

Branch

**News and comment from
Havant & East Hants
Friends of the Earth
Autumn 2006**

**Caring for
where we
live**



Line

Stop the Tesco takeover

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Green Living

FAIR

Emsworth

International

House

11th Nov.

10am



Tesco's plans to demolish its Solent Road supermarket to make way for a mega store has been attacked by FOE and other groups across the Borough. The new mammoth store has a gross area almost three times larger than the one it replaces and 659 car parking spaces. These will be created under the sales area which will be raised on stilts. Tesco's case is that it will bring people back to Havant Town centre through linked trips, create new jobs, offer more choice and give people what they want. It will, they say, fit with other retail developments under construction to the west of the town centre. FOE agrees that the new Tesco will bring people back to Havant but only as far as Tesco. The company's decision to fill its vast new space with non-

food lines can only hasten the end of nearby specialist shops like chemists, opticians, book sellers etc. It's happened all over Britain and it will happen in Havant.

Tesco always claims that its new stores create jobs. Research shows when the gains are set against losses caused by closures of smaller businesses in the same area, Tesco's claim is, at best, an exaggeration.

There are already five superstores within a 20 minute drive of Havant town centre. That should be enough choice for most people.

Tesco has 31% of the UK grocery market and, along with its principal competitors, was referred to the Competition Commission in May.

Their buying policies are tough on small producers and involve sourcing from all over the world. This adds to greenhouse gas emissions through food air miles and a supply chain that depends on hundreds of heavy diesel trucks hammering the nation's roads. There are recent signs that they may be listening to groups like FOE. Bags for Life, switching more energy to renewable providers and local sourcing is part of £100 million package they announced in July.

Positioned at the gateway of the town, Tesco will Hoover in business and, together with the huge new shed in Potash Terrace, turn Havant into a cross between Tescotown and Wickes World.

keepshopslocal@hotmail.co.uk

NOTTINGHAM NOTES

FOE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Where else in Britain would you go to a conference attended by over 400 people and find a near empty car park? You guessed it-FOE's national gathering which this year was held at Nottingham University. The unbroken sunshine, courtesy global warming, and strolls around the the generous campus lawns hark back to your correspondent's bygone student days if not at Nottingham then at other leafy halls of learning.

Hampshire's FOE Network turned out in force with delegates from all ten groups .

The FOE's annual get-together has all the buzz of a political convention but none of the posturing. Why do we do it then? Certainly not for votes or for the money. Conscience of humanity sounds conceited. We learned that FOE is getting stronger. It's now the most mentioned NGO in the the country. We challenged Gordon Brown and won over his decision to ditch the requirement for companies to report their environmental record. 70,000 people and 380 MP's now support our climate change bill. **Our lobbying at the UN Montreal December conference firmed up global commitments to more effective limits on greenhouse gases. The Palm Oil Protest outside Tesco stores - You Shop/ We Drop-triggered 5000 postcards to MP's. Save Cash and Save the Planet is now into a second printing and financially we're £300,000 ahead of target. 17 new groups have been born.**

This year's memorial lecture looked at how to better engage the public. We were told that being green had become the new religion. But there were millions still not hearing our message or, if they were, not doing much about it. **Some say we're beginning to sound negative, too negative. Clear, attractive solutions and telling it like it is must be our style**



Tony Juniper and Sue Holt at Nottingham

Everybody agrees and does nothing

Highlights from Tony Juniper's national conference address

No organisation stays still. A lot is happening. Every day national media is putting green stories at the top of the news. In just one day we had Drax carbon camp, California bringing in carbon trading plans, Cameron's arctic trek and a scientific report on global tipping points. Years ago people asked whether it was all real. Now, nobody doubts that and we have moved from defensive to supportive.

Do nothing messages are out. More and more everybody is sounding like FOE but we need to scale up, go beyond the usual constituencies and engage.

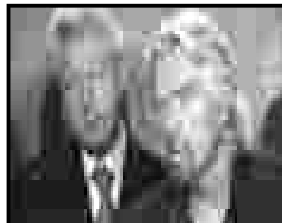
Advocating solutions must be the emphasis. FOE has always had solutions on recycling, eco-friendly buildings, alternative transport and more. Know the problem and solution. FOE does not want to end up as an alternative life style model. Everybody agrees with us and does nothing.

The challenge is to widen the message and the audience and demonstrate that we have public legitimacy. It won't be easy what with taxes on aviation, penalties for not recycling and the taxing 4x4s. More focused activity is key to achieve a greener society.

Despite more people than ever knowing about global warming we drive more, fly more, build more and use more power. People need to be contacted where they are at. There's no point in agreeing with everything and doing nothing. Big Ask justifies the narrowing of the focus to one big campaign. 90,000 signed so far and 380 MP's on board. FOE now has the highest profile of any NGO in England.

Achieving the right balance between staying in touch with grass roots and devising clever, effective messages that move people will be tough and not universally welcome.

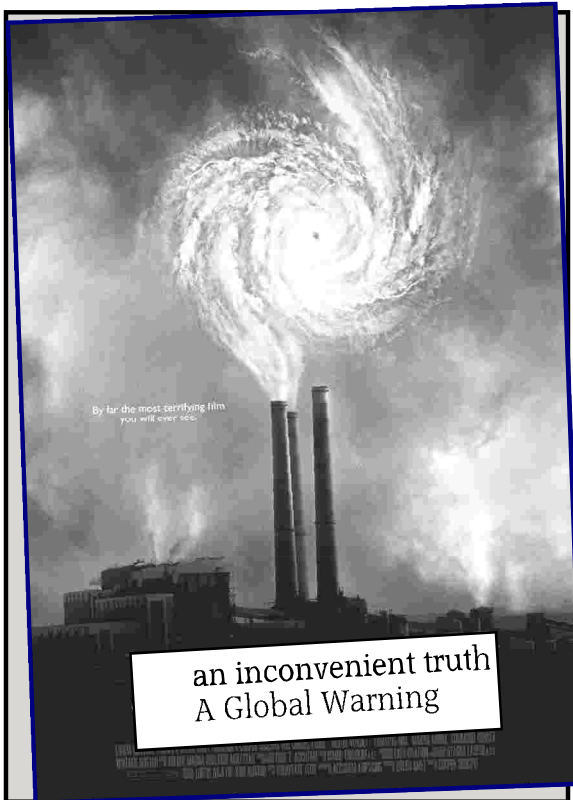
And there will be no room for thinking that says we can have our cake and eat it.



Richard Branson's \$3 billion gesture on climate change research should go with pressure on Government to bring in a new climate change law, end airport expansion and impose air fuel tax.

David Willetts signs up to Climate Motion

Havant 's David Willetts is to set to join 380 other MP s from all parties and back FOE s Big Ask Campaign. FOE launched the campaign last year to persuade the government to bring in a new Climate Change Bill. It would commit to a 3% reduction in emissions every year. Havant FOE organised over 240 postcards to be sent from Havant residents to Mr Willetts asking for his support. It is hoped that the new Bill will be part of the Queen s Speech.



Al Gore's Earth Mission

Gore argues that humanity is sitting on a ticking time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just twenty years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced or can imagine.

The book and film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, brings home Gore's persuasive and fascinating hypothesis that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue - rather, it is the biggest moral challenge facing our global civilization.

The film is showing at local cinemas and there is wealth of background information on the producers web site <http://www.aninconvenienttruth.co.uk/>

SHUV gets a hearing

A pressure group set up to oppose government house building plans is to present its case to a Public Inquiry. South Hants Unheard Voices (SHUV) is made up of 25 parish councils, civic societies and green groups such as Havant FOE. Its aim is to promote quality of life issues in a plan obsessed with economic growth in South Hants. SHUV says that the research on the environmental impact of thousands of new homes is completely inadequate. It wants tougher brown field targets to stimulate regeneration in urban centres.



Green taxes are great- but how do we sell them ?

At their annual conference the Lib Dems boasted that they were the only main stream political party with a green tax plan. Switch tax away from people and on to the polluter they urged. Fine, but how do you sell that one to the gas guzzlers and get-away people? And what do you do for revenue after people go green and your tax base gets smaller?

Many FOE members might reason that it s a nice problem to have. If it ain t hurting it ain t working. Nobody gives up what they enjoy voluntarily. There s no fluffy way to say unless we change our behaviour there won t be much left to enjoy. New tax measures sometimes lead to a bidding war between the parties. Hopefully, the Lib Dems will not have gone where other parties fear to tread.

Campaigners win a battle but not the war

The normally staid meetings of the Portsmouth Primary Care Trust were enlivened on 24 August by the presence of a substantial number of anti-fluoridationists.

Inside the Entertainments Hall extra chairs had to be found to seat the unusually large audience that had gathered. Only 15 minutes would be allowed for this item but the discussion lasted over 30 minutes.

Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones who was leading the pro-fluoridation team put his case at some length. Board members too voiced their opinions impressed by information provided by our side. The public were allowed to join in the discussion. The vote was nail-biting with five votes in favour of asking for a 'feasibility study' and five against. Zenna Atkins' deciding vote was against.

Zenna acknowledged that there was a dental health problem in areas of the city but that the PCT would tackle this by working through schools to target those in need of help.

This is an encouraging outcome for all the hard work put into educating the Board on the true nature of fluoridation. But the NHS will not allow the matter to rest here.

Local health authorities are about to be reorganised once again. The ten PCTs in Hampshire will be reduced to four: Portsmouth City, Southampton City, the Isle of Wight and Hampshire. Portsmouth voted against going down the fluoridation road in August. Southampton decided to ask for a study earlier in the Spring. The Isle of Wight has not spoken. What will be the new agenda under the new Hampshire PCT? Pressure from the government could see the whole question thrown back into the melting pot.

PORTSMOUTH COMPOSTING PROJECT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Portsmouth Friends of the Earth has won an award at the National Friends of the Earth Conference held at Nottingham in September. National FoE aim to acknowledge and recognise the fantastic commitment and achievements of their local groups. They receive many nominations for five different categories of awards one of which is the award for Successful Solutions. This award is presented to a group who have developed a good solution to an environmental problem. Hampshire FOE groups have won awards for the last three years.

Sue's column

Lots of things are going on and much more to follow. That's healthy, especially given some of the challenges we face in Havant. Nowadays, everybody wants to sound like FOE—a great tribute to our hard working members. Many thanks to Ray for organising our Tesco protest. Also to Jenny Owens for speaking up live about the Tesco campaign on Radio Solent at 7am! Please support our group by coming along with friends to our Green Living Fair on November 11th. Also to the next meeting in Havant when local FOE campaigner, Beth Hawdon, will give a talk on bio diesel fuels



Diary Time

13th Oct. SEFS AGM - London, contact alisonw@foe.co.uk or www.sefs.org.uk. Speakers Keren Jones, sustainable development team and Jacob Tompkins from Waterwise.

18th Oct. (Weds.) Havant FOE meeting, Nineveh, South Street, 7.30 pm. Speaker Beth Hawdon on biodiesel and local issues

21st Oct. Hants FOE Network meeting, 1pm- Portsmouth FOE hosting (Ray Cobbett 01243 389487)

27th Oct. Verse and Versatility, Havant Arts Centre, local words and music (Tim Dawes)

4th Nov. International Day of Action, Climate Change March (coalition), 12 noon @US embassy, Grosvenor Square, London. (Sue Holt 01243780943)

11th Nov. FoE Havant 'Green Living Fair', Emsworth - International House, The Square, 10am - 3.00pm. (Pat Williamson 01243 378560)