



**friends of  
the earth  
Shrewsbury**

see things differently

## Newsletter – Autumn 2012

### Guide for a Greener Shrewsbury

We have been awarded money to create a new Shrewsbury Green Guide website from the Lottery Fund Awards for All. We've started work on it, and we'll launch it in about 6 months. We hope it will give lots of useful information, – on how to live a greener lifestyle, about local organisations and businesses whose products are environmentally sound, and who have adopted sustainable ways of operating.

We've been printing and distributing free copies since 1988, and every year, hearteningly, there is more information, more organisations and more exciting and innovative green projects to include. We hope with this website to be able to help our readers make more connections to other green groups, and more information about what might be inspiring for locals, but in places further afield as well.

We are keen to hear from local people, organisations, and businesses that can demonstrate their environmental credentials and would like to be included on the Green Guide website. If you are interested, please email your details to Judy Coleridge at: [info@shrewsburygreenguide.org.uk](mailto:info@shrewsburygreenguide.org.uk).



### Incinerator Battle Carries On

Our application for a judicial review of Shropshire Council's stance on the Battlefield incinerator has now been lodged with the court but the papers haven't yet been served on Shropshire Council etc. Since February we've been asking Shropshire Council to review the case for the incinerator as the financial situation around the scheme has changed completely since the original decision was taken in 2007 and it appears that the financial case made in 2007 no longer stacks up\*. Despite a pledge by Cllr Keith Barrow (leader of SC) to a full council meeting in February 2012 no such review has taken place which we consider to be a breach of the council's financial responsibilities. No business could work in this way and survive for long.

We have put in an application for a cost protection order but have been told this will not be heard until the initial hearing for the judicial review (which will decide whether we can proceed or not). We understand that costs are unlikely to be awarded against us at this stage but we have been warned that this is possible and SC's solicitors have said that they will press for costs to be awarded. We have been advised that there is recent case law suggesting we could be given a CPO in advance so have gone back to the court in Birmingham requesting they look again at this decision.

Of course even if we win the judicial review there's no guarantee this will stop the incinerator being built but it would force SC to review the case for the scheme and to take the new financial landscape into account. It would also act as a useful local and national precedent.

*\* since 2007 waste levels have fallen, recycling rates have rocketed, other incinerators and recycling facilities have been built in the West Midlands and the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme has been abolished.*

## Green Shropshire Xchange



After a really well organised and interesting conference in March, attended by many organisations and individuals, the GSX Steering Group has been meeting regularly. The outcome is a clearer sense of purpose and how to move forward.

GSX is a county-wide network/grouping of organisations that is aiming to “increase the voice of environmental interests in Shropshire” and also “increase positive environmental activity”. This will be done by spreading good practice, ideas and experience, being a central point for information and providing a database of contacts. The group will also represent “sustainability” interests on Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly.

Membership is now being invited from voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and individuals. The Steering Group is also keen to have more members. Formal elections to the Steering Group will be held at the AGM in March 2013.

### **The Green Deal: a golden opportunity or cause of the blues? Tues Nov 6th Hobbs Room, 8pm (after S.FoE AGM at 7.30pm)**

The Green Deal will be a 'pay as you save scheme' for energy efficiency measures which will sit alongside a new Energy Company Obligation which will provide subsidies for solid wall insulation and for those in greatest need. At the same time all the existing subsidies will disappear. There has been a lot of confusion and misinformation about these schemes. Dave will explain how they will work, their advantages and disadvantages and how useful they will be for individuals, companies, landlords and community energy schemes. Dave has worked in energy efficiency for seven years and has been developing and delivering training for the new Green Deal Advisers as a founding partner of the Energy Advice Training Consortium.

## Ironbridge Power Station

We mentioned in the last newsletter that E.ON was intending the replacement of a high proportion of the coal they burn with biofuel. Initially this may seem to be a move towards sustainability but it emerged that the woodchip (2 million tonnes/year) would come from the USA and be produced from clear felling of forest. The CO<sub>2</sub> absorption capacity of these forests would be lost for 50 years or more even with immediate replanting.

Telford FoE was most active on this campaign but we put in a comprehensive, relevant and well-argued objection and the two groups worked together with Biofuelwatch providing lots of support. The climax was a well-attended demonstration at Shire Hall on the day the planning application for the fuel store was debated. The decision went against us but because the change of fuel type was not up for discussion (Eon didn't need a new permission for that) we knew it would be difficult to win.



## HOT OFF THE PRESS

### GOOD NEWS - extra Plastics Recycling

As this newsletter goes to press, it's been announced that you can add more kinds of plastics to your green **box**, county-wide. The recommendation is to take off the tops (they can be thrown in as well now), wash and squash the plastics; de-lidding and squashing are important. Some types of plastic are still NOT acceptable. Information leaflets are being delivered to every household in the county.

- ✓ Plastic bottles of all types (e.g. ketchup, mineral water, cola, squash, shampoo / conditioner, washing up liquid, talc, yoghurt drinks, shower gel, bleach and cleaning spray bottles)
- ✓ Yoghurt pots
- ✓ Dip and cream cheese pots
- ✓ Margarine tubs
- ✓ Ice cream tubs
- ✓ Plastic trays from inside chocolate and biscuit boxes
- ✓ Trays from meat and fish
- ✓ Fruit and vegetable punnets
- ✓ All bottle tops, lids and triggers
- ✓ Cream and custard pots
- ✓ Soup pots
- ✓ Instant Noodle pots
- ✓ Tubs for dishwasher and laundry tablets
- ✗ Hard plastic items e.g. toys, washing-up bowls, buckets, Tupperware lunch boxes etc.
- ✗ Plant pots and trays from the garden
- ✗ Black plastic
- ✗ Plastic film or wrappers
- ✗ Plastic bags or black sacks
- ✗ Expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam)
- ✗ Food waste / general rubbish

### Planning Permission Changes

We spend a lot of time on planning issues, both the wide ranging consultations and on certain individual applications. In future opposing inappropriate development may be even more difficult as the consequences of the Government's "Bonfire of Planning Regulations" come home to roost.

However, realisation is dawning and the leader of the Conservative Council in Richmond has just branded the proposal to exclude large house extensions from requiring planning permission as "Stupid". He has even instructed the officers to try and find a way around this change.

We feel, as do others, that Shrewsbury has large areas that are unspoilt and it would only require a few monstrous developments to do real damage to the townscape and/or to the river and brook environments.

It may require a major public outcry to get some of these planning changes reversed so people need to be ready to protest and we challenge Shropshire Council to adopt the same vigorous approach to the issue as Richmond.

## SAMDev and SUE

No! we are not announcing a planned romantic commitment – this is about an important PLANNING commitment that will come from Shropshire Council’s proposals on “Site Allocation and Management of Development” and the south “Sustainable Urban Extension”.

The south SUE proposal includes the development of the Percy Thrower Garden Centre and the building of the Waitrose Supermarket and also provides for business areas and housing all the way from Wenlock Road to the Football Ground. The other side of Oteley Rd will go for housing right down to the Rea Brook.

Don’t get too excited about the word “sustainable” – in “planner-speak” it means mixed housing and business and some effort to include cycling and public transport as part of the plan. There is nothing committing them to include solar or wind energy production nor to raise the standard of building above the minimum required.

We have responded to the consultation and made these points. We have also said defined and continuous cycle routes should link with existing and as far as wildlife is concerned it is vital that an adequate corridor is left along the Rea Brook.

The SAMDev consultation ran for a few months and concerned areas designated for development throughout Shropshire. We could deal only with the issues around those in Shrewsbury and we attended several meetings arranged by Shropshire Council or the Town Council. We also visited some of the areas before sending in a comprehensive submission. This is a very important issue because the sites that are included in the final plan will be presumed OK for development and objection at planning permission stage will be very unlikely to get anywhere. Lots of people have questioned why we need to find sites for a 20% increase in housing when there are so many existing houses for sale or rent. This is a fair question but the Council is obliged to do this exercise and if they didn’t then we would be even more in the hands of developers.

Why? Because if there is no plan then a developer may propose to build anywhere and unless there are very good reasons for refusal “there shall be a presumption in favour of granting permission”.



We will be campaigning on the bee cause at our stall in the Square on Saturday 6th October. British bees are in trouble. Three species are already extinct. It is important that we stop pesticides harming bees. Why? Because we need bees.

With other pollinating insects, they're vital to:

- Our food supply - they pollinate most of our fruit and veg;
- Our economy - without bees costs for farmers would rise, meaning higher food prices;
- Our quality of life - our gardens, parks and countryside.

Because bees need us. British bee numbers have fallen dramatically in recent years. And the way we farm our food and plan our towns and cities is making the problem worse.

David Cameron can change all that. Join us and ask him to help save bees by introducing a National Bee Action Plan. Online petition at [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk) if you can't make it to the stall.

## Dates For Your Diary

### Our Stall in the Square: Saturday 6th October, 10-4pm

Campaigning on the **bee cause**. Bees are disappearing. Information about the importance of bees – and a petition asking the government to adopt an action plan (the Welsh Assembly has already said it will). Also **fundraising** for Shrewsbury FoE. Please donate goods we can sell (books, ornaments, plants etc). You could bring them on the day if you're in town, or ring/email Barbara Phillips to collect them in advance (01743 363010 [phillipsbarbaramark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:phillipsbarbaramark@yahoo.co.uk))



**Our AGM: Tuesday 6th November**, Hobbs Room, Shrewsbury Library 7.30pm. At the AGM we will be:

**Appointing postholders.** We will review our activities over the year and appoint postholders. The posts are co-ordinator, treasurer, membership secretary and newsletter editor. There are currently people in these posts who may be willing to stand again.

But if you would like to nominate anyone for these posts (including yourself), please ensure you have the agreement of that person and come along to the meeting to put the name forward.

**There are other important roles:** e.g. web editor and individuals who lead programmes of action. Individuals are appointed to these roles by the business meeting which meets monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month.

If you are keen to take up a particular cause with the backing of SFoE, please come along to one of the business meetings.



**The Green Deal, a golden opportunity or cause of the blues? Talk by Dave Green Tuesday 6 November** Hobbs Room, Shrewsbury Library 8.00pm\_(following on from our AGM)

There is more information about this talk earlier in the newsletter. Please do come on 6<sup>th</sup> to find out whether you can benefit from the Green Deal. You can come for the AGM at 7.30 or just turn up at 8.00.

**Christmas Drinks, Tuesday 11th December**, from 8pm onwards, at the 3 Fishes, Fish Street.

Our annual get together. Come and meet up. It would be good to see you.



Keep up-to-date with our latest events at [www.shrewsfoe.org.uk](http://www.shrewsfoe.org.uk).

## Getting ready for winter: DIY Secondary Glazing by Richard Davies of Marches Energy Agency

Of all the energy-saving things that I have done to my house over the last dozen years, fitting secondary glazing has been the most revolutionary! Probably the same impact that people get going from single glazed to plastic double but for a fraction of the cost, and with all the warm glow of having 'done it yourself'. I live in a 1932 semi, which still has most of the original wooden windows, which I'd like to keep. The downside is condensation, cold, draughts and too much heat loss. Noise can also be a problem. The solution: secondary glazing.

There are many options for fitting secondary glazing and as ever there's an almost infinite amount of 'advice' on the web. A really good place to begin is with a recent English Heritage publication 'Secondary Glazing for Windows in Historic Buildings' (see <http://bit.ly/QoM1Qm>). Even if you're in a building that isn't historic it covers the issues and options really well.

Firstly your windows need to be reasonably well draught proofed as the plastic sheet can pop off in high winds. For draught-proofing I've used a brilliant product called Qlon made by a company called Schlegel. It's available in from a company called GTI ([www.gti-limited.com](http://www.gti-limited.com)) – but only in large quantities. I'd be happy to arrange a bulk order if there was interest.

For the secondary glazing I use 2mm thick bog standard acrylic sheet which I order on-line from a company called Liv Supplies. They are across the other side of the country but did seem really good value and their web-site is really easy to use – they cut exact sizes to order. See <http://bit.ly/QpHkmz>. Jeremy at the Clean Energy Centre is more local and would be good to talk too especially for a bulk order. Visit <http://bit.ly/UuvTOK>.

The magnetic strip, which is made up of a self-adhesive steel tape which sticks to the window frame and a magnetic tape which sticks to the acrylic sheet. The company selling the magnetic tape can be found at <http://bit.ly/PYGpwi>.

There is a brilliant 3 minute video made by Lambeth Council on YouTube which shows you how to fit the system <http://bit.ly/Sdl5VF>.

### Contact details:

See contact information in the table to the right ->

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

Or Visit: [www.shrewsfoe.org.uk](http://www.shrewsfoe.org.uk)

See also: [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

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### MONTHLY MEETINGS

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.

### MEMBERSHIP

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. The membership year runs from January to December.

Please send a cheque made payable to Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth, to:  
Sue Fisher, 37 Sunnybank Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6RG.

If you are a new member, please can you print the membership form that is on our website and send it with the cheque. Thanks very much.

**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](http://www.foe.co.uk) or ringing 020 7490 1555.