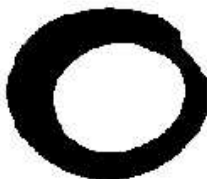


# Reading Friends of the Earth Newsletter

July/August 2004

For Information contact John on 0118 9868260, john@booths.clara.net



**Friends of the Earth**

## EVENTS DIARY

### General Meetings:

Reading FoE usually meet on second Wednesday of each month upstairs at RISC, 35-39 London Street, at 8 p.m.

**But Not This August!!**

### Wed 14<sup>th</sup> July: –

A general meeting – topics to include: Kennet Valley Park; Green? Growth? Debate; and motions for FoE Conference.

### Weds. 11<sup>th</sup> August:

Barbecue in Calcot from 7:00 p.m. - phone or e-mail for details and to arrange to bring contributions of food and drink. 0118 9420056 or [murielparsons@hotmail.com](mailto:murielparsons@hotmail.com)

### Weds. 14<sup>th</sup> September:

Speaker from 'Rising Tide' on Climate Change and local campaigning.

### Weds. 13<sup>th</sup> October:

Visit from Rebecca Smith – FoE SE 'Network Developer'.

### Other dates of interest:

#### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August:

Earley Green Fair ... we hope to have a stall ... 'phone or e-mail for details.

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September:

RBC LA 21 Forum 18:30 Civic Offices (open to public!)

## Green? Growth? Debate.

The Council's debate on sustainability and growth was held on 15th June.

Simon Bullock (from FoE Ltd.) said Green Growth was possible but things must change! He gave a good talk on climate change advocating the FoE target of 90% reduction in carbon emissions (compared to government target of 60% reduction). Reading Council have taken a lead by buying 'green' electricity and using combined-heat-and power in some of their buildings.

Ken Webster of the "Improvement and Development Agency for local government" (IDeA) was an excellent speaker, speaking with authority and wit on how we are globally interdependent for sustainability, and he encouraged the use of footprinting.

Kevin Ashman of The Prudential talked about the developments at Green Park (offices) and the proposed Kennet Valley Park (housing).

Unfortunately question time was curtailed but at least one of the four questions put to the panel came from a FoE member.

The workshops didn't come up with anything wildly original, but there was plenty of goodwill and

enthusiasm.

For the event to happen at all was a very positive achievement, and it succeeded in increasing awareness of the issues, strengthening local commitment and inter-group connections, and providing useful input to the current review of the UK Sust. Devt Strategy.

Naomi thinks our aims for the next few LA21 meetings (next one is 1st Sept – please turn up!) should include:

- keep the pressure up for Reading to measure its footprint,
- keep campaigning for reduction in CO2 emissions - what more can Reading do to 'meet local needs locally'?
- continue input to UK Sust Devt strategy, esp. the issue of measuring economic success by a more welfare-based index than GDP,
- find out what's happening with the Community Strategy & the Local Plan & take part in any further reviews.

## Help to redefine Sustainable Development!

The UK Government, together with the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland are consulting to develop a

new sustainable strategy for the UK.

The consultation includes local and regional events and an online consultation facility, and will provide a strong basis for renewed action to deliver sustainable development.

Visit the online consultation at [www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/taking-it-on](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/taking-it-on)

Naomi plans to generate input for the group but it's open to individuals too!

### **Kennet Valley Park**

At least five of us attended the Pru's exhibition – with varying reactions. The 'Chronicle' said it was 'high on gloss, short on answers'.

The proposals are for 7,500 homes to be built from 2011 to 2034 between Green Park and M4 J12.

As the present Structure Plan horizon is 2016 the bulk of the homes would not meet current needs or do anything to reduce commuting to Green Park in the short term.

While around 2,000 homes built before 2016 would come from West Berkshire's current housing allocation the development would commit us to taking 5,500 more in the next planning period – a continuing increase in Berkshire's population and therefore a continuing increase in its environmental footprint.

The amount of shopping proposed seems very small – they say they can't take custom from Savacentre at Calcot or Safeways on the old Basingstoke Road.

A secondary school is in the plans but would not be built for many years ... so places would have to be found elsewhere for any resident children ... community growing pains.

Eventually a proposed dual carriageway (plus mass rapid transit) would run from M4 J12 to the A33 near the 'Reading Gateway' development. They say the Burgfield Road will stay quiet ... They don't say they will open the road system to the M4 service centre and add shops there and create a new "J11a" to allow access from the Green Park offices to the Motorway.

The wildlife-rich gravel-workings – a key site for Nightingales - would be filled and built on and the Kennet Meadows (another key wildlife site) would be enhanced as a public park in 'mitigation' ... would wildlife survive the pressure?

The 'Chronicle' is having a 'Mini-Town Debate' so have your say at [news@readingchronicle.co.uk](mailto:news@readingchronicle.co.uk)

### **Green Park Turbine**

Ecotricity and the Prudential Assurance Company have put in a joint planning application to build an Enercon E-66 wind turbine between Green Park and the Courage Brewery near Junction 11 of the M4.

Latest news is that Reading has supported it and the application is expected to go to Wokingham Planning Committee for decision (because the site is in Wokingham District) in July with Officers' recommendation that it be approved.

Ecotricity website is: <http://www.ecotricity.com/projects/planning.html>

### **True Food Club:**

This not-for-profit club aims to bring organic wholefoods to the area at affordable prices.

They want to get a van to take produce to people, instead of being restricted to their regular meetings and location (second and last Saturdays of the month) at the Rising Sun at 2:30.

They have been given a grant by Berkshire Community Foundation to run four pilot meetings in July and September.

The July ones are on: Tuesday July 13th @ The Warehouse 6pm - 8.30pm, Norwood Rd Entrance, Newtown ... and Tuesday July 20th @ All Saints Church Hall 4pm - 7pm Downshire Square, Coley.

They'd like people to go along and shop ... and also to help to set up etc. Contact Chris at [truefood@onetel.com](mailto:truefood@onetel.com)

[http://web.onetel.net.uk/~truefood/tfc\\_home.html](http://web.onetel.net.uk/~truefood/tfc_home.html)

### Useful Websites:

[www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk](http://www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk)

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

[www.rfoe.freerve.co.uk](http://www.rfoe.freerve.co.uk)

New site for True Food Club: <http://web.onetel.net.uk/~truefood>

Renewable Energy Grants etc.: [www.clear-skies.org](http://www.clear-skies.org) [www.solarpvgrants.co.uk](http://www.solarpvgrants.co.uk)

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/consumerservices/wasteandrecycling/recycling/wherecanyourecycle.htm>

South East Forum for Sustainability: <http://www.sefs.org.uk>

And some more on Food, Agriculture Supermarkets and GM issues:

<http://www.berks-organic-gardeners.fsnet.co.uk/LFD/> - Local Food Directory, with links

[http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real\\_food/press\\_for\\_change/league\\_table/index.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real_food/press_for_change/league_table/index.html) - FoE pesticide league table

[http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press\\_releases/supermarkets\\_continue\\_to\\_s.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/supermarkets_continue_to_s.html)

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/Products/GM/>

<http://www.risc.org.uk/readingfairtrade/>

### Reading FoE e-mail communications

We've moved our group e-mail list from [readingfoe@coolist.com](mailto:readingfoe@coolist.com) to [readingfoe@foe.co.uk](mailto:readingfoe@foe.co.uk)

If you would like to be on our list and join in our day-to-day communications please get in touch.

### Reading FoE Subscriptions – Subscribe NOW for 2004/2005!!

To join or renew, just fill in the slip below and send it off with your subscription. We aim to provide a regular newsletter to keep members up to date with the group's activities. Our subscriptions run from April to March and are set at £5.00 / £3.00 (waged / unwaged) to cover newsletter costs, meeting room hire and campaign expenses. Further contributions would be greatly appreciated. Even if you don't have time to take an active part, your support is welcome and allows us to demonstrate more local support.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick  if you are able to take an active part in our campaigns. We may contact you by phone.

I heard about the group from: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to Reading Friends of the Earth, and return to the RFoE Treasurer, c/o 15 Barn Close, Reading, RG30 3EE