

Guildford and Waverley

Newsletter : Oct. 2012



www.gwfoe.org.uk & www.foe.co.uk/guildford **Group of the Year**

We are planning a drop in drink and chat evening on Weds 17th Oct, 6-8pm at The Star pub in Godalming. Look out for Kathy and Mike Smyth! We are going to have our bigger celebration for winning Group of the year in early December – does anyone know a convenient pub that would put on a buffet for us- we'll put some of our winnings into the pot to start the evening rolling?

Come along on Monday 22nd as well and find out how you can help in some important local campaigning!!

Local News

Wey Valley Wood Fuel

The 'successor' project to Wey Valley Solar Schools is gradually taking shape and their newsletter

about the project is attached separately. They had a really successful first stall at the recent Surrey Hills Wood Fair at Birtley House.



Waverley Core Strategy

The latest consultation on the draft Waverley planning policy closed on Friday 5 October. GWFoE has made submissions on a number of policies including the amount and location of housing, the future use of Dunsfold Aerodrome, flooding, social exclusion and renewable energy.

The good news is that the policies on renewable energy and sustainable construction which Kathy has been working on for a long time are still in the draft although there is a developer arguing for housing standards to be dropped from Code 4 to Code 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. We will try to keep an eye on this and resist it.

The bad news is that Kathy has concluded that the draft Core Strategy runs a very high risk of being thrown out and failing or of Waverley being told by the Inspector who examines it that it needs to be withdrawn for further work. There are a number of reasons for this. One is that the figure of 230 new homes p.a. which Waverley is putting forward is nowhere near high enough when evidence shows such a clear need for more housing locally. We have a lot of overcrowded households and hidden homeless in the borough, particularly amongst young adults. Waverley have also made the mistake of attempting to appropriate proposed new housing from neighbouring boroughs like Rushmoor and say that it makes a contribution to Waverley's housing. Rushmoor has serious housing issues and they have actually objected to the housing policy in Waverley's draft core strategy. That's a serious matter which the Inspector will have to sort out.

It all means that Waverley could very well be left with no local planning policy from next Spring and the only policy applying to the area will be the National Planning Policy Framework. That could mean a rush of planning applications **to put housing on Greenfield land around the edges of Farnham and Cranleigh** in particular which are both outside the Green Belt. This is precisely what GWFoE predicted would happen before, during and after planning was refused for the proposed eco-settlement at Dunsfold Aerodrome in 2009. We also think Guildford Borough Council could run into similar problems next year?

Now a little update on what is (not) happening to the Aerodrome!

Dunsfold Aerodrome – new report published

After more than 10 years in planning limbo the owners of Dunsfold Aerodrome have finally lost patience with Waverley Borough Council and commissioned their own report from Lib Dem peer Lord Taylor on the possible options open to them for the future use and development of the Aerodrome.

Prior to entering the House of Lords in 2010 Matthew Taylor was a rural MP for a Cornish constituency for 23 years. In 2008 at the request of the last Government wrote the Taylor Review into the challenges of rural housing and sustainable rural economic development and these days he also chairs the National Housing Federation (the trade body for all housing associations). He has produced a comprehensive 80 page report which we have received but are still studying. We will put more details of this on the website in the next few days and provide a fuller report in the next newsletter.

The Bee Cause

'60 Bee Worlds' resources to create your own local bee-friendly spaces.

Nat FoE want to create 60 bee and pollinator friendly spaces in towns and rural areas across the UK - Creating small havens of wildflowers can provide essential food for bees, and help reverse the trend of declining bee populations in the UK. This act will provide a striking reminder to the Government of The Bee Cause. Resources to sponsor and create your own bee-friendly space can be found here:

<http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php?action=media;sa=album;in=76>. We are hoping to find a suitable area with the help of various local bodies- any ideas? We have also been doing some research into Neonicotinoids use locally so that will be on next Monday's agenda.

Clean British Energy

Next Thursday morning 18th October, head to Westminster to show your support for green jobs and clean British energy. Hundreds of people from the Stop Climate Chaos coalition will get together to recreate the classic 1970s 'Labour Isn't Working' advert - but with a green twist. The exact location is top secret, so if you're interested please **email** James Dubrey & the Clean British Energy team **to ask for the full details** cbe@foe.co.uk. They'd also love to see you on 20 October at the TUC's massive anti-cuts march. The meeting place for the 'climate block' is St. Paul's Cathedral at 11am - just look out for FoE flags. It would be great to see you there.

Future Events

Laugh or the Polar Bear Gets It 2012

"Laugh or the Polar Bear Gets It" challenges top-draw comedians plus a fantastic music act to perform their socks off in aid of Friends of the Earth.

Already lined up to lend their support are **Stewart Lee, Ed Byrne, Dan Antopolski, Francesca Martinez** and music from special guest **Beardyman**, with further great names to be released shortly. **Thursday 22nd November, Hammersmith Apollo**, London. www.eventim.co.uk £25 I've bought 2 tickets already. Anyone else want to join us?

Web Actions

At a recent Woking LA21 AGm, where Andy Atkins spoke, our MP Jonathan Lord referred to Peter Lilley's book doubting the Stern Review and the economics of climate change. A letter has been sent to him quoting McKibben's article – a powerful statement of concern about the changing climate. <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warnings-terrifying-new-math-20120719> -Well worth 10 mins of everyone's time!

Our next meeting will be on Monday 22nd October and I hope to see you, on the top floor of Guildford Institute at 7.15.

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