



Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth

Newsletter Autumn 2010

For meetings and contacts, see back page

We are really pleased to be able to bring you some great news on two major victories for common sense (and Shrewsbury FoE). Dave Green reports:

VICTORY ONE. NWRR PUT TO BED



The North West Relief Road was described as "not having a snowball's chance in hell of getting funding" by a Government minister so Shropshire Council have put it back in the bottom drawer. Councillor Martin Taylor-Smith said he didn't expect to see the plans pulled out again for 10 years, when the Local Plan will be up for review. Personally, I don't think it will ever get built now, though one day we may have to gather our zimmer frames in a circle and learn to chant NO WAY! once more time.

It would have been nice for the Council to publicly agree that the NWRR is a bad idea but I suspect many Councillors would acknowledge this privately. As to who takes the credit, well I suppose much of it goes to the bankers who got us into this financial mess but I'm sure S.FoE, the No WAY group etc can take some of it.

VICTORY TWO, INCINERATOR TURNED DOWN - UNANIMOUSLY!

This really is beyond our wildest dreams! The might of Veolia with the solid support of Shropshire Council planning and waste officers came up against a few enthusiastic volunteers and lost comprehensively. This is a wonderful example of ordinary people standing up against the might of a large corporation and winning. Surprisingly health and siting issues featured largely in the debate but the fact that the proposal was against the Council's own Waste Local Plan was also significant and will give the decision some clout.

Veolia may well appeal the decision but it's difficult to see how they can get over the hurdles now placed before them. Really they should have the good grace to concede defeat, not waste any more of their shareholder's money and get down to developing sustainable and acceptable ways of dealing with Shropshire's waste...they would get S.FoE's wholehearted support for that.

Our thanks go to all those who've worked hard on this campaign particularly our partners in NOBIS and Safe Waste in Shropshire, our MP and Councillors Mosley, Winchester, Price and Wild who all spoke well from the floor at the meeting, and to UK Without Incineration and National FoE who gave valuable support.



National Appeal for Funds

National Friends of the Earth has put out an urgent appeal for funds. Over the last year fundraising income has dropped dramatically. Andy Atkins, Executive Director, Friends of the Earth, says that three urgent and important actions have been identified that are thought to be vital and need to be implemented by the new coalition government during the next 12 months. They are:

- Reduce UK carbon emissions by at least 42% by 2020;
- Introduce a high quality Renewable Heat Incentive;
- Set minimum energy efficiency standards for private rented houses.

The good news is that Friends of the Earth supporters have so far donated almost £250,000 to our appeal.

To make a donation or for more information please go to the National FOE website at www.foe.co.uk. There is also a special message from Andy Atkins explaining why he thinks this is so urgent.

How Bad are Bananas?: The Carbon Footprint of Everything by Mike Berners-Lee

Book aiming to provide the facts we need to make carbon-savvy purchases and lifestyle decisions. Published by Green Profile.

"If Mike's goal is to make the language of carbon footprints as ubiquitous as the language of the web, then this book is a great contribution to the cause" (Dan Welch, Ethical Consumer)

Plastic Bottle Recycling in Shrewsbury

Plastic bottle recycling collections from the kerbside have now begun for residents in the former S&ABC area. James Thompson, Waste Prevention Officer at Shropshire Council, has provided some information.

To help the crews collect efficiently please put your recycling out for collection in three kerbside collection boxes, it doesn't matter what colour boxes you use but you do need to separate materials as follows:

- Box one: newspaper and magazines, and paper generally;
- Box two: glass (bottles and jars);
- Box three: plastic bottles, plus drinks cans, food tins, aerosols and tin foil.

Most residents will already have a third recycling box from when kerbside boxes were first delivered but if you need another just call 0345 678 9007 and we'll deliver one for you.

Only plastic bottles can be put out for collection. This includes milk bottles, water bottles, soft drink bottles, shampoo and conditioner bottles, washing-up liquid bottles, bleach bottles, ketchup bottles, anything which is plastic and is a bottle. It does not include other types of plastic such as yoghurt pots and margarine tubs - these won't be collected.

Remember - lids off, wash and squash!

9carrot (<http://9carrots.org>) is a not for profit organisation in London which helps with ideas to get business involved in Greening up. Customers can ask for special "9carrots receipts" at participating local businesses when buying something...the shop will then invest at least 10% of what is spent towards making itself more energy efficient!

World Food Day 16th October



Transition Town Shrewsbury Local Food Group and Self Help Africa are organising a celebration of World Food Day on Saturday 16th October. They want to get everyone in town to think about global and local food issues and what we can do about them. Food, fun and music will be happening in every corner of town - fish back in Fish Street, butchery in Butcher's Row, films, tastings in the Indoor Market, food jugglers. In the evening, there will be a celidh at the Morris Hall, sponsored by Salopian Brewery. This will raise funds for Self Help Africa and TTS.

Contact Katy Anderson on kvanderson@btconnect.com if you'd like to get involved or have a stall at the event.

Climate Change – From High Priority to No Comment !!!

What a strange year it has been so far when we look at this issue, certainly the most important threat facing us. In the run up to Copenhagen people were all fired up and there were endless campaign actions, features on TV and radio, articles in newspapers and magazines etc etc. When the outcome from that vital conference was failure everyone fell silent, many from shock but others because for them the failure was a battle won. For the latter a further bonus was the notorious email scandal when climate scientists were accused of manipulating data to suit their belief (proved to be untrue by the subsequent enquiry). For a few months those of us who know climate change is real and caused by our own actions were left unsure how to proceed. Now the subject is creeping up the agenda again and at least gets some attention amongst the torrent of coverage of wars, the economy and various nationalistic issues. Of course many "good" projects continued through this period dealing with energy saving, renewable energy production and the rest but as far as campaigning was concerned our momentum was lost for a while. Campaigns will no doubt continue to use various means to get the message across but it does seem that the most potent weapon the climate change sceptics have is to sow doubt and confusion. It follows that we need to stick to arguing where the evidence is clear and not get sucked into debates about local effects such as whether floods in Pakistan or our own Lake District are caused by climate change or not. They may be but have happened before so there can't be a definitive answer.

The big changes are the ones that carry weight such as the string of recent years when average temperatures of the planet have been the highest recorded. (No! not caused by increased solar activity- because the sun has been relatively quiet for the last 10 years.) Also the melting of the arctic ice is dramatic and irrefutable as are the widespread reports of species moving into areas that were once considered too cold for them. Almost all climate scientists agree that climate change is real and is caused by our own actions, their conclusion being based on sound science. Where is the science to support the climate change sceptics? -it doesn't exist.

Using these facts may be more convincing as we try to make people realise that major steps are necessary if we are to cope successfully with the changes to our climate rather than become helpless victims. The recent detachment of a 100 square mile lump of the Greenland ice sheet prompted one scientist to surmise that maybe the melting of the whole ice sheet would be quicker than we thought and might take only 100 years. That would mean a rise in sea level around the world of 7 metres and a 100 year timescale doesn't seem long to protect or relocate every city, town or village that sits on the coast.



Frank Oldaker

Dave Green has left the Household Energy Service and is setting himself up as an independent energy advisor, assessor and trainer. He'll be offering HES-type energy consultancy and other services in the Shrewsbury area, for full details see www.davegreenenergy.co.uk, we wish him well.

DOES CAMPAIGNING WORK?

Sometimes you wonder whether anything you do as a campaigner makes any difference at all. You've helped some governmental body to satisfy their obligation to consult, after which you've served their purposes. Then they just carry on and do what they were going to do anyway.

What is really rewarding is to be able to say, "we did that". It's rare, because nearly always we've been part of a wider movement. And you never know whether some policy decision would have been taken anyway. Planners are often, these days, kind of on our side.



But, this morning I had a letter from Shropshire Council, giving the nod to the new Sundorne SuperSurgery, but with the proviso that plans are amended. They have to make safe and convenient provision for cyclists and pedestrians, including a safe route though to the Sports Village; and the cycle route between Sundorne Road and Route 81. All things we had commented on when the plans were submitted. To be fair, so had the Council's Cycling Officer, but support in these affairs is often vital.



And anyway, we campaigned doggedly to get a Cycling Officer! And to get Route 81 built! There are also some details of the cycle facilities at the new Welsh Bridge junction that we can claim credit for. And I think our role in calling a halt to the NorthWest Relief Road has probably been crucial.

So, there you are – campaigning does sometimes work!

Philip Pool

Green roofs are cool!

Researchers at Columbia University have demonstrated that a layer of plants and earth can cut the rate of heat absorption through the roof of a building in summer by 84%

Guardian, 2nd September 2010

Do You Have an Abundance of Fruit?

It is the time of year again when there seems to be enough fruit and vegetables to feed an army! In Sheffield a project call Abundance aims to harvest the seasonal glut of local fruit like apples, pear and plums that would go unpicked or uneaten. Volunteers help harvest city fruit and redistribute the surplus to the community on a non-profit basis. The project is proving successful and has recently won a 'Grass Roots Project' award at the Observer Ethical Awards.

More information about the project can be found on the Grow Sheffield website at <http://www.growsheffield.com/pages/groShefAbund.html>. They have also published 'THE ABUNDANCE HANDBOOK' which is a guide to harvesting fruit in the city. This can be downloaded to PDF or a printed copy cost £6.50 plus £1 p+p.

Is this something you would like to see in Shrewsbury? Please let us know.

MOOvement for change

As many of you will know FoE is running a national campaign to tackle the issue of rainforest being chopped down in South America so that soy can be grown to feed cattle here in the UK. The implications of this are serious for climate change and

disastrous for the people displaced who lose their livelihoods. It means too denying our own farming industry the chance to grow feed in this country in what could be a sustainable way. This blatant exploitation of the planet and people supports factory farming practices which exploit the cattle being reared – so on several fronts it is an important issue. If you have been asked to complete a postcard to your MP then PLEASE do your bit and send it off.



The ultimate goal is to get enough MP's to support a Sustainable Livestock Bill that will come before parliament on 12th November 2010.

At the time of writing we have sent a letter to Daniel Kawczynski explaining about the campaign and asking for a meeting. This is in addition to getting as many postcards signed as possible. If you want to find out more then look on www.JointheMoovement.com.

We have also sent letters to organisations in the area who we think might be sympathetic to this campaign and maybe others as well. The hope is that we can build up a list of organisations whose members are willing to express support for a campaign either by signing postcards or writing a letter or by similar action. We would then be able to achieve a more extensive response quickly which would supplement the support we get when we set up stalls etc. If you think there is a group or club that you think might be willing to be approached two or three times per year at most then please let us know.



Frank Oldaker

FOLK DOWN THE TRACK

Myriad Organics in association with Ludlow 21 are running monthly evening folk events accessible along on the Heart of Wales railway line from Shrewsbury, using local community pubs and musicians in the Welsh Marches.

For dates and times see www.ludlow21.org.uk, or phone Graham at Myriad on 01584 872665 or 01584 874888.

Shrewsbury FoE Membership Sept 2010

The membership this year has declined. Contacts have indicated that there is no specific known reason for non-renewal, although it is accepted that the formation of more 'green groups' has an impact.

As most of our communication is by e-mail, members making changes, **please include us in your circulation!**

A number of members have made use of the standing order facility for renewal, saving more paper/trees.

We are discussing more ways of recruiting and retaining members. Any ideas you have will be gratefully received.

Sue Fisher, Membership Secretary

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	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>.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 9th November 2010. After the business part of the AGM, i.e. officers' reports and election of the committee, we will be showing film *Beyond the Tipping Point*. This is a documentary film about climate, action and the future. We will have a discussion about any issues it raises after the film. Hope to see you there!

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. 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

There will be Autumn social drinks on Tuesday 14th September at the Prince of Wales, Bynner St, Belle Vue, 7.30 onwards.

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 or ringing 020 7490 1555.

Cornwall council has granted planning permission for the UK's first commercial-scale deep geothermal power plant at a site near Redruth. 55MW of renewable heat energy and 10MW of electricity is intended to be generated.

New Energy Focus, 16th August 2010

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