



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**



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*July 2015*  
*No. 331*

# ewsletter

## July Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

### **TTIP – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

*Sam Lowe from Friends of the Earth*

*Sam is FoE's chief campaigner on TTIP and will educate us on this controversial issue*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July – 7.30pm**

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**\*\*\* SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY\*\*\***

Contact details inside front cover.

***Info on FoE's Earthmover awards on page 10***

### Diary dates:

July 7 (Tue)	<b>Bromley FoE's July meeting:</b> Sam Lowe from FoE on TTIP Commonwork's Summer Open Day – Sevenoaks FoE have a Stall (Bore Place, Chiddingstone, TN8 7AR)
July 12 (Sun)	
July 21 (Tue)	Whitehall Recreation Ground Fun Day: Bromley FoE stall from 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Aug 4 (Tue)	<b>Bromley FoE's August meeting:</b> Judy Palmer, Dan Sloan and Rob Clark look back at Bromley FoE's campaign successes Bromley FoE stall at Cudham Village Fete
Aug 31 (Mon)	

### July meeting – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Pro-TTIP lobbyists say the trade deal will result in EU-wide growth, jobs and prosperity. In reality it will lower EU and UK food, environmental and health standards, allow foreign companies to sue governments in private international courts, undermine international efforts to combat climate change and not live up to the promised economic benefits. Sam Lowe is FoE's chief campaigner on this.

### Commonwork's Summer Open Day – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Annual open day when the historic house, grounds and organic gardens are open to all. No need to book - pay on the day. Adults £7, children aged 2-12 years £3.

More info at <http://www.commonwork.org/courses-and-events/commonwork-summer-open-day-2015>

**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*

### Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by \*\*\* **SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

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

\*\*A number of articles in this newsletter have been shortened \*\*

\*\*because of limitations of space.\*\*

### **Run on Sun Campaign - Solar Powered Action Plan**

As part of the campaign FoE are asking people to email/write to their MPs. Here's a link to the FoE briefing on this:

<https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/run-sun-mps-briefing-april-2015-75773.pdf>

Below is the text of a letter sent to the Bromley press to publicise the Run on Sun Action day on June 21st.

Local authority or academy schools can apply to the company Salix for a loan to invest in energy efficiency, but they will not be eligible for the Feed in Tariff subsidy. This is just one of the reasons that a Solar Powered Schools Action Plan is needed.

### **Wind Farm Aid Axed**

Plans to end subsidies for new onshore wind farms will push up energy bills, experts have warned. The Government will stop the existing payment schemes a year early, in April 2016, to fulfil a manifesto promise.

Campaigners argue the plans attack the cheapest form of clean energy, and one which has the backing of 65% of people. Scotland, however, where most of the wind farms are sited may push for a judicial review on the matter.

Renewable Energy UK have stated that this decision will only encourage fracking in an effort to gain cheaper energy.

### **Climate Change Lobby**

Several members of our group were outside Parliament on June 17th - see photo on *page 7* - as part of the demonstration to urge the Government to meet The Climate Change Bill targets. Other FoE groups were there and also the campaign group 'Population Matters'. Their main slogan was 'It's not much use reducing carbon footprints if we keep increasing the number of feet!'

Meanwhile on the issue of climate change, it is good to see the Pope has called for an end to the 'tyrannical exploitation of nature by mankind'. He has proposed that an ethical and economic revolution is needed to prevent catastrophic climate change and growing inequality. It is a welcome and powerful message saying 'that the world faces ruin without this revolution', and encouraging to those of us who spend much of our time campaigning on this vital issue.

### **Letter to press re Run on Sun campaign**

On June 21st the longest day of the year, Friends of the Earth is calling on the Government to make it easier for schools to install solar panels by ensuring that they receive support. They are calling on the Government to set up A Solar-Powered Action Plan.

Solar power is an incredibly popular clean energy source that already benefits many thousands of households and businesses, including those in Bromley, but the vast majority of the UK's 29,000 schools are currently missing out on an opportunity to curb their fuel bills. / *go to page 4*

## June meeting report - Anne Clark

We were confronted with an assortment of items such as test tubes, Monopoly and an inflatable globe turned upside-down in John Courtneidge's talk on a chemist's view of sustainability. He introduced himself as an absolute lover of chemistry and personally believing in the Co-operative idea of arriving at "wholeness."

He had taught at Charterhouse, Ravensbourne and Eltham Green schools before moving to Canada. He had met an Alan Watts who taught the Nuffield way (the old-fashioned, didactic way): "If I tell you, you'll forget, but if I show you, you'll remember; and if I touch you, you'll know."

Wealth was something that helps pay for its needs, and we were asked to list the things that we thought were important to our survival. Clean air, oxygen, shelter, food, water, nature, sleep, clothing, health, recreation, relaxation and education were suggested.

Then 10mls of water was poured into a test tube into which a teaspoonful of caustic soda had been placed and we watched it become hot, demonstrating the principle of equality through experience.

After returning to this country to become a town councillor in Hertfordshire, John read many books including "The Spirit Level" by Wilkinson and Picketts, which inspired him to campaign for a fairer world in which equality, ecology, peace, justice and co-operation were our responsibility.

We want to examine the way we live now. Has economic growth done as much as it can to improve conditions in developed countries? Why not concentrate on making people's incomes more equal as in Scandinavia or Japan rather than valuing growth that often makes for unhealthier, violent and unhappy lives. Something has to change.

Through old-fashioned "blackboard" teaching, and a bit of fun, we were shown how John personally believed that all people co-operatively and together are in control of their lives, all work is for the long-lived benefit of all, caring for the long-lived benefit of the whole global ecology – and all its inhabitants.

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### Climate and Energy – *cont'd*

A Solar – Powered Action Plan would see restrictions lifted on schools borrowing money to install panels.

As a result of this all new schools would have renewables and high energy efficiency as standard and solar panels would just be a start of a wider push on renewables - with a target of six million roofs across the UK by 2020.

Please contact your MPs and visit Bromley Friends of the Earth stalls at Keston Countryside Day on June 28th and Cudham Fair on August 31st to sign their Run on Sun campaign cards which will be sent to Friends of the Earth and then to MPs.

### **Defend Nature's Laws, quick update**

The campaigning team at Friends of the Earth recently met with European Commissioners who have been rocked by the public response to FoE's #DefendNature online tool. Almost 200,000 people have used it to tell the EC to end the threat to nature laws across Europe. This is the biggest ever response to an EU public consultation.

### **A message from the FoE Bee Cause team**

Thank you for taking urgent action to protect our bees from toxic, bee-harming pesticides. Over 12,000 of you signed our letter to Liz Truss MP, Secretary of State for the Environment – urging her not to allow seeds treated with banned neonicotinoid pesticides to be planted this autumn. One of our giant bees handed over the letter with all your names. Your support is vital as we expect a decision by ministers anytime soon so watch this space.

Meanwhile we've had some good news. Earlier in June we met with the European Commission, together with friends from RSPB, Soil Association and the Pesticide Action Network. Two years ago the Commission initiated the current Europe-wide ban on neonicotinoids following damning scientific studies.

The ban is due to be reviewed soon. But knowing the strength of concern for bees across the continent the Commission has promised to look at all the most up-to-date scientific evidence and consult widely before proposing any changes.

Until then the current restrictions on neonics will remain in force. This is good news that makes it even more important our Government doesn't allow any exemptions here. Let's get bee-harming chemicals out of our fields and gardens for good!

### **Coolings' Bee Information stall**

The group had a stall at Coolings on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June and Annette and I would like to thank Anne Clark for dropping the gazebo off for us! Thanks to Ray & Marina for the morning shift, and Ivy for the afternoon, and big thanks to Bill for the whole day shift, and for providing the materials for our bee nest demo model, which people were most interested in.

Our stall was a little out of the way this year, but plenty of people did stop to chat to us about bees, bees they have seen, bee's nests and plants in their gardens, and even one couple whose daughter-in-law-to-be was a staff member at Friends of the Earth! As a bonus, it didn't rain on us this year!

**Stop press!** – we received an email the next day from one of the interested people who chatted to us – she kindly attached a photo of the nest she had created that very afternoon, and even persuaded her sister to do the same in her garden! How brilliant was that!

### **Bromley Biodiversity Partnership**

Tamara and I attended a meeting at High Elms recently on the proposed Bromley Biodiversity Partnership, hosted by ex Council staff but who are now with The Landscape Group (TLG).

*/continued on next page*

## Airport opposition group formed – Ray Watson

A new group has been formed in Bromley to protect residents against recent plans to expand Biggin Hill Airport currently being considered by Bromley Council, the head lease holder, in the face of strong opposition from residents.

Called Flightpath Watch, the group has held public meetings and found a high level of support, especially from the approximately 110,000 Bromley people who live under the take-off and landing routes. This reflects serious concerns about increased levels of noise and pollution following a vote by councillors in support of the airport being granted longer hours of operation. One demand is for Biggin Hill to allow flights from 6.30 a.m. Monday to Saturday, which in effect means the airport would open 5.30 a.m. or earlier, while closing time would be extended to 23.00 hours.

Flightpath Watch is also concerned about other potential changes in the airport's lease. These include monitoring noise - a major topic when the airport begins to negotiate detailed changes in its lease. The group was critical of the way the council and the airport handled the massaging of public opinion prior to the vote by councillors. It is carrying out a road-by-road survey to achieve another view of residents' views.

Meanwhile, there are suggestions that the airport will be the lead entity in increasing the amount of industrial activity in the area. Flightpath Watch is also looking for details about the sale of farmland adjacent to the airport for

£1.6million to a company associated with the airport.

Flightpath Watch welcomes helpers. Membership is £10 for individuals, £25 for families. For more information call 07544 558585 or 01689 858575.

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### **Bromley Biodiversity Partnership - continued**

The meeting was originally advertised as going to be a review of the Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan (BBAP), but it got overtaken by events when the Council out-sourced the Parks and Green Spaces department to TLG. The revision of the Plan is now being finalised and will be published later this year.

It was good to see so many local 'nature' groups attending the meeting, and to catch up with people who were involved in the inception of the BBAP. We were given a presentation and talks on the revision and how TLG wish to take forward the new proposed Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Agreement and we all participated in free-ranging discussions on how to make it work.

There were a couple of coffee breaks in the morning when we could all network and stretch our legs. For those organisations/individuals who wished to belong to the Partnership, we could sign up for it then, and the first formal Partnership meeting will be held in September. (I have a copy of the Agreement should any BFoE member wish to see it.) It was a good positive meeting.

## Have your say on the buses + Photo from Climate Change Lobby

### Join the London Bus Users' Online Community!

London TravelWatch, the capital's independent passenger watchdog, invites bus users to join its London Bus User's Online Community, where you can get free information about your bus services, including any planned changes to routes.

A significant number of people have already joined the online community, receiving information about particular bus routes, as well as a newsletter addressing broader issues every four to six weeks. Members also have the opportunity to provide us with feedback on issues important to them, which we may be able to raise in our dealings with Transport for London.

The London Bus Users' Online Community ensures that, in light of the

amount of redevelopment projects affecting the road network, bus users are informed about the issues affecting their bus services and, especially, that they are given the opportunity to participate in how the service evolves.

Issues relating to buses in the capital are particularly important. London Buses carry more than 2.4 billion passengers a year, and more people travel on buses every day than on the London Underground.

Abdi, one of our members, said, "Bus passengers are often the poor relations with rail and tube users grabbing all the headlines. This new service helps redress the balance."

Those interested in joining our growing online community can visit: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/LondonBusWatch](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LondonBusWatch) to sign up.

### Ann Garrett, Ray and Maria Watson, Nikki Packham and Mary Ingledrew outside Parliament at the Climate Change Lobby on June 17th.



## Why can't we produce gas from sewage works ??

*Rob Clark asked the question*

### What a Gas

I know that politicians seem to think that we, the general public, spend most of our time on cost comparison web sites seeing if we can get a few pence off our utility bills but I think the reality is that very few people actually have the time or patience to do this or actually consider changing supplier.

We had been with British Gas for our electricity and gas for many years and there seemed little point in changing company as the prices fluctuated for all companies so frequently. But recent austerity measures in the Clark household meant I had to think again. To be honest I had been eyeing the 'green' electricity suppliers for some while but the few comparisons I did meant we would be paying a premium for a clear conscience something we could just not afford to do.

My last search though threw up an interesting alternative. Although the savings were minimal there were savings in changing to ecotricity. This isn't an advert for ecotricity, by the way, just an explanation for what came next.

One of the problems of changing to a green electricity company, apart from cost, is that, yes, they supply electricity - but not gas. This means that you lose any dual fuel bonus and have different suppliers for your gas and electricity which is bound to push the cost up. However, it seemed that ecotricity could supply us with both!

Upon further investigation I found that ecotricity plan to generate their own

methane from grass supplied to their anaerobic digesters. These are in the planning stages at the moment but should be on line before long. In the meantime the green gas is supplied from Holland, frack free, from sugar beet waste fed digesters.

On the ecotricity web site there is the option to ask a question, so I did. I asked why we couldn't harness some of the gas which must be produced at UK sewage treatment works. This is a supply of waste which will never decrease and one which is surely perfect for gas production.

**I received the following, very interesting reply.**

**Dear Robert**

Thanks for your email regarding the use of sewage farms for the generation of gas.

Further to my email of 11<sup>th</sup> May, please see the response below from the colleague who had previously worked at Thames Water.

"A number of water utilities have anaerobic digestion plants alongside their sewage sludge treatment plants. These are primarily used to generate electricity through CHP (combined heat and power) engines.

"There are some organisations that are working towards, or have developed anaerobic digestion plants to generate gas for the Grid from sewage sludge, however most encounter problems.

*/continued on page 14*

## How do I provide nesting sites for bumblebees? – Annette Rose

You can help bumblebees by providing them with somewhere to nest.

The first step of course is to provide lots of the right kinds of flowers in spring. At this time of year the nest-searching queen will be attracted to gardens where she can find plenty of food to help her produce her first batch of eggs. For information on the best flowers to plant for bumblebees, visit the Conservation Bumblebee trust or Friends of the Earth-The Bee Cause.

Once she is ready to lay, the queen will start looking for a nest site. She flies low over the ground in a zig-zag pattern, stopping to investigate holes in the ground, or piles of leaves.

It can be quite difficult to encourage bumblebees to nest in a specific place - even specially designed nest boxes

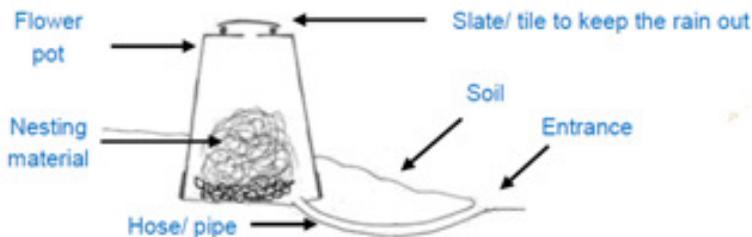
have limited success. However, here is a design to build a suitable nesting site in case you want to give it a go.

### What you need:

- A flowerpot (> 20cm in diameter)
- A piece of slate/ tile
- A bit of tube or pipe

### Instructions:

1. Sink the upturned flower pot into the ground and use the slate/ tile to cover any drainage holes to keep the rain out.
2. Run a hose or pipe underground to the pot, leaving a prominent entrance. Be sure to make drainage holes in the pipe.
3. Finally, fill with a generous handful of nesting material, such as old bedding from a pet mouse, guinea pig, etc.



Checking the nest can disturb the queen while she is scouting and means they might leave.

Leave the nest site for several years – the nest should survive the winter and

if no bees nest, most likely a mouse will, increasing the chances of nesting potential the following year.

*Information taken from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust website.*

## From FoE's Campaign News - Local activists win awards

**Huge congratulations** to Warren Davies (co-ordinator of Llangollen and District Friends of the Earth) . He has won the annual Wales Council for Voluntary Action award for the category 'Green Volunteer of the Year'; a fab accomplishment. Warren and Llangollen Friends of the Earth have been busy campaigning on a wide range of issues including fracking, climate change, bees and biodiversity.

The annual Friends of the Earth Earthmovers award winners have also been announced. The ceremony at Basecamp last Saturday was a fantastic celebration of the dedication and determination of campaigners across the environmental movement.

Prior to the awards, Friends of the Earth local group members and Basecamp attendees had been invited to vote on a shortlist of eight nominees. Hundreds of you voted and it was incredibly close within all four categories.

### **The awards:**

#### **- in the category of Group of the Year:**

**Winner** - Isle of Man Friends of the Earth; a fantastic example of how vibrant and effective local groups can be.

**Runner up** - Bristol Friends of the Earth; for the scale of activity, ambition and outputs, it's been quite a year for them.

#### **- in the category of Exceptional Campaigner Award:**

**Winner** - Chayley Collis; an outstanding local activist and co-founder of Huddersfield Friends of the Earth.

**Runner up** - Suzannah Evans and Dave Yates; incredibly successful and dedicated campaigners and joint co-ordinators of Newport Friends of the Earth.

#### **- in the category of Outstanding Community Campaign:**

**Winner** - HACAN East; this group brings together East Londoners, some of whom live in the most disadvantaged parts of the UK, to fight the expansion of London City Airport.

**Runner up** - Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green; Residents of Kirdford and Wisborough Green in West Sussex were faced with a company wanting to drill for oil and gas in a field between the two villages. They formed a group and resisted the company with a great local campaign that really did make a difference.

#### **- in the category of Friend of Friends of the Earth:**

**Winner** - Cavanacaw Residents' group; incredible campaigners and invaluable allies in the bigger fight to reform Northern Ireland's failing environmental regulatory system.

**Runner up** - John Ashton; a consummate speechwriter and diplomat, as well as a confidante and advisor to many in Friends of the Earth, encouraging us - and others in the green movement - to do more, go further, stretch higher.

## Improving Friends of the Earth governance

*FoE sent out this email in early June.*

This email reports progress in improving Friends of the Earth governance. You will recall that, over a year ago, we set out to strengthen the Board and improve accountability to Local Groups and other activists and supporters.

The Company Members of Friends of the Earth Trust and Friends of the Earth Limited have now unanimously adopted new Articles which give effect to the new structure. In summary, this means that all Board places will now be filled by open recruitment from the widest possible range of candidates.

A Nominations Panel, at least one of whose members will be from a Local Group, will oversee the recruitment process. The majority of Board members will continue to be elected by Local Groups, from candidates submitted for election by the Panel.

The Nominations Panel will be asked to ensure that we continue to have suitably qualified Board members resident in Wales and Northern Ireland as well as from different parts of England. The Panel will also be asked to improve the gender balance on the Board, and seek greater ethnic diversity.

The combined membership of the Trust and Limited Boards will be reduced from 17 to a maximum of 12 members. Current Board members will complete their three year terms, in order to avoid loss of expertise. This means that the reduction in Board size will take a year to complete, and that

there will be no vacancies for new appointments this year. There will be at least one vacancy in 2016, and more in subsequent years.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions about these changes at the governance session at Basecamp on Friday 12 June.

Also, during the governance session, we will outline our achievements in the past year and explain our plans for next year. Senior staff will be present. There will be an opportunity for questions and debate. To help prepare for this session a summary of our current Business Plan is located [here](#).

We want the governance of Friends of the Earth to be transparent, and to improve our accountability to all our activists, stakeholders and supporters. Basecamp itself, with its provision for interactive discussion of all the main issues facing us, is an important part of accountability.

Also important are:

- The Dialogue Forum
- Regional gatherings, at which the Board is normally represented
- A governance session at Basecamp
- Better information about the Board and governance on the website.

## What does a Conservative government mean for CPRE's priorities?

**Sheila forwarded this from CPRE -**

Last month we asked our campaigners to write to their parliamentary candidates ahead of the general election, asking them to make the countryside a priority. Together we achieved a fantastic result, with nearly 15,000 letters sent to candidates across the country.

We were encouraged to see some positive approaches to the big issues affecting the countryside in all the party manifestos, including a commitment to prioritise brownfield sites for development, from all the main parties.

Most importantly, given the election result, the Conservative Party manifesto contained some welcome promises, including a pledge to “protect your countryside, Green Belt and urban environment”. We are now working hard to build relationships with new MPs and ministers to ensure they follow through on their commitments.

But do we have reason to be cautious? To find out more, read Shaun Spiers' (CPRE's Chief Executive) view on what the new Government may have in store for the countryside. Here is that view.

### **What does a Conservative government mean for CPRE's priorities?**

There were certainly some welcome promises in the manifesto, which reaffirmed the aim of 'being the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than that in which we found it', and declared boldly: 'We will protect

your countryside, Green Belt and urban environment.'

I have no doubt that David Cameron cares about the countryside. This comes across in his Q&A with CPRE's President, Andrew Motion, where he describes himself as 'a country boy at heart'. And I recall a fine impromptu speech he gave last summer at Burford School on the history and future of rural England – I doubt any of the other party leaders (a moving feast, I know) could have spoken with such knowledge and passion.

The trouble, of course, is that as Prime Minister David Cameron has too often forgotten the countryside and left others do their worst. On the National Planning Policy Framework, for instance, he let the Chancellor call the shots.

The experience of the last government suggests that manifesto promises are a poor guide to how things will pan out in reality. It is not just events that get in the way of fulfilling manifesto promises; people make a difference.

On housing and planning, for instance, there were three phases during the last government. First, a genuine attempt to localise and simplify the planning system, led by Greg Clark but subverted by the Treasury. Second, Nick Boles's pugnacious time as planning minister, which caused lots of (sometimes enjoyable) aggro, but damaged the countryside and failed to get more homes built. Finally, Brandon Lewis as housing and planning minister generated less heat but considerably more light.

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## The Conservative government and CPRE, *continued*

This is a reminder to avoid ‘the cant of “measures not men”’. Ministers matter. We will soon know who we have and – in the most important departments for the countryside – whether they will have any chance of standing up to the Treasury (or whether they want to).

I hope that goodwill and good ministers will ensure that the new government is considerably better for the countryside and wider environment than most of my NGO colleagues fear. But here are a few reasons to be cautious.

### Housing

The Conservative Manifesto proposes to help housing association tenants buy their homes. I am pleased that part of the proceeds will go into a Brownfield Fund, but pumping money into the housing market rather than using it to build houses is massively counter-productive. Housing association tenants will get a very nice subsidy from the taxpayer, but other first time buyers will face higher prices. And flogging social housing without replacing it will seriously compound the housing crisis, hitting those most in need. It is highly unlikely that the homes expropriated from housing associations (the Conservative Party having a Leninist moment) will be replaced one-for-one. I hope the Government will think again.

### Planning

Neighbourhood planning will continue to be supported and the punk economics of the free market think-tanks – release more greenfield land and the market will miraculously

produce more homes – looks set to be resisted. This is good. But we need better ways of deciding where new housing should go, and we need to make better use of existing stock across the country (in this respect, the PM’s renewed commitment today to a ‘northern powerhouse’ is very welcome).

In short, we need some sort of strategic planning. It suits CPRE to see off the drive for large-scale development in the countryside – that is a large part of our purpose – but it does not suit us to see the too few homes built year after year, too many of them in the wrong places. At present it is left to 330 local councils and the Planning Inspectorate to decide how many homes should be built and where they should go. That did not work in the last Parliament and it will not work in the next.

In the longer term, England needs a land use strategy, encompassing the recovery of nature, flood protection, carbon sequestration and all the other uses of land, as well as development. There will be plenty of SNP MPs in the new Parliament to consult on the Scottish land use strategy.

This blog was originally published by Shaun Spiers on CPRE viewpoint on 8 May 2015.

The remainder of the article can be found at <http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/features/item/3958-the-conservative-government-and-the-countryside>.

## FoE comments on Cuts to wind subsidies and Pope's lead on climate change

### Govt cuts wind subsidies - Friends of the Earth reaction

Friends of the Earth's renewable energy campaigner Alasdair Cameron said:

"While the Government rolls out the red carpet for fracking, they're pulling the rug from under onshore wind. Proposed changes to the planning system could make it more difficult for local authorities to give the go-ahead to new wind installations – even if it's the local community who want to build and run them.

"Basically you get fracking whether you like it or not - but if you want wind, you may miss out. Slashing wind support on the day the Pope calls for stronger climate action, and 24 hours after thousands lobbied their MPs to do more for the environment, shows the Government is living in a different world.

"Far from showing global leadership ahead of the crucial Paris climate summit later this year, the government appears to be making the environment pay the price for rash pre-election promises."

### Politicians urged to follow Pope's lead on climate change

Friends of the Earth's head of campaigns Andrew Pendleton said:

"The Pope has shown impressive and inspiring leadership where many elected leaders have failed. He is both a friend of the earth and of the millions of people in poorer, vulnerable nations

whose lives are already being shattered by extreme weather.

"People across the UK and in scores of other nations are also showing leadership in their communities - resisting dirty energy, reaping the benefits of clean, renewable power and protecting neighbourhoods from flooding and drought. The tragedy is that too many governments are currently in thrall to big vested interests and are failing their people.

"The Pontiff's encyclical cuts across the murky politics of climate change and will inspire people way beyond his own church community. Politicians must follow his lead, ditch dirty energy vested interests and unleash the massive potential of the clean economy."

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### Gas from sewage works, *cont'd*

"The reason behind this is that the variability of the sewage entering the digester directly affects the variability of the gas produced at the end of the process. In the UK the gas specification to allow injection into the Grid has very tight parameters, which means that in many cases these plants are unable to inject all of the gas they produce, to the Grid.

"Nonetheless as the technology improves, this could prove to be a useful way to generate biomethane, however we currently believe the grass to gas model is preferable to ensure high quality gas production for injection to the Grid."

I hope this helps, ... ..

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*r.watson865@btinternet.com*

#### Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

#### Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

#### Planning and development:

Mary Stirling  
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Tamara Galloway 01689-855352  
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#### Campaigner:

Annette Rose  
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#### Fracking / Clean British Energy

*vacant*

#### Bee Cause

Judy Palmer  
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#### Monthly Meeting reporters:

John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,  
Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and  
Ray Watson

#### Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

#### Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

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

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

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

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**Non-members' Section**

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

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

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

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN.** Other enquiries regarding the group: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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.....

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

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