

Branchline



Friends of the Earth

www.foe.org.uk
MARCH 2006

News from Havant & East Hants FOE

Edited by Sophie and Ray Cobbett



FOE waste forum in Bedhampton

AXE BLOCKS AIRPORT GROWTH PLANS

Havant branch has teamed up with the Hampshire's FOE network, Greenpeace, Airport Watch and residents groups to oppose a massive expansion of Southampton Airport. **Called AXE, - Against eXpansion (at) Eastleigh - the campaign urges the government to think again about increasing passenger traffic from the 1½ million now to 6 million by 2030.**

Aircraft emissions are the fastest growing source of CO2 and, because of the altitude, nitrous oxides are also produced and the damage is tripled. FOE says NO to more runways, wants VAT on fuel and higher airport tax. This would stabilise the demand for flights. Recent research shows that each air traveller is being subsidised by up to £300 a year.

[More info on www.hantsfoe.org.uk](http://www.hantsfoe.org.uk)



Meeting waste targets needs everybody's support

With landfill capacity for untreated household rubbish almost run out, Hampshire County Council is looking for new ways to manage the million tonnes of domestic rubbish produced by residents each year.

An outline of the council's draft 20 year Waste Management Strategy was presented to about 40 FOE members and friends at a special meeting in Bedhampton last month. Bob Lisney, HCC Assistant Director for Resources, said a completely new and radical approach was needed and it involved everybody.

Waste has grown by 70% since 1990 in line with GDP. New legislation now covers almost every category from tyres to tins.

In summary, the county new management strategy looks to reducing waste growth, increasing recycling to up to 60% and increased burning in the county's three incinerators. More focus is needed on closing the distinction between household and commercial waste which accounts for 80% of the waste volume.

Sally Smith, Havant's recycling officer, summarised the council's policy on the collection and sorting of waste. Alternative weekly collection would be extended to the whole borough. Where it had been introduced, significant increases in recycling were being achieved.

Many of the questions from the audience dealt with waste separation, commercial packaging and garden waste.

It was puzzling why each local authority approached waste management in different ways. East Hants and Eastleigh started earlier and were thus ahead of other authorities in some ways. The Harts Farm Way facility locally was below standard and needed replacing. There was criticism of packaging waste that the government should do more to minimise.

More local waste matters

Wessex cleared

Wessex, the waste processors, in Havant town centre, were acquitted of all charges for alleged infringements of their waste licence. The action was bought by the Environment Agency. Hopes remain that the site will be relocated this year

Bigger recycling centre

HCC has applied for planning approval to extend its site in Harts Farm Way, the busiest in Havant. More storage space will be created and there will be an extra parking bay. But no changes to access so the long queues could continue.

Tree cull at Broadmarsh



Dozens of trees and shrubs have been felled and uprooted only a few metres away from a local beauty spot.

The work at Broadmarsh near Farlington Marshes, an internationally important wildlife site, is to make way for a new road junction scheme. The scheme does not require planning approval. Project Managers for SEERA say they consulted with English Nature, the RSPB and Hants Wildlife Trust as well as local councils. But so far it's not clear what mitigation will be provided to offset the loss of habitat made worse by the onset of the nesting season. And there's no evidence of engaging local residents. FOE is pressing for more information.

Last year FOE Havant joined other local groups in opposing developer interest in Broadmarsh. A special panel of councillors recommended in their report that, apart from a tidy-up the area, it should be left alone.

FOE assess Town Centre study

Havant Council has published new proposals for re-shaping the town centre to include a vision on its future development potential. But the sustainability ratings by councillors of environmental issues raised by the study fall well short of FOE's expectations. Issues such as flooding, air and water quality, health and emissions are rated low compared with jobs and economic growth.

If you are worried about fluoride please read this

Questions are invited from the public on the fluoride issue for the open meetings of the PCTs. Questions must be submitted in writing or e-mail 5 days before to: Maria Smith, Personal Assistant to CEO, Chair and PEC, Portsmouth City Primary Care trust, Trust Central Office, St James' Hospital, Locksway Road, Portsmouth, PO4 BLD. E-Mail: maria.smith@ports.nhs.uk

SUE'S COLUMN

It was great to see so many of you at the special February meeting 'Waste Matters' at Bedhampton. We hope to have more meeting like this.

As you can see from this newsletter, there seems to have been a spring-like surge of FoE activity recently; typically not much shows on the surface but there's a lot going on underneath. We need to get out and about, stalls, talks etc. so volunteers, please and any suggestions for events, let me know.

Sorry about there being no March meeting! For various reasons it was too awkward to convene.

Some Havant members went to the inaugural meeting of Winchester FOE group which was attended by 150 people with contributions from Tony Juniper, MP's and council leaders. The event, focused on Climate Change and was a stunning success for Hampshire's newest branch.

There was another excellent debate on whether we need more nuclear power, hosted by Fareham FOE. At the end the voting was 21 against, 11 undecided and 11 for the motion.

Our AGM on 13th April is at the usual place in South St. Jenny Owen will be talking about Fairtrade. See you soon

PS: March is subs renewal month: *Sue*

Havant MP says NO to Climate Change Petition

Havant MP, David Willets, has declined a request from FOE's Branch Coordinator, Sue Holt, to back a national petition for Climate Change action. EDM 178 has already won the support of 330 MP's including Michael Mates, Sarah McCarthy Fry and Mike Hancock and five other Hampshire MP's

Help us turn the tide by joining Havant Friends of the Earth

Name.....
Address.....
Phone.....
Email.....

Single member £6

Family Membership £10

Unwaged £1

Life membership £30

Cheques payable to Havant Friends of the Earth

Address: 6 Clovelly Road, Emsworth, Hants

PO10 7HL: email havantfoe@talk21.com