

# Branchline

## News for local Friends of the Earth



Friends of  
the Earth

Havant, Hayling, Emsworth, Bedhampton, Leigh Park, Waterlooville, East Hants

www.foe.co.uk  
WINTER 2005

EDITED BY: Sophie & Ray Cobbett



Friends of Idelwood keeping the wood tidy

### Developers threaten ancient woodland

# Hands off Idelwood

Idelwood is a 3 acre woodland site located off Longwood Avenue, Cowplain, a highly developed area west of the A3M in Havant Borough.

It has recently been designated by Hampshire County Council as a **Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC)**. While not as strong as some other statutory planning protections, SINC's require local planners to demonstrate that the site would better developed than left untouched in its natural state.

Research by county experts shows shows that Idelwood, a remnant of the Ancient Forest of Bear, scores very high on the SINC assessment criteria. **Most of its almost 300 trees have protection orders.**

The woods once had a house on the site but this was demolished many years ago.

The future of this unique wood is now **seriously at risk**. Developers have put in a planning application to build 54 flats and a 30-bed care unit.

If allowed, the building would take out over half the 3 acre wood and **destroy the habitats of over 30 species** of birds many of which appear on the RSPB's red or amber lists. Havant Friends of the Earth, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, English Nature, the CPRE Hampshire County Council and local residents have opposed the application which is due to come before Havant Borough Council next month.

Idelwood is not listed as a site for new homes under Havant Council's Local Plan approved by the full council in September. **You can still have your say on this vital planning issue by writing to Havant Council.**

### FOE's objections

- \* **200** trees covered by TPO's would be destroyed
- \* The woodlands have local heritage importance as **living evidence** of The Ancient Forest of Bear
- \* Developing the site would **destroy the habitats** of 30 species of birds, many on the RSPB's national list of threatened species.
- \* The wood is the habitat of small mammals, including **rare bats**.
- \* The footprint of the new buildings would displace drainage capacity and require new water storage facilities to deal with **flooding**
- \* The woods have been designated a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation by HCC ecology team
- \* The development is contrary to Havant Council's biodiversity policy

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
WWW.IDELWOOD.CO.UK**

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Campaign to save the Orang Utan
- Local Transport Plan attacked
- EU Directives and Fluoridation
- Global warming- MP's warning
- Sue's Column



**Sophie Cobbett, John Pilkington and Sue Holt meeting shoppers in Emsworth**

## Palm oil action in Emsworth

Havant FOE joined 70 FOE groups in the UK to highlight the threat to Asia's only great ape, the Orang Utan. It lives in the Malaysian rain forest which is rapidly vanishing to make way for new palm oil plantations. The oil is used in 1 in 10 supermarket products like toothpaste, lipstick and crisps. Members handed out over 100 postcards asking shoppers to send them to MP David Willetts to support changes to the **Company Law Reform Bill**. This would make Company Directors responsible for ensuring that the products their firms sold did not damage the planet.

### Climate change debate

## MP warning about cost

Chichester MP, Andrew Tyrie, says that the cost of stabilising climate change must be taken into account along with the cost of the changes. Replying to a post card from an FOE member, Mr Tyrie said that stabilising climate change may come at the expense of development in some of the poorest countries. **"We need to consider carefully the merits of compensation to deal with climate change"** 250 MP's have so far supported the Climate Change Bill



## We need new nuclear reactors like a hole in the head

This year has been dominated by more natural disasters exacerbated by our impact on the environment That the UK is mishandling its climate change programme is a fact: emissions are increasing not reducing. So what rears its ugly head again but the nuclear debate, even splitting environmentalist it seems. We need new energy sources bur nuclear is not the answer. Research into viable green options is vital. What do you think? There is another way and the first step is changing attitudes on energy consumption.



### FLUORIDATION UPDATE -new EU Directives

Six million people in the UK drink, cook and wash in fluoridated water. The quality of drinking water is covered by EU food and water regulations . The presence of calcium fluoride in drinking water from natural sources does not alter its status as a food whose quality is regulated under the Water Quality Regulations.

But any form of fluoride whether 'natural' or artificial, including those fluorides that do not have medicinal Marketing Authorisation, when added to water with the intent to prevent or reduce dental caries, ceases to be food and becomes a medicine.

Neither fluoride (potassium and sodium fluoride) nor any form of silicofluoride have Marketing Authorisation under UK or EU Legislation.

Their use with the intent to medicate is illegal from the end of this month. Any authority faced with this illegal administration of unlicensed medicine from that date can and should apply for an injunction against any water company that actively fluoridates its products or is proposing to do so.

This action can be taken by any Strategic Health Authority that orders a company to carry out this illegal act

### **Keeping our High Streets**

Good to hear that Emsworth, in a National Poll, was voted one of the least cloned High Streets in the country. FOE is urging support for the Sustainable Communities Bill. That means promoting local economic needs – so money that is spent locally benefits local shops and services, not just remote shareholders. Long-term environmental impacts of any planning or economic policies are central to the process of deciding whether they go ahead or not.

The Bill's vision of local sustainability also says that the political and social participation and importance of every member of the community should be promoted.

# Pollution + congestion + emissions + damage to the environment = expansion of Southampton Airport



## Hampshire's Transport plans too weak

In a letter to county planners, Havant FOE has described the Draft Local Transport Plan for Hampshire as lacking the bold thinking required to solve congestion throughout the area.

The group takes to task the fascination that county planning chiefs have had with major prestige projects often at the expense of smaller more viable schemes.

It welcomes the long awaited new bus station for Havant but says that it should have been located next to the train station.

The local cycleway network needs an early completion, especially in view of Havant's relatively high number of road accidents among the most vulnerable users.

The plan recognises the contribution transport make to global warming in the the county but fails to come up with any real measures to boost public transport and get cars off the road or take into account a larger Southampton Airport

FOE branches throughout Hampshire have teamed up with local residents groups to challenge a major expansion of Southampton Airport. British Airports Authority (BAA) have produced a Masterplan predicting a fourfold increase in passenger numbers from **1.5 million to 6 million by 2030.**

In its response to the consultation document FOE says that, if implemented, the expansion would threaten the quality of life for thousands of people living under the flight paths. FOE cites WHO research showing that increased noise can lead to sleep disturbance, stress related illness and a reduced ability to concentrate.

BAA argues that it's simply responding to the Government's commitment to passenger growth In air travel over the next 25 years.

At present emissions from aircraft are exempt from Kyoto and in the UK there is no VAT on fuel. If this is allowed to continue, greenhouse gas from aviation will grow from 4% to 25% by 2030.

FOE wants the government to:

- **Cancel all new runways. If fair taxes were applied they would not be needed.**
- **Ensure CO2 emissions from aviation are stabilised**
- **Ensure 'the polluter pays' principle applies to aviation**
- **Introduce tax on fuel**
- **Invest more in efficient, low carbon transport**

## No relief for Gosport

Plans for a Light Railway Transit system to relieve congestion around Portsmouth, Fareham and Gosport appears to have hit the buffers. After years of planning, studies and reports the government has announced it's too expensive. An opportunity to take almost **3 million car journeys** off overloaded local roads has been scrapped despite Mr Blair's warning that Climate Change is the biggest threat facing mankind. His solution to local traffic jams is to authorise over **£70 million for a fourth carriageway** on parts of the M27. The only predictable outcome from this is that a fifth carriageway will be needed in 2010

## New green space threat

A number of FOE members are among hundreds of residents anxious about the future of the 5 acre Havant Rugby Club ground In Hooks Lane. The ground is likely to be sold off for new homes if a deal goes through involving the club moving to a new site in Crookhorn.

Havant is under provided for in green space and play areas and yet the latest District Plan sees former schools playing fields turned into housing estates.

FOE would like to see the the fields of Hooks Lane left as a place for leisure and recreation for nearby residents

## Sue's Column

By Havant Coordinator,  
Sue Holt

We've been busy this autumn out and about with our stall, letter-writing, attending public planning meetings and Network meetings the usual – even socialising. For me, personally, getting involved in the setting up of a Market Towns Initiative on Hayling Island and doing a workshop for children at a local school as well took up my hours. Many members are devoting a lot of their spare time to their particular projects through FoE and other organisations. By liaising with local people in community groups or councils we can ensure that we have a role in local alliances when needed and keep up the pressure for sustainable development in every area in the truest sense.

Claudia Sartori and the education department at FOE Underwood Street have produced two "Shout About" packages (recycling/ waste and Climate change) for use in schools, 11 – 13 year olds. With Claudia's help and Tracey Jones of Portsmouth FoE (who has developed a great educational network in the city schools) I provided a recycling workshop for two classes of 7 – 8 year olds. Really all the children wanted to do was root around in loads of compost for worms and bugs with great glee, but they were fascinated by the whole thing, starting with rummaging in the black bags to sort rubbish into recycling piles. Examining four trays of compost at different stages of decomposition was the best. If anyone has a wormery, as Tracey used to have, that has great success so please let me know!

It's so good to know teachers like Kati Jeram encourage children in this way. They were full of thoughtful questions and amazing answers. It can be related to other subjects like science and citizenship and we led into climate change, too. We've got to get it right with the next generation; if you would like to do talks or workshops, let me know.

**Please remember our next meeting is Weds. 21<sup>st</sup> December at 15a, Nineveh, South Street, Havant, as usual except that it's our Christmas gathering social – full of good cheer, nibbles and beverages if we each bring a little along – we can always repair to the pub opposite! Everyone is welcome, official member or not. Hope you have a good and happy Christmas.**

Up to our waste  
in rubbish

Hants County Council  
**PRESENTATION in  
Bedhampton Social Hall  
22 February 7.30**



**You're already a  
Friend of the Earth  
so why not make it official and join  
Havant FOE here.**

**Name**.....

**Address**.....

**Phone**.....

**Email**.....

Single member £6

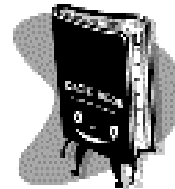
Family membership £12

Life membership £30

Unwaged/pensioner

**Cheques payable to Havant FOE**

**Send to: Pat Williamson, 6 Clovelly Rd,  
Emsworth Hampshire PO10 7HL.**



## DIARY DATES\*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
7th Dec 7.30	Hants against Fluoride	COSHAM
10th Dec 1PM	FOE Hants Meeting	ROMSEY
<b>21st Dec 7.30</b>	<b>Havant FOE Xmas drinks</b>	<b>South St HAVANT</b>
17th Jan 7-9pm	Solent Forum	SOUTHSEA Aquarium
18th Jan 7.30	Havant FOE	South St HAVANT
<b>22 Feb 7.00</b>	<b>Havant FOE AGM</b>	<b>Social Hall Bedhampton</b>

**Please call Ray Cobbett for more info  
or email [havantfoe@talk21.com](mailto:havantfoe@talk21.com)**

### Whose who in FOE?

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