



**Friends of the Earth**

# Reading Friends of the Earth

## Newsletter Nov/Dec 2010

For more information see <http://www.foe.co.uk/reading>  
email [info@readingfoe.org.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.org.uk) or 'phone 0118 9868260.

### Diary:

**General Meetings:** Reading FoE usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month upstairs at RISC, 35-39 London Street, at 8:00 p.m.

**November 10th:** – 8:00 p.m. at RISC – General Meeting – topics to include Local Transport Plan (see text below) and proposals for bus-rail interchanges at Reading Station which seem likely to make matters worse.

**December 8th:** - 8:00 p.m. at RISC – General Meeting - topics by e-mail later.

### Other Activities and Meetings (not run by Reading FoE):

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – **Transport Users' Forum** – Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 11th November - Public Debate: **Is Climate Change Good for the Local Economy?** Henley Business School, Reading University, 7:00 p.m., panel believed to consist of local Councillors and other worthies.

Tuesday 16 November - **Vision & Strategy for Reading: Open Forum** – Reading Town Hall, Friar Street, Reading 6:00 p.m. **Pre-registration essential** – see <http://www.reading2020.org.uk/>

Wednesday 17th November - **The Cold Ash Experience of the Greening Campaign** - a talk by Robert Pattison to Earley Env. Group - Function Room, Maiden Place, Earley – 19:30 <http://www.earleyenvironmentalgroup.co.uk/>

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – **GREN meeting on Feed-In-Tariffs** – Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m. – aimed at Community Groups but should be useful for anyone with a roof - download flier from [www.readingfoe.org.uk](http://www.readingfoe.org.uk)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – **Transport Users' Forum** – Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 14th December – **Environment Scrutiny Panel** – Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 16th December – **Green City Forum** (Parks & Open Spaces) – RBC, Civic Offices, 6:30 p.m.

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### Rushy Mead Turbines:

The University of Reading owns land south of the M4 between junctions 10 and 11 and is working with Partnerships for Renewables (PfR) to site four wind turbines on the land around Rushy Mead – for which it would receive money. PfR is a Carbon Trust enterprise, part-funded by HSBC. <http://www.pfr.co.uk/rushymead/>

It is now important for supporters of renewable energy to lobby Wokingham Council in support of the application – by the end of November - see [http://www.readingfoe.org.uk/Rushy\\_Mead.doc](http://www.readingfoe.org.uk/Rushy_Mead.doc)

Local residents “Householders Against Rushy Mead” (HARM - <http://www.rushymeadharm.org/>) are mounting an energetic campaign against the development with particular concerns about noise, flood risk, and visual amenity.

### Feed In Tariffs (or Clean Energy Cashback):

Feed In Tariffs are a Government-backed scheme to incentivise small scale low carbon electricity generation. <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Local-Authorities/Funding/Feed-in-Tariffs>

Councillor Rachel Eden (Labour) proposed a motion to Reading Borough Council on 19<sup>th</sup> October calling for Reading to explore all available options for installation of renewable energy on council buildings including the Borough's schools.

This motion was re-written by the administration and the amended motion passed. The general spirit of the original motion was supported and the revised version included a reference to social housing. The minutes giving the full

text adopted will presumably be available for January's Council meeting.

At the FoE Local Groups Conference in September there was a presentation from ex-MP Alan Simpson called 'Making FiTs Work for the Poor' - people in a scheme in Nottingham were very pleased to see their electricity meter running backwards! See <http://www.meadowspartnershiptrust.org.uk/Content/text/mozes.html>

GREN are holding a meeting (see above – 23<sup>rd</sup> November) with a speaker from the Energy Saving Trust to promote FiTs and energy saving for community and faith groups – but interested individuals will be welcome too – please publicise this meeting to any interested organisations.

### **Heathrow Expansion:**

John Stewart of HACAN (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise) visited us on October 20<sup>th</sup> and gave a stimulating account of the long-term coalition building needed to assemble councils, NGOs, local residents, and individuals to oppose the third runway.

Key to success was demolition of the key economic argument that the expansion was essential to London's economy by an expensive (but reputable) consultants' report. This had swung the Conservative party to oppose expansion and add to their 'green' credentials. Industry lobbyists had concentrated on Labour and didn't switch attention to the Conservatives until it was too late ... for them. Many thanks for John for an object-lesson in campaign strategy. See [www.hacan.org.uk](http://www.hacan.org.uk).

### **Planning and Development in adjacent authority areas South and North of M4**

Wokingham Council has decided to keep its previously-adopted housing numbers (13,000 between 2006 and 2026) despite the fact that the Government has said numbers in the SouthEast Plan were no longer mandatory.

Wokingham also ratified 'masterplans' for development to the north and south of Wokingham town, but has not yet finalised masterplans for the Arborfield Garrison and the area between Spencers Wood and Shinfield.

Meanwhile, north of the M4, Blue Living have changed their name to 'Beyond Green Developments' and, having appealed against West Berkshire's refusal of planning permission for 750 homes at Pincents Hill, have now attacked the Council's decision to include development at Sandleford Park south of Newbury in their draft Core Strategy <http://www.beyondgreen.co.uk/category/news/pincents-hill/> on the grounds that it is a much less sustainable site. See also <http://savepincentshill.co.uk/>

### **Coalition Moves on Local Economic Partnerships**

The coalition agreement has accepted proposals for Local Economic Partnerships to replace former regional government bodies. It may be that Reading will be in 'Thames Valley Berkshire' or this proposed LEP may be merged with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. See <http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Oct/local-growth> 'Work(ing) together to produce an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future' sounds good in principle but it is not yet clear how environmental interests will be represented in these business-led groupings.

### **Waste**

Enrico attended the latest RE3 meeting of stakeholders. Collection of food waste seems to be under consideration in Reading and Bracknell. Enrico spoke briefly on anaerobic digestion. The number of officers working on waste minimisation had been cut from two to one.

### **Climate Berkshire**

This group – consisting of representatives (Councillors or officers) of Berkshire Local Authorities, NHS, utilities, and others (including Berkshire FoE network) – met in October. Presentations and discussions covered provision of energy saving advice, a survey of renewable energy options for Berkshire, a comparison of different funding models for Feed-In-Tariffs for schools and community buildings, and the need to give higher priority to anaerobic digestion.

### **Local Transport Plan**

The draft LTP – setting transport strategy from 2011 to 2026 - is open for consultation until 12<sup>th</sup> November.

<http://www.reading-travelinfo.co.uk/TravelInformation/TransportPlansandStrategies/LatestinformationondevelopmentofLTP3/index?ID=SXC7D7-A77F6C71> We will aim to agree a response to it at our next meeting – so please let us have comments.

### **WWF Living Planet Report**

The report is published every 2 years and is considered to be the world's leading, science-based analysis about the impact of human activity on the health of our planet.

[http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/all\\_publications/living\\_planet\\_report/?utm\\_source=Newsletter\\_10\\_2010&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/living_planet_report/?utm_source=Newsletter_10_2010&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Newsletter)

## Useful Websites etc.:

[www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk](http://www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk)  
[www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

**GREN** - Greater Reading Environmental Network <http://www.gren.org.uk/>.

**Transition Reading - Reading's Transition Town movement**  
<http://www.transitionreading.org.uk/>

Doorstep collection of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) service in Reading being offered by Midex Reverse Technologies <http://www.midex-rt.com/>

True Food Co-op: [www.truefood.coop](http://www.truefood.coop) now with new shop in Emmer Green!

Reading Borough Council Waste and Recycling:  
<http://www.reading.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/wasteandrecycling/>

South East Forum for Sustainability: <http://www.sefs.org.uk>

Citizens Committee on Oil Peak And Decline (COPAD) [www.copad.org](http://www.copad.org)

<http://www.fishonline.org/> gives info on over-fishing, fish to avoid, etc.

[www.ejfoundation.org](http://www.ejfoundation.org) (Environmental Justice Foundation)

Local Food Directory, with links: [http://www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk/Local\\_Economy.htm](http://www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk/Local_Economy.htm)

RISC <http://www.risc.org.uk/readingfairtrade/>

## Reading FoE Officers

At our 2010 AGM on April 14<sup>th</sup> Enrico Petrucco and John Booth were elected to the posts of Co-ordinator and Treasurer respectively.

## Reading FoE e-mail communications

If you would like to be on our main mailing list and join in our day-to-day communications please email [info@readingfoe.org.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.org.uk).

Alternatively we have a separate list for people who only want to receive our newsletter and information about important events and actions.

## Reading FoE Subscriptions – Subscribe NOW for 2010/11

To join or renew, just fill in the slip below and send it off with your subscription. We aim to provide a regular newsletter to keep members up to date with the group's activities. Our subscriptions run from April to March and are set at £7.00 / £4.00 (waged / unwaged) to cover newsletter costs, meeting room hire and campaign expenses. Further contributions would be greatly appreciated. Even if you don't have time to take an active part, your support is welcome and allows us to demonstrate more local support.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick  if you are able to take an active part in our campaigns. We may contact you by phone.

I heard about the group from: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to Reading Friends of the Earth, and return to the Reading FoE Treasurer, c/o 27 Instow Road, Earley, Reading RG6 5QH.