

# Guildford and Waverley

## Friends of the Earth

### Newsletter: Jan 2012



**Friends of  
the Earth**

[www.gwfoe.org.uk](http://www.gwfoe.org.uk) & [www.foe.co.uk/guildford](http://www.foe.co.uk/guildford)

Our last meeting on Dec 16th was a very sociable meal at the Spanish Tapas restaurant on Chapel Street, Guildford. 8 of us shared a very pleasant meal, well presented with staff considerably allocating dietary choices as requested. The waitress even performed a bright burst of flamenco dancing as a good night flourish!

*Now back to the serious stuff.....*

#### **Feed in Tariff – Friends of the Earth Court Case update**



Kathy Smyth and Chris Meeks went up to London on Friday 13 January to attend the hearing in the Court of Appeal of the Friends of the Earth, HomeSun and Solar Century case against the Government for the illegal and unfair way it has acted over the fast track feed in tariff review. It was a packed court and the public gallery included many people from the solar industry whose jobs or businesses are at serious risk (or have gone already) as a result of the Government action. The legal arguments were long and complicated and it is impossible to say at the moment which side is going to prevail although on balance we think Friends of the Earth and their allies have *probably* won the day. The three judges 'reserved judgment'

i.e. they need to go away and think about it and write the judgment, and they weren't prepared to give any indication of when they would give their judgment – let alone the likely outcome! Andrew Pendleton, the new Friends of the Earth Head of Campaigns wrote an excellent background article on the court case in the Guardian on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan-see <http://tinyurl.com/andrewpinguardian>

#### **Continuing Local Events**

We have heard in recent days that **the post of Surrey County Council Cycling Officer is to be lost** from the end of March, a backward step. Chris Meeks, our local FoE representative on Waverley Cycle Forum, was one of those who expressed concern about this at the most recent Forum meeting, when it was agreed to write to the County Council.

The County Council is also consulting currently about the future of all bus services in Waverley and on some of those in Guildford Borough. A public consultation document is available in local libraries as well as via the internet at

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/busreview](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/busreview) Chris Meeks is drafting a response on behalf of our group and would value any feedback, if possible by January 21st on 01483 422 774 or via e-mail:

[chrismeeks@chrisjm.plus.com](mailto:chrismeeks@chrisjm.plus.com)

On a similar topic, GEF Executive has considered the proposal to move the Guildford bus station to the Bedford Road area and has deep concerns about it. Please respond directly with your views asap (for or against) to

[adrianthompson46@talktalk.net](mailto:adrianthompson46@talktalk.net) .

John Bannister and Rachael Hunter visited Anne Milton MP last week about the FIT review and future. "She listened carefully and acknowledged what we had to say about the fallout from the FIT decision. The jobs lost that we have personal knowledge of, seemed to touch a chord. She asked us to write a summary so she could take it up with

Greg Barker. The key messages given to her were that the multi roofs restriction and the EPC -C were too onerous for schools especially as SCC had starved schools of maintenance for so long that schools' fabric is in a poor state, eg poor electricity systems and no roof insulation." TBC..

Selbourne Brickworks has recently submitted a revised planning application to Hampshire County Council for planning permission for a 2MW anaerobic digester to take waste food and farm slurry from the local area. We supported the application last time, which was refused on appeal (wrongly in our view). This time the application does not involve constructing lagoons on the old clay pits which were technically classified as 'previously undeveloped land' (!! ) which was a major reason the original scheme was refused. The entire scheme fits onto the existing industrial brickworks site, which should increase its prospects of success. The group will be discussing the revised application when further details are publicly available.

Saturday 4 February is your chance to meet campaigners, get the latest updates on campaigns and key issues, learn new skills and transform your ideas into action at the next [Regional Gathering of FoE](#). [Book your place online](#) at [http://www.foe.co.uk/events/greater\\_southeast.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/events/greater_southeast.html) (Bookings close 22 January)

## Web Actions

Marinet has posted 23 new documents at [www.marinet.org.uk](http://www.marinet.org.uk) .eg EU announces 2012 fishing quota scheme whilst Brussels NGO says "it fails the sustainability test" <http://www.marinet.org.uk/latestnews.html#eafq>

If you read this piece in the Guardian about the green Deal, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/georgemonbiot/2012/jan/13/green-deal> where George criticises FoE amongst others, please read the blog as well- there are some sound responses, including some from FoE staff explaining George's errors!

**The next FoE meeting will be on Monday, 23rd January 7.30**, but as Greening Alton have an interesting speaker for their AGM, we are combining forces with them for the evening. I am driving from Woking, Kathy is driving from Milford and we will pick up anyone who is interested en route. Please ring us before Monday on the numbers below to arrange lifts.

## The Greening Alton and Holybourne Campaign AGM

**Monday 23rd January at 7.30pm, back room of the Railway Arms**

**Speaker: Melissa Maynard, Communications Officer at the Department of Energy and Climate Change**

**"The Green Deal – what the government's energy plans mean for local communities"**

Hope to see you on Monday. If not, the meeting dates for the year are 27th Feb, 26th March, 23rd April, May 21st, 25th June and 23rd July so hope to see you at some of them, mainly in Guildford Institute, except for February in Godalming.

**Contact us:- Hilary Griffiths 01483 831179 and Kathy & Mike Smyth 01483 424012 Email: [hilarygriffiths@hotmail.com](mailto:hilarygriffiths@hotmail.com) ; [www.gwfoe.org.uk](http://www.gwfoe.org.uk)**