



Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth

Newsletter Autumn 2011

For meetings and contacts, see back page

www.shrewsfoe.org.uk

Incinerator Inquiry Draws Near

The long awaited inquiry into the proposed Battlefield incinerator is nearly upon us. It starts on Tuesday Sept 27th at Shirehall and will sit Tues to Thurs 10 till 5 and Fridays 9.30 to 1.30, (ie not Mondays), probably for four weeks. Our main days to give evidence should be Wed 5th, Thurs 6th and Fri 7th October but this could change, see our website for up to date details, all are welcome to attend and it would be good to see you there. There will be someone representing Shrewsbury FoE there every day the inquiry sits which is a considerable commitment on our part.

Our efforts to prepare the proofs of evidence have been complicated by Veolia changing some of the design details of the proposal, which may (or may not) affect the efficiency of the plant and the visibility of the plume. It's unclear why Veolia have made these changes now, or whether the Inspector will be minded to consider them. It's tempting to think that they're just trying to make matters more complicated for us. Luckily we've had substantial back up from UKWIN and Keith Kondakor.

Fundraising has gone well but we could do with at least another £1,000 to cover additional work by our witnesses, so if you haven't donated yet it's not too late.

We also have a petition which is available through the website, if you haven't signed it this year please do so (this replaces earlier versions) and if you know anyone who might sign please let them know it exists. It is important for the people to restate their opposition to the incinerator and about 95% of the residents of Shrewsbury that have had the opportunity to sign the petition have been keen to do so. Of the small minority who don't sign most are simply unaware of the proposal and the tiny number in favour see it in simple terms as the alternative to landfill. The level of knowledge of some of those who have signed is heartening with one expressing her anxiety when she viewed the YouTube video of the start up of the incinerator in Newhaven on 1st May this year. The smoke from the chimney just dropping down towards the ground and gradually filling the valley with a haze was horrifying. She lives 1/4 mile from the Battlefield site. You can watch this too at <http://tinyurl.com/3mw4cmu>.

Shrewsbury FOE AGM

The AGM will be held this year on Tuesday November 23rd at 7:30pm in the Hobbs Room, Shrewsbury Library.

The AGM will be followed by a talk about Zero Waste Communities. Fourteen years ahead of schedule, the townspeople of Presteigne have already reached the Welsh recycling target of 70%. Katy Anderson explains how they did it, and shares her hopes for achieving sustainability through community-based enterprises in Shrewsbury.

And please join us for a Christmas Social Drink on Tuesday December 13th at The Three Fishes, Fish Street from 8pm onwards.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT - ANOTHER MOUTHFUL

What is 'Sustainable Transport' exactly? Crusties might reply that it means, "just don't bother going", but in practice otherwise it means, making each specific journey in a way that produces the lowest carbon emission - whether that's walking, cycling, using public transport....

And Shropshire Council's responsibility is to provide the infrastructure to make it easier, or even possible, for us to make that better choice.

In a world of slashed budgets, that's not easy. Councils were invited earlier in the year to apply for money from a meagre budget for 'sustainable transport measures that would meet the objectives of supporting the local economy and cutting carbon emissions'. The general word was they should apply for up to £5m over 4 years, and hope to get half that. So an application was made for £4.99M. Result? They were awarded £4.99M!

This is, I'm glad to say, acknowledgement from central government that the sustainable transport team at Shirehall knows what it's about.

Further information about the Local sustainable transport fund and the bid document can be found on the Shropshire Council website <http://tinyurl.com/3waammq>.



Leaders Required for Social Cycle Rides

Cycle Shrewsbury would like to be able to offer more social cycle rides but they need more leaders!

In order to lead groups of adults a "level 3" bikeability certificate will be needed so leaders are ok in busy traffic, plus help with a route planning.

The whole thing should fit in a day; possibly 10am-4pm, the training will be free and then the expectation would be that volunteers lead 2 or 3 rides per year (of course more would be great!).

If this would be of interest to you please contact:

Emma Bullard,
Cycle Shrewsbury and sustainable transport
Shropshire Council
01743 255435
emma.bullard@shropshire.gov.uk

October is 'Love Your Bike Month'

October is 'Love your bike' month in Shropshire!

During October there will be a whole range of free cycling events and activities in Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Oswestry to help you to love your bike.

Confirmed events so far include:

- Women on wheels social ride in Shrewsbury - 2 October 2011
- Launch of Oswestry, Ludlow and Whitchurch cycle route planning on Transport Direct journey planner.
- New walking and cycling route maps for Ludlow and Oswestry.

Look out for more events at:

<http://www.cycleshrewsbury.co.uk/news-and-events/diary/love-your-bike-month-october-2011>

Happy Birthday to Us!

Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth celebrated 35 years of campaigning at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust centre in Abbey Foregate. Several founder members were present including Phil Pool and Karen Davies. There was a very interesting display of over 100 press cuttings from the last 30 years.



Plastic Bottle Tops Welcome at Scrappies

Scrappies of Church Stretton will receive clean plastic bottle tops of all kinds, including coffee jars and empty/clean washing up containers. They are at Lutwyche Road, their no is 01694 722511. They are open to receive Weds 11-7, Thurs 10-4 and Saturdays 10-2.

Scrappies function is to collect worthwhile scrap and to sort it, use it, make things with it, pass it on, or sell it to members, who in their turn use it for the benefit and education of children. They also organise Workshops, Training Sessions and Birthday Parties. Find more information about the work of Scrappies at <http://www.scrappies.org>.

This information was gleaned during research for the planned green guide update. Please look out for more news about the new green guide soon...



Successful Green Day

We had a great day at the Shrewsbury Green Day in July. On a busy day, we were able to collect many signatures for the Incinerator campaign and talk to lots of members of the public. We were fortunate that it stayed sunny and

If you would like to help out at a stall at one of the events in the town then please get in touch with one of the committee members.



Contact details:

E-Mail:

judith@shrewsfoe.org.uk

Please keep in contact by sending us your E-Mail address!

Or Visit: www.shrewsfoe.org.uk

See also: www.foe.co.uk

Judith Rice	Co-ordinator judith@shrewsfoe.org.uk	792790
Dave Green	NWRR	360055
Philip Pool	Transport, Walks & Talks	367968
Judy Coleridge	Green Guide, Walks & Talks judyc@thephone.coop	364157
John Rice	Treasurer	792790
Jon Haycox	Newsletter	235865
Sue Fisher	Membership Secretary 37 Sunnybank Rd SY2 6RG Suefish@talktalk.net	358449

MONTHLY MEETINGS - business and social

Our monthly business meetings normally take place at Marches Energy Agency, next to the Gateway on the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm and aim to finish by 9:00pm. However, please ring one of us above as this may vary.

After these meetings, some members usually adjourn to the Woodman public house at 32, Coton Hill to continue discussing issues of interest in a more informal way. Do feel welcome to join us but please do give us a ring beforehand in case no one is going to the pub on that evening.

On the other hand, if you cannot make a meeting but would like send us information or comments, do please email me at judith@shrewsfoe.org.uk

Judith

Want To Join? If you're not a member already and would like to join please send £8 (£6 concessions) or £22 for three years to Sue, thank you. Extra donations are always very welcome.

The membership year runs from January to December.

Many thanks for supporting your local FoE Group.

Sue Fisher Membership Sec.

National FoE Subscriptions are completely separate to local group subs. If you're a national member you should receive the Earth Matters magazine, if not then we strongly urge you to join. Do so by going to www.foe.co.uk or ringing 020 7490 1555.



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To find the page search for "Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth" on Facebook or use this shortened link <http://tinyurl.com/39jj3z9>

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