



# **Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth**

**Newsletter**

**Summer 2010**

For meetings and contacts, see back page

## **NWRR Update**

It's looking less and less likely that the North West Relief Road scheme will get financed, with talk of extreme cuts on their way as soon as the new Government settles in, but that hasn't stopped us being very active during the consultation. We've managed to get good publicity with pieces in the Star, Chronicle and Radio Shropshire. There's a new website [www.nowaygroup.org.uk](http://www.nowaygroup.org.uk) which has some radio clips on it if you missed them. Around 2,000 leaflets have been handed out, there's been an exhibition in Wild Thyme and we attended most of the exhibition sessions plus a couple of sessions on Pride Hill and the picnic walk. Generally we've received a very good reception, even in Ruyton XI towns, and I spoke to the Coton Hill Residents Association expecting a mixed response but not one person there supported the scheme. Shrewsbury Civic Society has now stated their opposition to the scheme and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust got good publicity for their objection.

***The consultation period runs until May 14th so if you have not taken part you may just have time to complete the questionnaire that can be found on the Shropshire County Council website at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/hwmaint.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/hwmaint.nsf).***

Whilst the staff at the exhibitions were welcoming and helpful to us the exhibition was heavily biased towards building the road. Photos of crowded streets (including Wyle Cop?) were cheek by jowl with drawings of Smithfield Road as a leafy oasis. Environmental drawbacks were mentioned but not taken seriously and traffic figures were misleading, although the officers couldn't see this. Interestingly no mention was made of advantages for Ruyton XI towns or Fitz and the figures showed traffic levels on Huffle Lane rising by 30%.

***The results of the consultation should be discussed by the Shropshire Council Development Services Scrutiny panel at 5pm on Tuesday July 13th (TBC). We're hoping for a good turn out and a lively debate so put it in your diary. As soon as we know for sure we'll put something on the Shrewsfoe and noway websites.***

Thanks to all who helped over the last month, with any luck we'll be able to put this campaign to bed soon. DG



## **A Walk for Earth Day**

On Sunday April 25th, Shrewsbury FOE organised a walk and picnic at Cross Hill on the site of the proposed NWRR. About 30 people attended who avoided the showers to see the old river bed, kettle holes and beautiful countryside that the road would affect.

You may have seen the write-up about the walk in the Shropshire Star or heard interviews on Radio Shropshire. See [www.nowaygroup.org.uk](http://www.nowaygroup.org.uk) if you missed these.

## Incinerator

The Environment Agency have said they are minded to grant a permit for the proposed incinerator but asked for further comments before they made a final decision. This didn't surprise us, the EA very rarely turn anything like this down.

There's no news of a planning committee date, we suspect they're waiting for the EA process to finish first.

Meanwhile Veolia is rumoured to be ready to pull out of its planned incinerator in Nottingham half way through a public inquiry. This follows many incinerator cancellations over the last year, we just need to add Shrewsbury to the list.

## Anaerobic Digestion or Composting?

Veolia also have plans to build a huge 'in vessel composting' facility. It'll be in Telford but used for Shropshire's green and food waste. We don't understand why they're pushing for one large inefficient composter rather than several smaller anaerobic digestion (AD) plants. A recent report has highlighted the advantages of AD (entitled 'Assessment of the options to improve the management of bio-waste in the EU', was published earlier this year by consultants ARCADIS and Eunomia, if you want to see it ask Dave Green for a [link](#)). The report states that while using both technologies would offer "significant" cost and environmental benefits to society - as much as £6 billion between 2013 and 2020 - AD "yields the highest benefits in terms of green house gas emission reductions". We'll be pushing for Veolia to reconsider their composting plan as soon as more details are released.

## Shrewsbury Green Guide

The latest edition of the Shrewsbury Green Guide was launched at the Pride Hill Centre on Saturday March 27th. It was a busy day and lots of booklets were collected by shoppers.

This is the 'Transition Town' edition of the guide in recognition of the transition movement, where towns and communities are coming together to make positive responses to the need to learn to live without fossil fuels, reaching Shrewsbury. The Green Guide is edited by Judy Coleridge who has done a fantastic job once again.

The guide is supported by Friends of the Earth, Shropshire Community Recycling Ltd., and Grassroots Grants funding delivered locally by the Community Council of Shropshire.

The Green Guide's have been distributed widely around the town. Look out for them at Shirehall, Guildhall, Tourist Information Centre, Market Hall, Wild Thyme etc.



### GREEN FINGERS?

*An allotment holder needs someone to take care of a plot for three months in the Summer. This could provide a great opportunity for a budding vegetable grower to gain some experience.*

*Please call 01743 214310.*

Shrewsbury FOE will have stalls at:

**THE SQUARE**  
**Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**SHREWSBURY GREEN FESTIVAL**  
**Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

See the Walks and Talks for more details.

*Just five minutes of exercise in a "green space" such as a park can boost mental health.*  
Jules Pretty and Jo Barton, Environmental Science & Technology, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

*M&S has made a £50m profit from Plan A, an initiative that gathers together all its environmental and sustainability goals, as opposed to cost of £40m it expected from delivering the plan.*  
Financial Times, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

## **Shropshire Draft Core Strategy**

This paper has much to recommend it, especially where it seeks to "protect and enhance" the environment, where it refers to the need to increase 'resilience' and in its recognition that the twin dangers of peak oil and climate change mean we need to move towards a low carbon economy. Mention of the need to "reduce our carbon footprint" and "help people reduce their car dependency" and the recognition of the need to "positively encourage decentralised, low carbon and renewable energy generation" are particularly welcome.

We also welcome the strong stance on affordable housing, with 33% of total development being affordable, and particularly the need for contributions to come from all levels of development.

However there are several serious inconsistencies within the plan, particularly in relation to:

- the proposed Shrewsbury North West 'Relief' Road which goes completely against many of the good intentions outlined above;
- proposals to build on land north of Oteley Rd which would seriously impinge on the Rea Brook valley;
- the levels of retail development proposed for Shrewsbury.

It's also assumed that a new Shrewsbury Parkway station would be a good thing, but detailed studies would need to be done showing that this wouldn't increase traffic levels overall before we could support it.

## **Shrewsbury Site Allocations**

Hot on the heels of the above comes the Site Allocations consultation. Surprisingly rather than filter out inappropriate sites Shropshire Council has basically put forward every possible site and waited for the objections to start pouring in. This approach not only maximises work for organisations like ours but also for the council itself. For instance the plans allow for the possibility of not only infilling between Ellesmere Road and the proposed North west Relief Road (which is controversial enough) but also outside the NWRR around Hencott Pool which is frankly bizarre when plenty of other much less controversial sites are available.

The proposals have been split up into areas so we can study the Shrewsbury area without concerning ourselves with other parts of the county. The consultation paper is available from libraries or from [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk) (look under 'environment and planning' then 'planning policy'). There are a series of consultation events with two locally, the Guildhall Shrewsbury Wed May 19th 4.30 – 8.00pm and Minsterley Community Hall, Thurs 27th May 4.00 - 7.30pm.

## **Marches Environmental Technology Network**



The Marches Environmental Technology Network (metnet) is a project aimed at boosting Hereford, Shropshire and Worcestershire's excellence in environmental technologies. There are 400 known environmental businesses in the counties of Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire – which accounts for more than one-third of all of the companies in the environmental technologies in the West Midlands. Patricia Head, Project Manager, spoke at the Green Drinks event at the Loggerheads pub on April 15<sup>th</sup> about plans to work with companies, business support organisations, universities and funding providers to help drive the sector forward. More information can be found on their website at [www.met-net.co.uk](http://www.met-net.co.uk).

## Contact details:

E-Mail:

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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)

Judith Rice	Co-ordinator	792790
Dave Green	NWRR	360055
Philip Pool	Transport, Walks & Talks	367968
Judy Coleridge	Walks & Talks	364157
John Rice	Treasurer	792790
Jon Haycox	Newsletter	235865
Sue Fisher	Membership Secretary 37 Sunnybank Rd SY2 6RG	358449



Shrewsbury FOE now has a Facebook page which has dates of walks and talks plus updates on campaigns and links to relevant information.

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

### 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](mailto: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.

Suefish@talktalk.net

**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.

*Over-fishing means UK trawlers have to work  
17 times as hard for the same fish catch as  
120 years ago.*

BBC Website, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010

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