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the earth** Shrewsbury

see things differently



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Our Facebook page has a wide  
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green issues, from Shrewsbury  
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a talk by a leading international sustainable transport expert

**john whitelegg**

**"getting there or going nowhere?"**

His bold but realistic vision for a world-class transport  
future for shrewsbury and the region

**Tuesday 18 November 7.30pm**

Mary Margaret Hall, The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1NB

**FREE – ALL WELCOME**

Professor John Whitelegg is: Managing Director of transport consultancy Eco-Logica Ltd; Professor of Sustainable Development, York University; Associate Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York; visiting Professor of Sustainable Transport, Liverpool John Moores University.

**Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
will take place from 7.00pm, before John Whitelegg's talk.  
Everyone is welcome.**

## **NEWSLETTER October 2014**

### **COALBED METHANE**

**On 24th October North Shropshire Planning Committee will be considering the application by Dart energy for an exploration drill for coal bed methane in Dudleston.** This meeting at the Shire Hall at 2.30pm will be attended by many of those who have objected including Shrewsbury FoE.

Several public meetings across Shropshire, including SFoE's talk at The Gateway in June, considered the harmful effects of the extreme fossil fuels, coalbed methane and hydraulic fracking of shale.

**There is a huge threat of more applications for drilling. New area licences, including most of Shropshire, will be allocated this autumn.**

An internal report was considered by the full Shropshire Council in July and concerns were raised. The Council

agreed to research the issue further, after hearing from Frackfree Dudleston about the problems.

The Government supports the development of fracking and extreme fossil fuels, with the trespass laws being amended to allow for horizontal drilling under our homes. On 15 Oct, the House of Lords nodded through an amendment to the Infrastructure Bill which seems to allow companies to bury any substance under people's properties – it permits "passing any substance through, or putting any substance into, deep level land".

Climate change means we must develop a low carbon future and the UN is preparing for the Paris climate conference next year. FoE continues to campaign with anti-fracking groups across the UK, giving support for energy efficiency and suitable renewable energy schemes. It is essential to limit the impacts of climate change if we are to have a sustainable future.



**Well, we thought it was all over...**

.... but national FoE have just decided to continue with “The Bee Cause” for another year. We’ve been active on this for a while and continued to campaign throughout the summer. We had a stall at “Wildfest” (at Shropshire Wildlife Trust) and here’s the stall at The Shrewsbury Flower Show - featuring “Beetown” with lots of different style dwellings for bees. So - what with our also emphasizing the importance of providing more food for pollinators by planting those flowers that are best for them - this all amounted to providing B & Bs for bees!

Often, when talking to the public at stalls, we end up speaking mainly to the already converted. At The Flower Show we have a very large audience of people who are interested in growing plants but not necessarily fully aware of wider environmental implications. It seems a good venue for us. The organisers are talking about an “Our Future” marquee again next year. We hope to be there.

**Latest: The Government have just announced that The Pollinator Strategy won’t now be published until the end of the year.** This is an unwelcome delay – there may be lobbying going on to weaken it (some farmers have objected to the loss of neonicotinoids) and it will be more difficult to get it implemented in time for the spring and summer next year.

**UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENTS**

**The situation created by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the refusal of Government to address local concerns means undesirable developments will be built locally.**

Over the last few months lots of planning applications have been submitted for land not included in SAMDev – the plan that allocates where development should take place in the future. Most of these have been in the smaller towns and villages. There has been local opposition.

To its credit, Shropshire Council has refused more of these than we dared to hope, even though the developers will no doubt use the appeal procedure to try and overturn the decisions.

The Council have now submitted their SAMDev plan to the Government for approval. They say that 5.47 years’ worth of housing development land is identified. This is crucial - the NPPF requires 5 years’ worth to be allocated. The major developers are challenging the Council’s figure and have produced a figure of 3.37 years. This conveniently prolongs the time that the “open season” on development proposals will continue and may lead to more land being allocated. Once SAMDev is ratified then permission for developments on land not allocated in the plan will be very difficult to obtain.

As SfoE we keep a close eye on what is happening and will object to particularly undesirable proposals.



**RECYCLING AT MAJOR LOCAL EVENTS**

You’ll remember from the last newsletter that both The Flower Show and The Folk Festival, having talked it over with us, had agreed to take some action over their waste recycling.

The Flower Show organisers had notices put on the bins explaining what happened to the contents. The Folk Festival went for segregation at point of collection (photo above). The Folk Festival employed ZW Events, a company set up by Cwm Harry to do just this type of work and who already look after waste at The Shrewsbury Food Festival.

Thousands of people attend the big local events, so we feel that these improvements are significant.

We look to other opportunities to help organisers alter their arrangements too.