

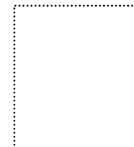


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

October 2011 No. 286 Newsletter

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



October Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Food Security: Rural and Urban Policies

Our present and future prospects for securing enough food for us all

**Dr Howard Lee, Lecturer and Sustainability champion
Hadlow College**

Tuesday 4th October - 7.30pm.

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER. Contact details inside front cover.

“As always, the conference was excellent” – see page 3

Diary dates:

Oct 4th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's October meeting: Dr Howard Lee from Hadlow College on Food Security
Oct 15 (Sat)	Bromley FoE campaign stall, Bromley High Street, outside Caffe Nero, 2-4pm
Nov 1st (Tues)	Bromley FoE's November meeting: Richard Priestly on Global Problems: Global Solutions
Dec 6th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's December meeting

Invest Bromley Conference, Tuesday 20th September

It's too late to go and you probably wouldn't have wanted to pay the entrance fee of £225 + VAT but here's a taste of what you missed:

The Localism Bill: Planning Reforms Enabling Growth – Speaker Rt Hn Bob Neill, MP for Bromley & Chislehurst & Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Communities and Local Government

Bromley: a planned approach to development - A Strategic and Local Perspective on Development Opportunities – Speakers Cllr Stephen Carr, Leader, London Borough of Bromley, John Lett, Strategic Planning Manager, Greater London Authority, and Marc Hume, Director of Renewal and Recreation, London Borough of Bromley

Outer London : A Driver for Growth – Speaker Boris Johnson, Mayor of London

A Once in a Generation Opportunity: Introducing South London's biggest new retail development opportunity: Churchill Place – Speaker Neil Parlett , Senior Director CB Richard Ellis Limited.

So, it looks as if The Future Is Growth. Don't you just wish you had known about it sooner ??

Next Newsletter - copy details:

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

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

Report from FoE Local Groups Conference – Dan Sloan

This was held at Nottingham University
Friday 9th - Sunday 12th September.

As always, the conference was excellent, leaving the delegates feeling inspired and empowered as they left on Sunday evening.

Friday - Biomass

The first Friday afternoon workshop I attended discussed the pros and cons of developing biomass energy generation. The workshop was presented by Brighton Friends of the Earth. Many of the attendees were there because there were proposed biomass power generators proposed in their regions. The big question being, are they sustainable?

The major concern is that rather than use local material to provide the power, timber would be imported from far and wide, this hugely increasing the carbon footprint and completely disregarding the object of small local power generation. The consensus was that fuel for local biomass generation should be sourced within 100 miles of the power station, however, for many of us this is still far to large a radius - 20 miles would seem far more "local".

There is not a specific department in FoE to deal with the Biomass question, so it was agreed that further study should be carried out under the umbrella of the Biofuel team. It is the general policy of FoE not to support large scale schemes.

Friday - Will there be any fish left

The second seminar I attended on Friday afternoon was "Will There be Any Fish Left", presented by David

Levy (Marinet), Stephen Eades (Marinet) and Tim Atkinson (FoE)

This seminar discussed the dreadful condition of our seas and the Food Security Issue (the ability to feed ourselves for 12 months of the year, year on year on our national catch of fish - in fact, currently we only six months of the year, everything else is imported)

Marinet had carried out very valuable research into to numbers of fish in our waters, and produced a very telling graph showing fish decline since the 1880's. Interestingly there were three peaks when fish stocks recovered substantially, these were after the two world wars, and the third in the 1970's (which was thought to be when the fishing of herring was banned, this in turn provided more food for other fish)

One further problem that was highlighted was that fish did not get the chance to grow to full maturity, therefore they ages of fish stocks was becoming younger and younger, so the breeding stocks were very immature - the equivalent of the human race being sustained by ten year old children! Cod mature at 6 years old there are not cod left by the time they attain the age of six.

To start the evening on Friday we had a light hearted question and answer session with the current (Andy Atkins) and four of the former directors of Friends of the Earth, Tom Burke, Jonathon Porritt, Charles Secrett and Tony Juniper. This session was very ably chaired by Elaine Gilligan.
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September meeting report, from Graham Hemington

The Big Energy Conversation (Glyn Thomas, FoE Underwood Street)

BIG because of the involvement of as many people as possible. ENERGY because it's about the forthcoming energy campaign. CONVERSATION because FoE wants to know people's energy priorities and their interest in a clean green energy future.

In a prelude to the forthcoming energy campaign, questions about the choice of energy were first put to 120 FoE groups. Perhaps not surprisingly, renewables and insulation came out top, with nuclear energy attracting little support.

Support for renewables has led to the feed-in tariff scheme which pays people to generate their own green energy but now the government has reduced its subsidy. Glyn quoted an example: a church in Birmingham fitted with solar PV panels paid for by a local organisation and the government subsidy. Then the subsidy was reduced by 50% making the project no longer viable, yet this type of community action is just what the government has been encouraging.

FoE sees its role as persuading the government not to decrease subsidies, not just for community projects but also for small businesses which otherwise would go bankrupt.

FoE will also be petitioning 100,000 people for further evidence of energy preferences. Equally important, to inquire into the intentions of the six big energy companies, e.g. to challenge their proposals to build gas-

fired stations when the supply of gas is decreasing.

Investment in renewables preferred, along with improvement in the insulation of homes (The EU has proposed an energy saving of 20%.)

Golf course development opposed – Ray Watson

Bromley FoE is supporting residents in Biggin Hill and surrounding districts who are opposing a major development at Cherry Lodge golf course. The project calls for major re-shaping of the course itself, together with new buildings and a driving range. However, the main objection is that the work will take up to two years and will involve a fleet of huge lorries delivering soil and other materials.

Residents say there could be up to 70 lorry movements a day, which, they claim would result in air and noise pollution, road damage and add to road congestion because they would have to negotiate steep hills in the area. They also claim that the golf course and adjoining fields are rich in wildlife, including deer and bats, which would be disturbed.

BFoE's submission calls for an environmental impact assessment and demands that, should the scheme be approved by Bromley planners, there should be restrictions on lorry movements.

A decision is likely to be made towards the end of the year.

Campaigns information – from Ann Garrett

The next Bromley High Street stall is on October 15th from 2.00 - 4.00 pm outside Caffè Nero or in the Mall outside Argos if the weather is bad. There will be petitions and leaflets for the next stage of the Big Energy Conversation. Many thanks to those people who have already agreed to help.

Results of Big Energy Conversation questionnaires

36 survey forms were completed in total (13 FoE members and 23 members of the public).

1. Most important energy issue facing the UK? - highest results - 11 voted for dependence on imported oil and gas and the impact of our energy system on climate change and 10 for availability and supply of oil and gas. 7 expressed concerns about the safety of nuclear power plants.
2. The UK needs to invest billions to keep lights on and reduce dependency on oil. Where should the money be spent? - highest results - 19 voted for making energy savings in homes, businesses and industry, and 17 for power from the sun, waves and wind.
3. Do you think more green energy should be generated locally? - 33 voted yes. There was 1 no and 2 don't know.

The results of questions 2 and 3 were very positive. Grateful thanks to those who completed the questionnaires and to people who helped on the three stalls (Bromley High Street, Keston Countryside Day and Cudham Fair) to consult the general public. The

process was certainly worthwhile, generating much useful discussion, and creating awareness of ecological demands we are facing.

The work of Glyn Thomas at national FoE is proving valuable in helping organise the materials for this campaign.

Climate and Energy

Planning Bill

Conservationists and green campaigners are urging ministers to rethink planning reforms. They are worried that the new proposals of 'a presumption in favour of sustainable development' in the new National Planning Policy framework, will undermine the government's own creed of 'localism'. The danger would be that major projects such as incinerators and factory farms could easily be approved.

FoE campaigns director Craig Bennett has stated that the proposals threaten the countryside, whilst doing little to curb climate change or carbon emissions. He has emphasised the importance of developing the UK's huge energy potential and in building more fuel efficient and affordable homes.

Climate Change and risk of civil wars

Scientists have warned cyclical climate changes double the risk of civil wars with analysis showing that 50 out of 250 conflicts between 1950 and 2004 were triggered by the El Niño cycle.

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Transport information – from Ray Watson

Stating our case

Bromley FoE has worked with other residents groups in the borough to produce a document that has been sent to the government about Biggin Hill Airport's role in the future of aviation. The submission is part of a broad consultation process that will eventually result in the publication of a White Paper outlining how the government will tackle the problems of handling a growing number of passengers.

The Bromley submission outlines the case against expanding the airport because of its location - the flight path is over thickly-populated suburbs - and also deals with wider questions such as helicopter and other noise, air pollution and traffic congestion. It also suggests that passenger growth could be slowed if huge tax subsidies enjoyed by the industry were cut.

Redhill row looms

Gatwick Airport environmental group has unleashed a formidable answer to recently-announced expansion plans by nearby Redhill Aerodrome – and it is absolutely nothing to do with Gatwick worrying about a potential rival.

No, the group's main concern is that Redhill's plan to replace its grass strip with a hard runway and take up to 85,000 movements a year, will lead to safety problems, more noise and further expansion due to a potential need for a new control tower and more hangars. The airport denies all this and a battle will be fought, probably at a public inquiry, once the local authority has voted on the Redhill project.

Bromley is not that far from Redhill, so perhaps our council should be taking an interest in the proposal. They might also note that, like nearly all of Biggin Hill Airport, Redhill is in the Green Belt.

Forgotten fence

Another question for Bromley Council – and we have asked them – concerns the boundary fence at Biggin Hill Airport. This arose when it was revealed that the owners of Lydd Airport in Kent, currently the subject of a public inquiry into its development demands, had not mentioned in its plans the requirement for a 9ft 3in barbed-wire topped security boundary fence for its two-mile perimeter.

Apparently, such a fence is required by European law and by Britain's own National Aviation Security Programme. So, is Biggin Hill subject to these rules as well? We shall see what the council replies.

Meanwhile, at Lydd, the public inquiry may well be delayed while the information on the fence – or lack of it - is collected.

It is also worth noting that Lydd is among Kent airports bidding for additional flights for next year's Olympics.

Un-fare?

The figures behind the rail fare increases of up to 13 per cent from January are quite staggering. For instance, an annual season ticket from ...

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Global Poverty Project

This was sent to Ann Garrett recently.

I am writing to you from the Global Poverty Project, an organisation whose vision is to see a world without extreme poverty within a generation. We exist to mobilise and inspire people to take action to end extreme poverty.

I am contacting you to inform you of an exciting opportunity which you and your fellow Bromley Friends of the Earth group members may be interested in.

We are launching the Global Poverty Ambassador programme, a not-for-profit grassroots scheme in which members of the public are trained to become leaders in their communities and to inspire those around them to join the movement to end extreme poverty.

Find out more and apply to become a Global Poverty Ambassador today (<http://globalpovertyproject.com/pages/ambassador> but applications are currently closed and this website says that they will reopen in November.)

As a Global Poverty Ambassador we will give you the skills you need to inspire people and raise awareness of the reality of extreme poverty through delivering a series of 1.4 Billion Reasons presentations and actions from October to December 2011.

1.4 Billion Reasons shares the story of how each of us can play a role to end extreme poverty. From Guernsey to Aberdeen, 33,000 people across the

UK have already seen the presentation, and with leaders like you we will reach another 100,000 people face to face with this message.

Apply to become an Ambassador or nominate someone you know. (This email was sent to Ann three days before the closing date for nominating these ambassadors.)

Applications close on Friday 9th September, and successful applicants will undertake training with the Global Poverty Project's team of experts in London on 24th September 2011.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like further information about the Ambassador programme. You can do this on 0207 921 4235 or by contacting Lana Simpson at lane.simpson@globalpovertyproject.com.

Transport info, continued

Bournemouth to London could rise by £705 to £6,129 – a huge sum that must make our local commuters feel a little better.

Equally, it is not generally appreciated that the train operating companies pass on this extra revenue to the Treasury so it can reduce the amount of subsidy paid by the taxpayer to aid investment in the railways and to keep rail fares down. And how much is that subsidy? No less than a staggering £4.6bn annually.

However, that does, in part, help keep commuters off the roads.

Report on Marinet AGM held at FoE Conference

This is a short update on events, largely relating to our AGM and the FoE conference over the weekend.

Firstly, you will be very pleased to learn that our booklet *The Ocean Planet* won an award as the most powerful communication over the past twelve months. This is a great tribute to the author, Deborah Wright, and to the network as a whole. It was clear from the conference that MARINET's work is appreciated, and there is strong support for the CFP Reform campaign and the work you are doing on this.

We are now moving into the next stage of the CFP Reform campaign, and I would like to send my personal thanks to all members who have let me know how your MEPs and MPs have been replying. I have not been able to respond to you all yet - the number has been too great - but I have been reading and logging all the replies that you have sent in.

With the aid of these replies we are now planning our next step in the campaign, and we will be in touch in the near future to explain to you how you can help the campaign further in order to secure the real reform that is so essential. In the meantime, look at: <http://www.marinet.org.uk/latestnews.html#mifs>.

The AGM elected new officers for the next twelve months:
Chairman, David Levy (North Wiltshire FoE), **Secretary**, John Bassendine (Sevenoaks FoE), **Treasurer**, Malcolm Scott (North Tyneside FoE), **Co-ordinator**, Stephen Eades (North Wiltshire FoE).

Bill Rigby (Beverley FoE) has stepped down from the position of Secretary after long service of several years, and the AGM has wished to thank him for this long service, hard work and commitment to MARINET. I am certain that Bill will remain engaged with the network, and indeed he is giving a talk about our work to two Cornish FoE Local Groups later this month.

The AGM has also recorded its thanks to Denis Walker (South East Essex FoE) and Haris Livas-Dawes (Hull FoE) who have stepped down as co-opted members of the Steering Group. Their assistance with our Marine Reserves campaign has been greatly appreciated.

The Steering Group governs and directs our work in the period between AGMs, and consists of the four elected officers and the two Underwood Street officers. In addition, we have developed the practice of co-opting members who have a particular interest or expertise which can assist the network in connection with current campaigns and work on other issues.

The Steering Group meets around four times a year, and we have taken a decision - endorsed by the AGM - to open up its work to all members so that you can become involved, either by attending, or listening in by a telephone link or via Skype. We want to encourage you to become involved, so if you would like to be informed of these meetings so that you can attend or link in, please let me know.

/continued on next page

Marinet AGM, Local Groups Conference, Campaigns - *continued*

Marinet AGM, *continued*

The CFP Reform campaign, and securing its success, is now our major objective over the next twelve months. The campaign is focused on persuading MEPs throughout the EU to use their new voting powers on the CFP to secure real reform, and to persuade our UK Fisheries Minister, Richard Benyon, to do the same.

Therefore lobbying of your MEPs and MPs will remain most important, and I'll be letting you know about the next stage in this lobbying campaign very soon. If *you* have any thoughts or ideas on how or where to focus our campaign in order to achieve its success, please do let me know.

Local Groups Conference, *cont'd*

Then, later on Friday night we heard how FoE is managing in other parts of the world, with a presentation by Nnimmo Bassey, chair of FoE International, and Jagoda Munic, activist with FoE Croatia. This session was chaired by Vanessa Baird, Editor of the New Internationalist, Jagoda showed us a very amusing slide show of how they carried out their campaigning - some very interesting and bold techniques

We didn't relax until 22.00, by which time most of us were totally exhausted and missed the disco heading straight to bed.

Campaigns info, *continued*

Hot and dry conditions in tropical nations cut food production and lead to outbreaks of violence. Other factors could include rises in unemployment and natural disasters.

The research team at Columbia University, New York are doing important work in monitoring this in relation to progressing understanding of the drivers of human social behaviour.

Oil surcharges

Green groups are pressuring UN climate negotiators to consider a fuel surcharge on international shipping firms to partly finance a \$100 billion annual pledge to help developing countries meet the challenges of global warming.

Oxfam and the WWF (World Wildlife Fund) are suggesting a levy of \$25 (£15.60) per tonne on fuels that power the global merchant marine, which transports 90 % of the world's trade and contributes an estimated 3 % of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Delegates from 193 countries will convene to make decisions in Durban, South Africa for two weeks from November 28th. *Editor's Note* – This meeting is COP17, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which consists in part of: the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP), and the 7th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP).

London Region CND's Nuclear Trains Action Group

Olympic runners after all?

Article written by David Polden. We reported in the last Nuclear Trains that the authorities had at last admitted that the nuclear trains that run through the Olympic would be "suspended" during the Olympics themselves. Since then, we have seen a letter from the Department of Transport that throws doubt on this.

Let us review the evidence:

1) On 16th March a spokesperson for Transport for London said that during the Olympics, "Freight traffic will be scheduled so as to release capacity for passenger trains and the Nuclear Waste Trains will be suspended." (Quoted from minutes of meeting of Transport Liaison Consultative Group of Waltham Forest Council.)

2) In its July 21st edition, Hackney Gazette reported that a spokesperson for Direct Rail Services (DRS) had "confirmed" to a Gazette reporter that nuclear trains through the Olympic Site would be "suspended" during the Olympics "following discussions with the ODA and Magnox Ltd" The DRS spokesperson "stressed the decision had nothing to do with terrorist fears... it was to free up more space for passenger trains because of increased demand during the 9-week period of the Olympics and Paralympics."

3) However, a letter from the Department of Transport dated 1st August, sent in response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request said: "In answer to your specific FOI Question, shipments from Sizewell power station will continue to be allowed to use the

railway line through Stratford during the 2012 Olympics provided they are carried out in full compliance with the regulations covering the transport of radioactive materials. If there were concerns over either the safety or security of these shipments then the powers provided by the relevant regulations would be used to prevent them."

This last seems at first sight a clear contradiction to the previous two statements. But note that it does not actually say that the shipments will continue to use the line through Stratford during the Olympics, only that they will be "allowed" to do so. Moreover the alleged suspension is presented by the spokespeople for both TFL and DRS (however implausibly) as a purely operational matter, which as such would not require government intervention.

As I reported in the last edition of Nuclear Trains, nuclear trains through the Olympic Site that had stopped running since April 19th resumed on 12th August. They have continued running since then at the rate of two trains a week, usually carrying two flasks of nuclear fuel rods each. This has prompted NTAG to switch its next planned stall on September 24th from Wembley Central to Stratford.

At this stall we will hand out leaflets publicising this resumption, saying that though we welcome their suspension during the Games, continuing to run them before the Games will still provide a possible terrorist target - a successful attack in the vicinity of the Park would ...

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Some info on forthcoming CND activities

October 3rd: Mass Blockade at Hinkley Point

Demonstrate your energy against new nuclear power stations at the first site planned for new build. Come to blockade or support the blockaders.

CND is a member of the Stop New Nuclear alliance organising the blockade. See the website for info on the weekend camp, non-violent direct action training events and pledge your support.

8th October: Anti-war Mass Assembly at Trafalgar Square, London 12 noon

We went to war in Afghanistan 10 years ago and we're still there now. Come to Trafalgar Square to show your opposition. With music, film shows, performances, art installations, and much more.

Sign the pledge to be there:<http://antiwarassembly.org>. Organised by CND, Stop the War and the British Muslim Initiative

Countdown to Zero

If you haven't yet seen the controversial new film, Countdown to Zero, now is your chance to buy the DVD at a discount directly from the film distributors. For the next two weeks, CND supporters get 20% off their purchase at the Dogwoof store if they use the promo code: CNDRedemption.

To find out more about the film and purchase a copy, go to <http://shop.dogwoof.com/products/countdown-to-zero>

CND Vacancy: Press Officer

CND is looking for an experienced and dynamic Press and Communications Officer to join its staff team. CND's Press and Communications Officer is responsible for promoting the Campaign's policies and activities in the media and for co-ordinating the servicing of CND's national and public campaigning with accurate, up-to-date information.

For a full job spec and details of how to apply, see www.cnduk.org/jobs. (Note – deadline for applications is Monday 3rd October.)

Nuclear Trains Action Group, cont'd

... require mass evacuation for a considerable period and almost certainly make it impossible to use the Olympic Park for the Games in 2012.

On September 13th, the opening day of the Westfield Shopping City at Stratford, we leafleted the crowds coming out with leaflets asking:

"Did you know that Direct Rail Services who run nuclear trains through Stratford have agreed to suspend them during the Olympics and Paralympics next year?"

and making the point:

"If these trains are far too dangerous to be allowed to go anywhere near athletes and spectators attending the Games, then they are far too dangerous to be allowed to go anywhere near Westfield shoppers or people living in Stratford."

What FoE and FoE Europe had to say

FoE says - More than 80% of people think slop buckets are trouble-free

More than 80% of people with food waste collections say they're no trouble and should be provided by all councils, according to new research launched by Friends of the Earth today, rubbishing claims by a Government Minister that householders don't want to use slop buckets.

The new research, 'Storm in a Slop Bucket', reveals that the overwhelming majority of those who have food waste bins at home don't have a problem with them. 82% say they're not a nuisance compared to 56% of people who don't have one, strongly suggesting that the actual experience of separating food waste dispels concerns.

Only 143 of England's 322 local authorities currently collect food waste and just a handful more are planning to do so, leaving England lagging behind Wales, where all 22 local authorities provide food waste collections.

The research also found that more than 80% of people have become concerned about the increasing cost of food in the last two years.

Friends of the Earth's Waste Campaigner Julian Kirby said:

"It's a load of rubbish that food waste collections are smelly and unpopular - most people think they're hassle-free and want all councils to provide them." Weekly food waste pick-ups can help us cut down the amount of food we

throw away, which is good news for our bank balances as well as the environment.

"As food prices rise it's more important than ever that we cut waste and recycle the scraps that can't be eaten - and we can make genuinely renewable energy from what's left over. " David Cameron must build on the success and popularity of recycling by setting a goal to halve the rubbish England throws away by the end of the decade."

FoE says - Council carbon cuts due to recession not green action

The fall in carbon dioxide emissions in local council areas announced recently is mainly due to the recession, not green policies - which means emissions will rise when the economy picks up and local areas are missing out on green job and business opportunities, said Friends of the Earth.

The environmental campaigning charity also welcomed yesterday's Government announcement that it will ask the independent Committee on Climate Change to advise on local authorities' role in tackling emissions as a step in the right direction - but said this must result in local councils doing their share to meet UK targets for tackling climate change.

Government estimates for 2009, published today, show carbon ...

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What FoE and FoE Europe had to say, *continued*

FoE Europe says Europe's resource reduction plan doesn't measure up

A plan unveiled to tackle Europe's dependency on imported resources does not go far enough to end the region's over-consumption of the world's water, land and other materials.

The Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe acknowledges that major increases in Europe's resource efficiency are needed to compensate for growing competition for the world's resources. However, it is vague about how this transformation is going to happen, leaving most of the substance for future policy processes.

Ariadna Rodrigo, resource use campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe, said: "Europe's resource consumption is amongst the highest in the world. Our dependence on imports from the rest of the world is expensive for companies and consumers and is harming the environment and communities in the global south. Europe urgently needs to cut out waste and focus on quality of life, not excessive consumption - today's roadmap doesn't measure up to the task at hand."

Friends of the Earth Europe is pushing for Europe to measure the entirety of its global land, water, carbon and material footprints, and then reduce them. The European Commission's plan to develop indicators for these four areas is welcomed, but there must be no further delay in deciding precise indicators.

The Roadmap contains some welcome commitments that FoE Europe now wants to see implemented:

- Europe needs to move towards an economy based on re-use and recycling, with residual waste close to zero, and focus funding on recycling and other approaches which minimise waste;
- Further measures on resource use of products, including on the broader environmental footprint of products, though these proposals are currently vague.

FoE on Council Carbon Cuts, *cont'd*

... emissions assigned to local authority areas have fallen by almost 13 per cent since 2005. Councils have influence over about 80 per cent of UK emissions.

FoE's senior parliamentary campaigner, Liz Hutchins, said:

"Disappointingly, the sharp fall in emissions councils have influence over is largely due to the recession - not green policies which could boost jobs and businesses at the same time. Councils have a vital role to play in meeting UK climate targets - but unfortunately most aren't doing enough.

"Independent advice from the Committee on Climate Change on council action to slash emissions is a significant step forward - but this must lead to councils playing their part in meeting UK climate targets."

News from Campaign Against Arms Trade

Last week the arms industry showed its ugly face

Thousands of weapons buyers and sellers came together in London's East End for a massive arms industry jamboree at DSEi, the world's largest arms fair.

They tried to keep it quiet, but campaigning exposed the event for what it was.

CAAT put pressure on the UK government to publish its invite list, revealing that 14 authoritarian regimes had been invited to shop for weapons – including countries that the government itself has said have “the most serious and wide-ranging human rights concerns”

We helped Caroline Lucas expose the companies illegally promoting banned cluster munitions – showing how the arms fair organisers can't, or won't, control the deals that might be done at the fair.

Join us at CAAT's National Gathering in London on 29th October...

Hear from guest speaker Will Self and take part in diverse workshops including 'A crash course in creative action', 'Film is my weapon of choice', and 'Drones and the playstation mentality'. The day will be a great chance to meet like-minded campaigners and share ideas, and will include an open session where you can set the agenda. It's just £7 to book (£3 unwaged) and the cost includes a delicious vegetarian lunch.

Book now for our gathering (http://www.caat.org.uk/events/national_gathering/index.php) to get the latest on the arms trade and all you need to take action; the Gathering is at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1.

Stay around in the evening and support CAAT to raise much needed funds at our comedy gig. We are delighted to be joined by brilliant comedians including anti-cuts activist and stand-up Josie Long, Radio 4's Robin Ince, TV's Kevin Eldon, Kate Smurthwaite and clown with a conscience Joe May.

ReUser Item (1)

Two nearly new high quality 15" CRT computer monitors available for a small donation towards Bromley FoE.

Contact Peter Gandolfi, 01689-831826

ReUser Item (2)

Wooden chairs available. They are not suitable for long periods sitting at the computer.

Two wooden chairs with metal frames, two wooden chairs with PVC seats, and four wooden chairs that are unsafe to sit on, but the wood could be used for something else.

Contact Tamara Galloway, 01689-855352

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
petergandolfi@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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