



Does Blue and Yellow really make green?

In its review of manifestos from the main parties FOE gave top marks to the Lib Dems' plans for a greener Britain. The Conservatives fared less well with the fewest candidate pledges to the FOE's climate change action plan (all 3 main party candidates in Havant backed it). Now the two parties are joined at the hip in the first coalition government for decades. The new Climate Secretary, Chris Huhne, represents a Hampshire constituency and must be aware of local environmental pressures.

Not the least of these is Southampton Airport, set for major expansion over the next 15 years. The coalition has thrown out a third runway at Heathrow and said NO to more runways at Gatwick and Stanstead. Some credit must go to Greenpeace for their brilliant 'Airplot' campaign that created thousands of new owners of the land BAA was hoping to concrete over. The future for energy is less clear with major differences between the partners.

The Lib Dems remain opposed to nuclear and want at least twice as much energy generated from renewables than the Tories. Even if the Lib Dems vote against new nuclear, it would not be grounds for bringing the government down.

There is broad agreement on improving energy efficiency in homes and elsewhere and a commitment to a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 including a 10% reduction from government departments over the next 12 months.

Candidates take eco test



David Willetts MP speaking at FOE's Hustings

Candidates from Havant's three main parties in the general election say they want a greener borough. The pledges were made during an 'Any Questions' event in April at the Spring organised by Havant Friends of the Earth and attended by almost 70 local residents.

The meeting, chaired Havant FOE's Sue Holt, covered a wide range of eco questions ranging from new homes on green field sites, what candidates would do to make Havant greener, pollution in Langstone Harbour, recycling and using public transport.



New reservoir on hold

Plans for a new £50m reservoir in Havant Thicket have been changed. It was expected that a Public Inquiry would be held this year. Now DEFRA has ordered a more detailed review to prove that the mile-long reservoir is really needed. This signals a welcome change from Government towards the need for new major projects that devastate the natural environment. Water is among the most wasted of natural resources with billion of gallons leaking from pipes, unnecessary and extravagant domestic uses and farming. Estimates from the Environment Agency show that a 20% reduction in water use would be achievable

There is no Planet B





FOE's Patricia Williamson with friends in Emsworth

Flame of Hope passes through Havant

FOE members from Havant and Portsmouth were on hand to spirit the nuclear abolition Flame of Hope on its way through Emsworth. Originating in Holland the flame was one of many being carried to New York to coincide with UN's conference

on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The conference supports the only binding multi-lateral treaty stopping the spread of nuclear weapons. The flame itself was landed in Dover and carried along the south coast by relays of walkers. It was taken along the Billy Line path to Hayling and then on across by ferry to Portsmouth where it was met by the city's Mayor before being taken to the US.



Anna Rebentisch and Roy St Pierre who led the way



BIKE NEWS

£40,000 and five years campaigning by an East Hants councillor has paid off. A new six-mile cycle way has opened linking Horndean with the centre of Havant. Students north of the borough attending Havant's colleges will welcome the new path. The next step, joining it with the Hayling Billy path, is planned for completion next year, making it the longest continuous stretch in the borough. Funding is also available for new links between Emsworth Park and Southleigh Road and new facilities in Cowplain.

Meanwhile, pressure is building up again to provide a dedicated bike crossing alongside Hayling Bridge. One solution, a bridge strapped on to the existing one, would cost up to a million pounds but it is likely to remain more of a hope than a reality for years to come.

Last year bike sales jumped up by 25% as more people see cycling as real alternative transport and a great way of keeping fit. Transport for London reckon that cycling in the capital has grown by 14% in the last 2 years.

An excellent cycle map, guide and helpful information is available from Havant Council (02392) 446215

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Help us protect our local environment

Havant FOE campaigns all the year round for a better built and natural environment. We meet monthly, provide information and push for a healthier Havant. For more info go to: www.havantfoe.org.uk or 01243 389487

it's all about the water!

Find out how we choose the beaches with the best water quality and why it's important to you...

Beach Pollution gets worse

Overloaded sewage systems, fertiliser run-off and other pollutants are making Britain's beaches dirtier. The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) rates 421 beaches as excellent, 76 fewer than 4 years ago. Locally Friends of Langstone Harbour removed over 27 kg of waste in a clean up earlier this year. Water companies blame heavy rainfall for contamination but the MCS says this is not always the reason. More info: www.goodbeachguide.co.uk