



Havant & East Hants Friends of the Earth

Branchline

Happy New Year
to friends everywhere

WINTER 2013

News and views from FoE: www.havantfoe.org.uk Facebook and Twitter

Green groups team up to oppose county council wind farm ban



Green campaigners from various groups across Hampshire are working together to oppose banning wind farms on council land throughout Hampshire. A deputation, led by Havant FoE and backed by the county's nine FoE groups as well as Climate Action Network and Transition Network, is due to meet the council leader

on January 24th in Winchester. The reasons for the ban are unclear as the council already has legal powers against any development on land it owns and it is not a planning authority. One theory is that the ban is a gesture towards wind farm critics in the government and elsewhere. The county councils says the

benefits of wind farms do not outweigh their adverse impact on the countryside. FoE have made a Freedom of information Request to the council to provide evidence supporting the council's view.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE DEPUTATION IN WINCHESTER ON 24TH JANUARY, PLEASE CONTACT SUE HOLT



Clean Hampshire energy drive

Renewable energy topped the agenda at a New Forest workshop organised by FOE in November. Members, including four from Havant, heard presentations on community energy projects, updates on FOE's Clean British Energy Campaign and social networking. The event was covered by BBC South Today and local press

Building in green gap could make floods worse

Barratt Homes are expected to ask Havant Council for permission to build 140 homes in the Havant/Emsworth Gap. The site was not listed in the council's housing allocations. During the December downpour the area had serious flooding the Environment Agency pledged to remedy. Preserving the gap has always been an aim of planners and residents alike and still stands as a council policy. Although Barratt has reduced the number of houses over an earlier scheme, the new development would effectively breach the policy and may even make a serious flooding problem worse. There are also issues around access to A259 and traffic noise from A27 immediately north of the proposal.



Compelling TV: Is our weather getting worse?

By Brenda Pollack, FoE Regional South East Campaigner



Flooding in Stonehaven: Photo courtesy The Guardian

I've been watching [Is our Weather Getting Worse?](#) Have you? It's about how we have seen increased extreme weather events in recent years. It showed scenes from Hurricane Sandy in America and the [severe floods](#) all around England in November which really brought home to me how climate change is happening right now.

I remember Friends of the Earth saying it was happening back in the 1990's and the sceptics denying it is partly because of the phrase "global warming" which made people think we were going to get a lot more sunshine.

But the programme showed evidence from the [Antarctic](#) and spoke to [scientists](#) who made it clear that these events are part of a pattern around the world linked to increases in greenhouse gas emissions. So we were right to be worried.

But here's the thing: even with the Climate Change Act and government policies and statements acknowledging the problem, recent international negotiations in Doha and the Draft Energy Bill in the UK show there is [still a long way to go](#) to agree on the best way forward. The problem is, we don't have long. And that's the critical thing to clock. We have to really clean up our power system and keep emissions at a very low level. But with a Coalition Government we seem to be getting the lowest common denominator politics.

Meanwhile, I still come across people who believe climate change isn't happening, or if it is that humans aren't responsible, or if they are it's not worth doing anything because other countries are worse than us.

I think actually most people do realise it is a huge problem. But with vocal climate deniers such as Lord Lawson backed by big wallets and getting airtime it's no wonder some people get confused.

So in the 21st century what can we do about it? Friends of the Earth is [lobbying decision makers](#) to get more action happening. Can you help us in 2013?

New solar farm approved

East Hampshire District Council has given the go-ahead to a 5MW solar farm on a site off Lovedean Lane, in Horndean. Changes to the original design included fewer PV panels and a slight reduction in their height.

Meanwhile, a much bigger site at Stubbington in the borough of Fareham has provoked strong views both for and against. This application is for 147MW installation and goes before the council end of January.

Xmas food waste shock



Love Food Hate Waste, the government's food waste campaign, reckon that we've thrown out 2 million turkeys, 5m xmas puds and 74m mince pies

Out of an average of £169 per household spent on xmas food, about a third was thrown away. Research by Portsmouth University on treating the waste fat shows it costs water companies £50 per family to process. A waste food collection service would be welcome in Havant.



EMSWORTH COOP SLAMS DOORS ON WASTING ENERGY

Emsworth Coop is the latest of hundreds of their stores putting doors on display cabinets to cut energy bills (and emissions) by up to a half. If all supermarkets did the same, the nation would save roughly double the output of Drax power station, the largest in the UK. HFC refrigerant is also being phased out to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Future events

24th January - 2pm

Deputation to Hampshire County Council, Winchester

30th January - 7.30pm

Drinks at Old House at home, South Street, Havant

13th February - 7.30pm

Film about bees, Crown Hotel, Emsworth

19th March - 7.00pm

Fareham College Debates

Membership renewals are due in March

Please send subs to

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