



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**



September 2016

No. 345

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

email: bromleyfoe@gmail.com, website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

September Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

**Asad Rehman – Friends of the Earth’s
Senior International Climate Campaigner**

The Climate Crisis - did the Paris Agreement save us?

What has been happening since Paris? Has it made a difference and can climate change be reversed?

Tuesday 6th September – 7.30pm

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates:

Aug 29 (Mon)	Cudham Village Fete (FoE stall) - 1pm - 5pm, Cudham Recreation Ground. Contact Sheila Brown for more info.
Sept 6 (Tues)	Bromley FoE's September meeting: Asad Rehman
Sept 10 (Sat)	Marinet's AGM, Bristol – see page 5 for more info
Sept 21 (Wed)	Bromley Peace One day event, Bromley Parish Church rooms. Contact Ann Garrett for more info.
Sept 22 (Thur)	Resurgence 50 th Anniversary Lecture, "One Earth, One Humanity, One Future", Worcester College, Oxford
Oct 4 (Tues)	Bromley FoE's October meeting , incl Traidcraft stall

September meeting – Speaker is Asad Rehman

Climate change is one of the most important environmental campaigns this year and we are lucky to have the Friends of the Earth international climate campaigner, Asad Rehman, come to speak to us at our September meeting.

Hopefully, we will be able to reach a wider audience than normal. Asad was originally scheduled to talk to us at our May meeting, but unfortunately his international schedule didn't quite allow him to fit us in.

Resurgence 50 – One Earth - One Humanity - One Future

The environmental magazine, Resurgence, is marking its 50th anniversary by holding a series of talks at Worcester College, Oxford, starting with a high profile launch on Thursday evening, 22nd September and with different talks over the next three days.

More information and to book tickets from www.resurgence.org/R50event

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 18TH SEPTEMBER** ***
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.

August meeting report – Anne Clark

The August meeting proved refreshing with plenty of audience participation. Judy presented us with a quiz to keep our brains working, based on the Seasons - with Richard showing a wide variety of knowledge when we called out the answers.

Spring asked such questions as what was the main ingredient of the Simnel cake (marzipan) and a variety of subjects including chlorophyll, the Willow Warbler, quotations by Lewis Carroll, Shakespeare and star signs.

Summer involved 'where did the Morris Dance originate' (Spain), recognising Shakespeare quotes, Alice Cooper, and who knew that the Eiffel tower expanded 17 cms. in summer?

Questions on bees, dandelion wine and cheeses wrapped in Dock leaves brought us to Autumn when the Cuckoo leaves, evidently for central Africa.

Winter brought questions on Keats, butterflies, Harry Potter, Van Morrison & who remembered Britain's longest blizzard (1962), not to mention who wrote "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" (Irving Berlin) which brought us to an enjoyable end to the first half, Well done Judy - a refreshing, sociable chance.

Now to more serious matters, throwing in our ideas on "clean air" with the use of pollution/testing with monitors being used, especially near schools - there could be a clean air schools week, and the walking to school should be pushed again as the "school run" was taking over.

There are clean air plants, even pot ivies, and 'Green' corridors should be enforced in new estates with the importance of community gardens and allotments. £3.7m a year was spent on treating lung cancer and asthma with 1/4 of traffic emissions causing greenhouse gasses!

It was pointed out that things had improved from the "smog" days when every house had belching smoke coming from their chimneys, but now it was just invisible pollution. A film called "Gasland" was recommended.

The important issue of Fracking was discussed and what were the alternatives. How was renewable energy faring? Discussing Hinkley Point, anti-fracking campaigns, we decided we needed a smaller artificial wind turbine for our FOE stalls to advertise renewables.

Waste was discussed and recycling must not be allowed to slip back, and the coffee cups that were not really recyclable! The Food & Bees campaign had run smoothly this year, with successful stalls at Tugmutton, Coolings and Whitehall recreation ground. receiving much interest and involving children. A successful evening of ideas from members will hopefully be repeated some time.

Many of these topics had been discussed at a meeting held at the Printworks (headquarters of FoE) which some of us attended: clean air and transport, land and wildlife, homes and energy were the subjects of concern.

Campaign postings – Judy Palmer

Bee cause update

Signing a pledge! At some point this month local Friends of the Earth groups, together with other NGO's (Non-Governmental Organisations), will be asking their MPs to sign a pledge to protect the UK's environment. After Brexit, we need to ensure our existing environmental protection remains in place, and this action is the first step in a campaign to do just this. Bromley Friends of the Earth will be joining in and more information will be available at the September meeting.

Neonics and oil seed rape

A few weeks ago the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology published a new paper showing the results of an 18 year analysis of 62 species of wild bees in England who forage on oilseed rape, a crop known to be treated widely with neonic pesticides.

The results were not good for the bees – here is the reaction of Friends of the Earth Nature Campaigner Paul de Zylva (*taken from press release*):

“This is the strongest ever evidence of harm to bees from neonicotinoid pesticides in British fields. The study uses data from real field conditions over 17 years and adds a huge new peak to the existing mountain of evidence showing the risk these chemicals pose to our bees.

“If the government genuinely wants to safeguard Britain's bees, it must keep the ban on neonicotinoid pesticides regardless of what happens with Brexit - and tighten the way pesticides are tested and licensed for use.”

Friends of the Earth is also calling for a greater variety of bee-friendly crops and plants in our countryside.

Paul de Zylva said: “Bees are no different from us in needing a healthy, balanced diet. To get this bees need to visit lots of pesticide-free plants - endless fields of oil seed rape are failing to provide this.”

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology said that the results show that:

- Use of neonicotinoid pesticides “is a contributory factor leading to wild bee species population decline” and that their use on oil-seed rape crops is a “principle mechanism of neonicotinoid exposure among wild bee communities”
- Neonicotinoid-treated oil-seed rape is a “principle mechanism of neonicotinoid exposure among wild bee communities” and for some vulnerable species of wild bees, the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on crops “was equivalent to at least 20% of local population extinctions...”
- The benefit to bees of feeding on oil-seed rape is “more than nullified by the effect of neonicotinoid seed treatment on a range of wild bee species” and bee decline is “on average, three times stronger” in bee species that regularly feed on treated oil-seed rape than in species that feed on a wider range of flowering plants.”

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Campaign postings - *continued* +++ **Marinet AGM**

Sustainable Food

Part of the Bee Cause campaign is promoting sustainable food – an example of cross pollination? (*sorry!*) As bees pollinate about 75% of our food crops and pesticides are no good for their or our health, sustainable food for all is a good result all round.

A couple of statistics to consider – 25% of all agricultural land is used to feed us directly and 75% is used to feed animals to produce meat, dairy and other products. And how about – it takes 15,455 litres of water to produce 1 kilogram of beef, compared to 255 litres for a kilogram of potatoes. If you are interested in taking this further, signing up to the Friends of the Earth 'Let's Eat Better' pledge is a good first step!

Microbeads and water pollution

It was great to read recently that come September this year, Waitrose will not stock **any** products (that is across all brands) containing microbeads, and will change their cotton bud stems from plastic to paper to help cut down on plastic pollution.

Cotton buds, when flushed down the toilet, can be small enough to escape sewage and water filtration systems, so they end up polluting rivers, seas and beaches. Paper stem buds will be recyclable and biodegradable. Needless to say, microbeads are minute compared to cotton buds, and are not captured by filtration systems so end up on sea and river beds. Or eaten by fish..... then eaten by humans..... What goes around, comes around.....

Waste

Following on from food stats, here are a couple more – we throw away 7 million tonnes of food from our homes each year and up to 2.5 billion coffee cups every year. What a waste!

Some coffee cups cannot be recycled because of the way they are made – would you like to see new rules to end coffee cup waste? There is a petition on the Friends of the Earth website (www.foe.co.uk/act/lets-end-waste-from-coffee-cups) to the Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom asking her to back new rules, and there is a link on Facebook too (and probably Twitter!)

Marinet's AGM

Bromley FoE is a Group Member of Marinet, so any BFoE member is entitled to attend Marinet's AGM. This will be held on Saturday, 10th September (10am to 4pm) at The Bristol Youth Hostel Conference Room, Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA.

Guest speaker is Terri Portmann who has been campaigning for the protection of Marine Conservation Zones in the context of licence applications by industry and their adverse impact upon MCZs.

Overnight accommodation, this is available in the same building at affordable prices and an acceptable standard. Please contact the Bristol YHA, 0845 371 9726.

If you are able to attend, please email Stephen Eades at stephen.marinet@btinternet.com

Campaigns

We will be holding a stall in the Mall Precinct, Bromley with Bromley Against Fracking on Saturday 15th October from 2.30 - 4.30 pm. It is hoped to have some of the Friends of the Earth new fracking campaign materials. Meanwhile if anyone could make a small wind turbine - that would emphasise the importance of being positive in suggestions for investments in alternative energies.

Climate and Energy

Hinkley Point and Nuclear Power

Although the decision to accept an investment of £18 billion in the new Hinkley Power Plant has been postponed till the Autumn, there is a great sense of unease and uncertainty about whether this is the best way forward for the UK's energy provision. The Chinese are now threatening to withdraw from other business deals if their funding offer is rejected, which puts added pressure on the Government to agree to proceed.

The unions are also keen for Hinkley to go ahead with the estimate of 2,500 construction jobs. John Savens of Greenpeace has stated: 'Theresa May now has a chance to stop this radioactive white elephant in its tracks. This deal would be a disaster for tax and bill payers'.

Despite the fact that EDF are making large profits generally, there is still a big question mark over the reliability of the technology of French pressurised reactors - the proposed model for Hinkley.

Solar Impulse's Historic Atlantic Flight

The pioneering sun-powered plane Solar Impulse has completed the final leg of its globe-circling trip. It carries no fuel but its wings, which are wider than a Boeing 747's, have 17,000 solar cells that power propellers and charge batteries. This is just the beginning of viable solar-powered planes of the future.

Fracking

Environmental groups have severely criticised Theresa May's proposal for giving households up to £10,000 compensation if they accept fracking near their residences rather than give the money to local authorities and trusts.

Perhaps the Government is unaware of damning new research which links increase in asthma attacks with close proximity to fracking sites.

More than 6,000 fracking wells in Pennsylvania were drilled during the eight years covered by the research and it was found that victims near active wells had one and a half to four times more attacks than sufferers living further away. Doctors and campaigners in North Yorkshire say the research is a 'wake-up call' about the threats caused by fracking operations.

Climate Targets

Leading climate scientists have warned that the earth is perilously close to breaking through a 1.5C upper limit for global warming only eight months after the target was set.

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Developing Bromley's Local Plan

Public consultations on Bromley's Local Plan are expected to start in September and last for the statutory period of six weeks. If you want to have your say in shaping the future of Bromley this is the time to do it.

This is from Bromley Council's website - The Local Plan will set out the vision and objectives for the borough to the 2030s and the strategic and more detailed policies used in determining local planning applications together with a proposals map and specific site proposals.

Background

Details on the background to the Local Plan, and brief outlines of the consultations undertaken to date can be found on the background to the Local Plan page.

While the Local Plan is being progressed, the majority of the policies within the adopted UDP (July 2006) are saved and form part of Bromley's Development Plan as does the Bromley Town Centre Area Action Plan and the London Plan which is published by the Mayor of London. In addition the council has approved Supplementary Planning Documents for Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing, which are also used in assessing and determining planning applications and development proposals.

Local Plan consultations

All consultations on Bromley's Local Plan take place through our Local Plan consultation portal (<http://bromley-consult.objective.co.uk/portal>). Documents relating to both live and

closed consultations are still available for inspection on the portal.

These documents are available for inspection and comment together with previous (closed for comment) consultation documents on the Local Plan Consultation Portal.

An agenda including a summary of the representations received on the consultations to date and the pre-submission consultation Draft of the Local Plan (**) will be considered for endorsement at the Development Control Committee meeting on 11 July and for approval by the Executive on 20 July 2016. ***Subject to the Executive's decision, consultation is expected to take place from September 2016 for a six week period.***

(**) View it at
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=5807&Ver=4>

Climate Targets, continued

This situation is forming the backdrop to the Intergovernmental Panel talks on climate change in Geneva taking place in August.

Scientists are starting to outline ways to implement the goals set in Paris.

Dates for abandoning all coal-burning power stations and halting use of combustion engines across the globe are being set.

Basecamp – Good Energy and their CEO Juliet Davenport – Hilary Gee

I've been meaning to write this...well, errm, since I got back from Basecamp in June! My son Sam has been reminding me – in a friendly but persistent way – so apologies for only getting around to it now!

The green energy provider Good Energy sponsored Basecamp, and their CEO, Juliet Davenport, gave an enjoyable and very interesting talk about her journey and her company's story.

Good Energy staff also ran a fun pub-type quiz – in which I was pleased to be in a team that did not (quite) come last...but did expose my lamentable lack of detailed, statistical knowledge about energy and the environment. (I did also learn a few things on the way and not only from my team-mates).

Good Energy has a long-standing FoE partnership and it felt very comfortable (to me at least) that they were so involved at Basecamp. Especially so on hearing Juliet's talk and how she and the company had stuck to their original purpose and values, despite challenges and "expert" advice on the way...suggesting that to succeed, they would need to diversify their generation to include fossil fuels – which they seem to have disproved very impressively in a number of ways.

Juliet talked about building Good Energy from scratch to launch in 1999. Her mission was to tackle climate change, help deliver energy security for the UK, and give consumers the opportunity to buy and invest in 100% renewable electricity.

Her interest and belief in renewables grew out of an early interest in climate change, which she studied as part of her physics degree. She explained in her talk that she grew to believe that renewables must play a part in a sustainable future for energy and the environment ... and that someone had to make that happen!

While working on an internship with the European Commission on Energy, she came to realise that political organisations were not going to drive change, which initiated her motivation and idea of creating the Good Energy business.

Then the hard work began – designing the business was one thing, finding funders for such a new venture in 1999, with the founder having no business background and no energy background beyond research for the EU ... well, she found that was a very hard sell!

OfGen also turned out to be a difficult regulator to work with initially...as they wanted 3 years of accounts from Good Energy in order to be licensed to export energy to the Grid. This was not going to be easy for a start-up ... Juliet politely pointed out! They couldn't initially quite get their heads around the need for a slightly different process for a start-up ... but perseverance eventually won out!

Finding funding was also very difficult, but Juliet eventually found a German funding partner, who was very helpful in getting the company started. They then turned out to be less useful as Good Energy wanted to expand further.

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Basecamp – Good Energy - *continued*

For the expansion aims, Juliet turned to finance experts for help. She was advised a number of times to abandon her principle of 100% renewable sources and to expand into fossil fuels – as that would get the City's interest and support, which was otherwise sorely missing.

However, Juliet stuck to the Good Energy values and aims and turned to customers for financial support - who gave it in spades (confounding the energy finance experts' expectations) –with more than 600 of their 5,000 customers purchasing shares, allowing Good Energy Group to buy Delabole wind farm in Cornwall – the UK's first commercial wind farm.

Subsequent share offerings in 2004 and 2007 were also very successful and allowed Good Energy to successfully raise new funds to help grow the business too. These experiences were hugely valuable to Juliet and the business ... not just financially but also for their belief that what they were doing (and are still doing) is not only right, but is also viable as a long-term business model.

Juliet was clear in her talk on how passionate she was about involving customers both in the funding and in the continuous improvement of the business and great customer service and relationships. Her energy is clearly radiating through the business – and that was reflected in the staff who were at Basecamp who were obviously proud to be part of the business and committed to its green-ethical aims.

Good Energy were great to have around at Basecamp, seem to be a good partner for FOE, are clearly highly committed to ethical energy production, seem to have changed the energy market in the UK for good and have offered a £50 donation to FoE for anyone switching to get their energy from Good Energy – quote FOE16 if you do so.

Apart from energy from her infectious enthusiasm and warmth, what I took away from Juliet's talk was the importance of identifying:

- how best you can make a difference
- where change is needed
- creating a viable plan and model for sustainable change
- and (perhaps above all) sticking to your beliefs with real conviction and perseverance.

For more information about the company and their CEO Juliet Davenport – see:

<http://www.goodenergy.co.uk>

25 years on – Plus ça change

The topic of the Bromley FoE meeting in August 1991 was “The future of Bromley is in your hands – Peter Martin, of Bromley Council's planning department, will be explaining the Unitary Development Plan.”

Comment from Peter on this year's Local Plan (see page 7) – “From what I've seen so far it's not unlike that UDP I was talking about 25 years ago.” Plus ça change, indeed.

Mutterings from the Millers – Chris Miller

Hurray, the hay was made in that first week of July despite the odd shower of rain they sent us slightly crazy. The weather forecast was for a complete week without rain, which is just what we needed, but on the Tuesday and Wednesday morning early we had a few showers.

Fortunately when the sun came out it was very strong so no damage to the grass. Steve cut the grass about 1" to 1 1/2" of stubble, which enabled the grass to lie without touching the ground. A super crop of hay, making plenty of large round bales ready for our customers. (We are pleased to say that all the bales have been sold already).

As we have not had enough hay for our customers needs, we will be planting more grass for harvest 2017. This all helps with our crop rotation, as grass will be in the ground for 4 years. It will give the worms a chance to enhance the structure of the soil too.

The next jobs are harvesting the peas, wheat and then spring barley, which should start around the beginning of August. The boys are cleaning the tractors, combine, loader bucket and trailers in preparation for the harvest.

The barn bays where the grain will be kept before being loaded onto 30 tonne grain lorries to go to Weald Granary in Seven Mile Lane, Mereworth also have to be cleaned. All this information has to be recorded for our inspection later in the year.

The new drill is imminent but it will be sad to see one of our tractors leave the farm. Hopefully I can give you a picture of the drill next month. Our crop is growing well and hopefully with plenty of sunshine it should finish ripening well. On Lammas Day, 1st August, farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to their local church.

Some reports of Lammas Day say that the bread was broken into four bits and placed at the four corners of the barn to protect the gathered grain.

*Rain around Lammas time
When corn begins to fill
Is worth a plough of gold
And all its shares there till*

The Fracking Bribe – Sammy Gee

Theresa May has announced plans to offer cash payments to households affected by fracking – this is estimated to be around £10,000 per household. The idea behind it is for 10% of tax funds raised from fracking to be set aside for local residents, such that local people “benefit”, not just the government and big business.

This announcement has sparked outrage amongst environmental groups, including Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. Other parties, in particular Labour and Greens, have hugely criticised this.

/continued on pages 11 and 12

Blue-Rich Light Pollution: Doctors Say It's Time To Get Serious

Following the article last month, this is taken from the American Medical Association:

Seeing long-term energy efficiency benefits, many cities and towns have recently replaced their old street lights with new LED technology. But, in doing so, they may be harming sleep patterns and putting the health of humans (and other animals) at risk, says a new American Medical Association "guidance" report.

The AMA says certain high-intensity LEDs can produce a "disability glare" and "prison atmosphere." Residents of Davis, California, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and elsewhere, have complained about "4000K" lights and campaigned to get the lighting replaced with less harsh "3000K" types, or, failing that, at least shielded, so they don't scatter light so widely.

More seriously, the 4000K LED units emit 29% of their luminance as blue light that humans perceive as a harsh type of white light, the AMA says. Research, while not conclusive, suggests this light could have serious health consequences—more so than conventional street lighting.

"Brighter residential night time lighting is associated with reduced sleep time, dissatisfaction with sleep quality, night time awakenings, excessive sleepiness, impaired daytime functioning, and obesity," the report says.

"White LED street lighting patterns also could contribute to the risk of chronic disease in the populations of

"cities in which they have been installed."

Blue light, whether from street lights, tablets, or phones, is thought to disrupt our circadian rhythm, which, at dusk, normally reduces our body temperature, suppresses appetite, and makes us sleepy. Some researchers even think blue light is associated with certain cancers.

Cities and towns need to balance the financial savings from installing some LED lights with the public health implications. The AMA recommends "3000K or lower lighting for outdoor installations such as roadways," and that municipalities shield their lights, and consider dimming them in off-peak periods.

The Fracking Bribe, *continued*

Doug Parr, Chief Scientist at Greenpeace, has said "You can't put a price on the quality of the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the beauty of our countryside. If Theresa May wants to show the UK is open for business, she should [...] back the technologies that can supply cheap, home-grown energy for decades to come."

Barry Gardiner, the shadow energy and climate change secretary, pointed out there was no such "bribe" for people to accept clean-energy wind farms.

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Going to court against the Ryedale decision – *Sammy Gee*

As many of you know, a few months ago, on the 23rd May, 7 out of 11 North Yorkshire County Councillors voted to approve Third Energy's fracking application in Ryedale.

The Barclays-owned energy company's plans to frack near the North Yorks National Park were rejected by the Ryedale District Council, but this decision was overturned by the County Council, just days after the UK celebrated 5 years of being frack-free. This was despite a clear objection from the local people and the 99.2% of people who responded to the council's consultation.

Friends of the Earth has dug deeper, and they believe this decision to have been made unlawfully – the council did not consider everything that they should have done when making the decision. They therefore applied to take the decision to court. This application was approved, and Friends of the Earth heard from the judge in early August that they will be going to court before the end of October – that's much early than they expected.

This is very exciting, and Friends of the Earth is going to need all the support it can get. If you haven't already, sign the People's Declaration against Fracking.

This was set up by the people of Yorkshire and is being promoted by Friends of the Earth, along with a few other organisations:
<https://www.foe.co.uk/act/add-your-name-peoples-declaration-say-no-fracking-0>

You can also sign the Friends of the Earth petition directed at the government:

<https://www.foe.co.uk/act/tell-government-listen-experts-halt-all-fracking-immediately>

And finally, they are asking for donations as expert legal advice is very expensive:

<https://www.foe.co.uk/page/donate-today-help-fight-against-fracking>

Friends of the Earth is aiming to keep us posted, through the national website, on what is happening with this process.

The Fracking Bribe, *concluded*

In April, public support for fracking hit an all-time low – just 19% of people in the government survey said they supported it. Now, with cash payments, only one third of people saying they would support fracking, according to a YouGov survey published on 15th August. This survey, commissioned by Friends of the Earth, found that 43% “strongly” or “tend to” oppose fracking, with 25% remaining “unsure”. Meanwhile, support for renewable energy was at 81%, with only 4% opposing it.

The uproar that followed the announcement of the fracking “bribe” is very positive, as it shows that people will not accept fracking to be forced where they don't want it. With Friends of the Earth taking the Ryedale decision to court this is a very exciting time, as we see whether or not the country proceeds with this dirty fossil fuel.

What about FoE Europe ?? Here's a flavour of what FoEE is saying

What's holding up saving EU nature laws?

Safeguarding Europe's declining wildlife, and the right of European citizens to enjoy nature, needs real protection on the ground – not a complex renegotiation of EU nature conservation laws, argues Friends of the Earth Europe.

After almost two years of torturous wrangling over whether or not to rewrite the EU's two keystone nature protection laws (and a year after over half a million of us called to preserve and reinforce them) the European Commission remains evasive on what it actually plans to do next.

NGOs launch petition after ex-Commission chief moves to Goldman Sachs

Following the high-level appointment of former European Commission President José Manuel Barroso to Goldman Sachs, an alliance of pro-transparency NGOs has launched a citizens' petition demanding stricter rules for ex-EU Commissioners' revolving door moves.

The Goldman Sachs employment of former EU Commission President Barroso has placed the EU's revolving door problem firmly on the political agenda. Although many former EU commissioners have taken up compromising roles with big business before, this is the first revolving door scandal involving an ex-Commission President, a development that has angered citizens, NGOs, EU governments and staff at the EU institutions alike.

To keep up public pressure and ensure that the European Commission responds to the public outcry by sorting out its revolving door problem once and for all, the Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation (ALTER-EU) and European campaigning organisation WeMove.EU today launched a petition calling for stricter regulation of ex-EU officials' career moves once they've left office.

EU's dependence on overseas agricultural land trampling the world

Europe is becoming increasingly dependent on farm land beyond its borders, creating inequalities and threatening both the environment and rural communities, according to a new report released by FoE Europe.

The report reveals that the European Union requires almost 270 million hectares of agricultural land – known as Europe's 'Land Footprint' – to sustain its unsustainable food production and agricultural practices. Almost 40% of this land is outside Europe, an area the size of Italy and France combined.

Meadhbh Bolger, resource use campaigner at FoE Europe said: "Overconsumption is eating up ever more land, often with disastrous consequences. It is unjust, irresponsible and unsustainable that we continue to use more than our fair share of global land and are shifting more than one-third of the impacts related to land consumption to ecosystems and communities outside of the EU."

FoE comments on ...

FoE - Air alerts good news but traffic restrictions needed

Friends of the Earth calls on Sadiq Khan to introduce emergency traffic restrictions on the worst air pollution days, as the London Mayor's new system of air quality went live in mid-August.

The new air quality alert system which will enable people across the capital to see how bad air pollution is on different days has been welcomed by Friends of the Earth. However, along with the alerts action must also be taken to reduce the levels of pollution on the worst dirty air days – says the environmental campaigning charity. The charity wants to see traffic restricted on bad pollution days so that those particularly vulnerable to dirty air – including children and the elderly - don't have to restrict their movements.

Sophie Neuburg, Friends of the Earth London campaigner, said: "Air quality alerts are an important way for vulnerable people to be aware of the levels of pollution around them and stay safe in the short term. But children, who have done nothing to cause the air pollution crisis, shouldn't have to restrict their activities to protect their health. Instead, the Mayor should introduce emergency traffic restrictions to make sure that the dangerous episodes of pollution aren't made even worse.

"It's simply not right that children should have to play indoors to stay safe. The mayor's plans to clean up London's air are welcome, but they

FoE's comment on - Khan appoints Deputy Mayor for the environment

London Mayor Sadiq Khan's appointment of a Deputy Mayor for the environment has been welcomed by Friends of the Earth.

The environment will now take its place alongside other key areas which have a dedicated Deputy Mayor: transport, business, housing, policing and crime, and culture and the creative industries. Sadiq Khan has appointed Shirley Rodrigues to take on this new role.

Responding to the news, Sophie Neuburg, Friends of the Earth London campaigner, said: "As a world class city, London needs and deserves a world class environment, and this appointment is a strong signal that our environment is on the agenda at City Hall. However, the new Deputy Mayor will certainly have her work cut out for her.

"With our filthy air causing nearly 10,000 early deaths each year, her first task will be to bring London's air pollution down to legal and safe levels by 2020. As a world capital, London must also take a leadership role in tackling climate change, starting with a transition to a resource-efficient economy powered by clean energy."

don't go far enough – he must commit to bringing down London's air pollution to legal and safe levels by 2020"

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605
email – shellabrown336@msn.com

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295
email – anncgarrett@yahoo.com

Secretary:

vacant

Treasurer:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

Press Officer:

Ann Garrett

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

Bromley FoE web site:

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

Peter Gandolfi
petergandolfi@hotmail.com

Admin team:

Judy Palmer: Group emails
bromleyfoe@gmail.com

Rob Clark: Facebook co-ordinator
bromleyfoe@gmail.com

Annette Rose
annette.rose1@ntlworld.com

Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689-820469

Campaigns –

Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Transport:

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

Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352
tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Campaigner:

Annette Rose
annette.rose1@ntlworld.com

Fracking / Clean British Energy

Ann Garrett

Bee Cause

Judy Palmer
judy.palmer@talk21.com

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!

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, and 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, and 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..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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