly to decision makers about the impacts of food speculation.

+ A public event this autumn to raise awareness about how WDM's campaign fits in with our wider vision of a fairer global food system.

+ A trip to Brussels where WDM food campaigners will speak directly to decision makers to get them to support regulation.

Together we can tackle this outrageous injustice; which can be addressed with effective new rules to provide much needed respite against rocketing food prices for millions around the world.

With your support we are hopeful we can win this campaign. Thousands of WDM supporters responded to a consultation in January on proposals for regulation, outnumbering responses from the banking lobby which was a tremendous result.

Transport column – last para

Call it greenwash...

East Midlands airport has been fanfaring its two new wind turbines that will generate five percent of its electricity. It all helps, presumably, but campaigners against expanding the airport estimate that planes flying to and from East Midlands generate 600,000 tonnes of carbon annually. How much will the turbines save? Just 300 tonnes

Greenpeace vows to continue campaign

Greenpeace campaigners who scaled an Arctic oil rig and prevented deep water drilling off the coast of Greenland for four days have vowed to continue their campaign after climbers believed to be from the Danish navy arrested an occupation team.

Two activists had been living in a survival pod suspended from the underside of the 53,000 tonne Leiv Eiriksson since early on Sunday morning. Their presence was stopping Edinburgh-based Cairn Energy from beginning drilling operations 180km to the west of Greenland. Just before midnight last night, local time, a climb team operating from the rig broke into the pod – hanging 25 metres over the freezing Arctic Ocean – and arrested Luke Jones from the UK and American Hannah Mchardy, both 25 years old.

The Greenpeace ship Esperanza remains near the rig, just outside a 500m exclusion zone which was declared by a Danish warship that has been on the scene since Sunday.

Greenpeace International oil campaigner Ben Ayliffe, who is on board the Esperanza, said: "We stopped this rig from drilling for four days, which was four days in which a Deepwater Horizon-style blow-out couldn't happen in this beautiful and fragile environment. Our climbers are in jail now, but this won't stop us opposing the madness of drilling for oil that we can't afford to burn and in a region where a spill would be almost impossible to clean up. This isn't over. We must keep on pushing till the oil companies get out of the Arctic."

Shortly before their arrest the Greenpeace climbers used a satellite telephone to call Cairn Energy and asked them to publish their oil spill response plan. Despite repeated requests Cairn has refused to make the document public, while claiming to follow stringent safety standards that require the publication of such a plan.

Shares in Cairn fell sharply on Tuesday when London traders returned after the long weekend – with media reports attributing the price drop to the presence of the Greenpeace pod. The Leiv Eiriksson is one of just two drilling vessels operating off the coast of Greenland. The world's oil giants are watching Cairn's rig with great interest. If it strikes oil this summer Exxon, Chevron and the other big oil companies (which have already bought up Greenland licenses) will begin drilling in the area and the Arctic oil rush will be on.

Cairn admits its drilling operation will result in at least 9,000 tonnes of chemicals being discharged directly into the waters of the Davis Strait, including 180 tonnes of red-listed chemicals (more than all annual oil drilling operations in Norway and Denmark combined).

The company also admits that it would take decades before significant profits from oil exploration flow to Greenland, while Cairn's operations pose an immediate and grave threat to Greenland's fisheries, which represent 88% of the island's export economy.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605
email – sheilabrown336@msn.com
Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295
anncgarrett@yahoo.com

Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Secretary:

Ray Watson 01959-571566
r.watson865@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

Debbie Witherick
debbie.witherick@sky.com

Press Officer:

vacant

Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

Outings organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 020-8464-5990
johnbocock@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor:

John Street 020-8460-1078
johnstreet@gn.apc.org

Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

Campaigns –

Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details below

Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352
tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Waste and Recycling

Annette Rose
annette.rose1@ntlworld.com

Bromley FoE web site:

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk
Peter Gandolfi
famgando@hotmail.com

Letters to the Editor

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

Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson 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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