

EAST MIDLANDS FRIENDS OF THE EARTH NETWORK REGIONAL BULLETIN
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GOOD NEWS!

REGIONAL POLICY

Regional Economic Strategy: Have Your Say

East Midlands Development Agency is currently consulting on the Regional Economic Strategy for the region. We want to make sure that climate change is placed at the heart of all our regional strategies and will be responding, both as East Midlands Friends of the Earth, and as part of a joint environmental groups' response, to try and ensure that this is the case. If you would like to have your say about the importance of the environment to the regional economy please visit:

<http://www.haveyoursay.co.uk/>

If you would like a copy of the EMFOE response to help you to create your own please contact calliel@foe.co.uk or via 0115 9506 926 and we will forward a copy to you asap

Midlands Aviation Masterplan

Nottingham East Midlands Airport will shortly be launching a consultation to decide on how it will grow and develop over the next 20 years. It is likely that the airport will be looking to grow at a bigger and faster rate than even the Government has anticipated in its Aviation White Paper, which could have a devastating effect on our environment and on local communities. In preparation for this consultation we have

produced a number of resources to help local activists who would like to respond. You can find these resources at

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/mids_masterplan_brief.pdf

and

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/airport_master_plans0.pdf

REGIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Regional Climate Change Project

Following a successful launch of our regional climate change project at our Outlook Conference on September 17th we are currently developing plans to build on this work. Our aim is to try and establish County Climate Change Networks in each of the counties of the East Midlands by building alliances with other NGO's, charities, sustainable business, youth and education projects, voluntary sector contacts and interested individuals keen to take action on climate change.

This will be a long term project and we will probably choose one County as a pilot project to help us learn valuable lessons in order to set up the other county networks. We hope that the Networks will be involved in all sorts of activities, from influencing local planning to days of action, to promoting best practice and lobbying local, regional, national and international decision makers. More on this project in the next bulletin!

Quarrying in the Peak Park

Although the immediate threat to reopen Endscliffe and Lees Cross quarries in the Peak Park has been removed, there are still other beautiful and sensitive sites in the Park that are already threatened, or could be potentially threatened, by quarrying activity. Friends of the Peak Park are lobbying the Government to provide a compensation deal on the 2 quarry sites to ensure that they remained unthreatened in the future, and we will be joining them in this work. We will be working closely with Friends of the Peak District over the next few months to identify sites in particular need of protection, and developing campaign actions to help protect these sites. We will also be joining forces with Friends of the Peak District to research the types of products being produced by the stone companies quarrying in the area to encourage some ethical consumer action to send the message to these companies that the value of the Peak Park is in the beauty and tranquillity of the countryside.

Support the Derby bus station demo

Members of Friends of the Earth Derby are occupying the roof of Derby Bus Station, on the Morledge, Derby (1) the last of the big bus stations in the East Midlands. (2)

The reason for the protest – (apart from trying to save it for the future of public transport) is to highlight the lack of action being taken by national, regional and local government, in cutting carbon dioxide emissions from new development. The UK Government's latest figures show that carbon dioxide emissions are rising, not falling. (3)

The proposed demolition of Derby Bus Station and its replacement with a much smaller station, plus bars, nightclub, casino, hotel, underground car parking will add to regional carbon dioxide emissions and reduce choice and access to public transport services. The carbon dioxide causing potential of the development has never been calculated.

Dorothy Skrytek of Derby Friends of the Earth said "By taking this action, we are trying to inform and prevent the damage that will be caused by unsustainable development which does not take into account the effects on future generations or on climate change. This development is also in floodplain and washland of the River

Derwent; which has flooded 3 times in the last fifty years, more than the 1 in 100 year events predicted by the UK Environment Agency. It is acknowledged by the United Kingdom Government that storms and flooding will get worse because of climate change. Its time to act.”

Dorothy is being accompanied by various like minded protesters and relying on friends for her supplies and moral support. Any form of support for her protest would be truly welcomed. If you want to find out more, please phone Penny Abrue on 01332 603909 or send her an email: polka.dot@ntlworld.com

Notes

1. <http://beehive.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/derbyfoeiii>
2. Derby bus station is the last Art Deco/Bauhaus Bus Station in the world. It is the most historic in the United Kingdom and was designed by a President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Charles Herbert Aslin. It is included on the City of Derby Local List of important buildings.
http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/local_and_regional_authori_21102005.html

EVENTS

December 3rd Climate Change Demonstration

CLIMATE MARCH

London, Saturday December 3rd

For information on buses from Derby and Nottingham please call Jeannie on 0115 9200470

Demonstrations on climate change are planned all around the world, (see www.globalclimatecampaign.org) from Montreal to Japan, and from Moscow to Sydney. *Help create a global wave of protest to press for the urgent action we need to prevent the catastrophic destabilisation of global climate*

GIVE OUR WORLD A FUTURE: DON'T LET BUSH BLOCK ACTION ON CLIMATE
Cycle Protest leaves Thames Barrier (South Side) 9.30 a.m.

Assemble 12.00 pm Lincoln's Inn Fields (Holborn Tube)

Speeches 2.30 pm at the US embassy. Speakers include George Monbiot, Michael Meacher MP (Labour), Norman Baker MP (Lib Dem, Environment), and Caroline Lucas MEP (Green Party)

Be part of the biggest UK Climate March ever!

Up to date information: www.campaigncc.org

Organised by Campaign against Climate Change 02075490395 07903316331

Co-operative meeting

Creating a Flourishing Region through Co-operation

A conference to promote Co-operative Development in Greater Nottingham & Surrounding Area

◆ 10am - 2pm, Saturday 19 November (lunch available)

◆ at the Hillside (Western) Club, 357A Derby Road, NG7 2DZ

10.00-10.30 coffee

10.30-11.30 speakers

11.40-12.30 workshops

12.30-1.00 plenary

1.00-2.00 lunch

- what can we learn from co-operative development around the East Midlands?
- Midlands?

- what are the opportunities to promote co-operative development locally and regionally?
- how can we influence East Midlands Development Agency to improve regional support for co-operative development (EMDA is currently consulting on their Regional Economic Strategy)?

Speakers

Jane Avery Co-operative & Social Enterprise Development Agency
 Fergus Brazel TANC (community regeneration) & former member of workers co-op
 Charles Cooke Lincolnshire Co-operative Development Agency
 Alan Middleton A Director of Lincolnshire Co-operative since 1996 & President of the 1998 Co-operative Congress
 The venue is on Derby Road, 2 miles from Nottingham city centre and 6 miles from M1 J25 along A52. Entrance to car park is between Arnesby Road and Hill Side.
 Buses 35, 36, 37 from Milton Street or Angel Row, or Trent Barton 4 or 5 from Broadmarsh Bus Station or Friar Lane (ask for stop before Queen's Medical Centre).
 For location map enter OS grid reference SK549391 into www.streetmap.co.uk
 Co-operative Group Greater Nottingham Regional Party Council www.gnco-op-party.org.uk

Nottingham Against Incineration and Landfill (NAIL)

NAIL events diary:

3 December 2005 - RUBBISH DAY OUT - Sneinton Old School Hall 11a.m. till midnight

This will be a fun day or even a "rubbish day". The aim of the day is to raise awareness in the community about NAIL and the need to reduce and recycle our waste. The day will involve recycled art workshops, puppet theatre, speakers, café, information and lots and lots of fun. In the evening we'll have live bands, performances and a bar. We have booked Sneinton's old school hall (next to windmill) and plan to start at 11am till Midnight.

Do you want to be involved in helping out in any way? If so please let us know.

16 December - Demo Night at Blueprint Night Club Alfreton Road 9pm till 3am

NAIL supporters have organised a fundraising night in aid of the NAIL campaign. This will be a fantastic opportunity reach people across the city and raised funds for a great cause.

For further news please visit our website www.nail.uk.net

TAKE ACTION

Yes to wind: Poddington Windfarm

Poddington windfarm near Bedford is soon to go to planning, but there are currently NINE objection letters for every letter of support. The local Friends of the Earth group (Milton Keynes) is supporting this application, and would really value your help if you could send the support letter below by post or email. You have to ensure that support letters or emails are RECEIVED by 21st November. Please feel free to find out more about the project by looking at the following websites:

Local 'pro' group <http://www.envy.nu/wisa>

Local 'anti' group <http://www.clowd.co.uk/>

Bwea site reference <http://www.bwea.com/ukwed/planning.asp>

Energy4All site info <http://www.energy4all.co.uk/airfieldwindfarm.php>

If you are happy to support the planning application, please cut and paste the text below and email it to planning@bedford.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can print it and post it to the address on the letter. To ensure that your comments count, it is VITAL that you include your:

- Full name
- Valid postal address
- Signature (if posted)
- A short personal message, such as 'Please make renewable energy a reality' or 'Say yes to wind power'

Thanks for your interest in this.

Yours sincerely,

Milton Keynes FOE
07866 777 823
charity@lockley.me.uk

-----LETTER STARTS-----

<i>Peter Bull</i> <i>Senior Planning Officer</i> <i>Bedford Borough Council</i> <i>Town Hall</i> <i>St. Paul's Square</i> <i>Bedford</i> <i>MK40 1SJ</i> planning@bedford.gov.uk	My address
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Dear Mr Bull,

Re Airfield Windfarm, Poddington, Beds. Application number **05/02589/FUL**
I write today in total support of the above application. My reasons include:

- We have to generate our electricity somehow, and wind is clean and safe
- The only currently viable large scale alternatives to wind are fossil fuels and nuclear power, which cause terrible environmental problems
- The local area suffers from severe flooding and I want the community to show leadership in fighting climate change, which may make flooding worse.
- This site will generate electricity for many homes, but will affect only a few.
- The local effects of the site are tiny compared to the huge benefit to the wider community.
- This application will reduce UK CO2 emissions, slowing global warming.
- The electricity generated will be used locally.
- Wind turbines are attractive and will contribute to the landscape positively, attracting visitors.
- The proposal will help the region to achieve the renewable energy targets set by the government to reduce global warming.
- Wind farms are part of the Council & government's renewable energy policy.
- The proposal will help maintain the viability of the farms involved and businesses that depend on farming.
- Local employment will be created during construction, boosting the rural economy.

- Post construction, business rates from the proposal will contribute significantly to the local economy.

My personal message is:

Please approve this application.

Name

Sign

Reject Nottingham East Midlands Airport Ten Point Plan

A federation of residents' groups and environmental organisations has written to Nottingham East Midlands Airport Managing Director Penny Coates to say that they cannot give their support to the airport's 'Ten-Point Plan'. This plan purports to effect environmental changes that bring benefits to residents affected by the airport's activities - mainly night flying. In our view the Ten-Point Plan means business as usual but on a larger scale, with very little in the way of protection for our environment or for local people.

The message we are sending to NEMA and the Department for Transport is quite clear and straightforward: stop prevaricating and demonstrate a real determination to operate both sustainably and with consideration for citizens' basic human rights.

The Solution

The government's Air Transport consultation predicted a staggering **eight-fold increase** in population affected aircraft noise from Nottingham East Midlands Airport by 2030 [3]. And so it is unreasonable that the East Midlands should be used as an environmental dumping ground for the Manchester Airports Group, by avoiding noise controls that are considered necessary in Manchester or in the South of England.

The local residents' groups therefore argue that the Secretary of State for Transport, Alistair Darling, should recognise that the 'Ten-Point Plan' is not remotely stringent and he should 'designate' the airport - just like Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted [4] - so that he can set an upper limit on the number of night-time flights and also on the corresponding noise impact.

Please address your comments to
Penny Coates
Chief Executive
Nottingham East Midlands Airport
Castle Donnington,
Derby
DE74 2SA

Tell Gordon Brown to increase Air Passenger Duty

Several Environmental NGOs have written to Gordon Brown to ask him to increase APD. To reinforce this message we've set up an e-mail action here:-

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/transport/press_for_change/prebudget05/index.html

Please distribute this as widely as possible, link it to your web sites, send it to e-mail lists etc. over a 1000 people have done the action already but we need as many as possible! Thank you!

Save the High Peak from concrete

Glossop Spur Road

Letters challenging the planning application for the Glossop Spur Road are needed urgently - deadline 21 November. If enough letters are sent in, there may have to be a public inquiry into this scheme. This is a very damaging scheme that will intersect farmland and be built across a floodplain as well as encouraging traffic growth and increasing pollution levels. The local council claim this road must be built alongside the Mottram Tintwistle Bypass, and are pushing hard for both schemes. Stopping progress on the Glossop Spur is essential for hindering progress on the A628 Mottram-Tintwistle scheme. For more details, visit the Take Action page of the RoadBlock website at <http://www.roadblock.org.uk/action/glossopSpur.htm> or e-mail Emma on info@saveswallowswood.org.uk.

GLOSSOP SPUR SET TO WORSEN TRAFFIC AND DESTROY THE COUNTRYSIDE WARN COUNTRYSIDE CAMPAIGNERS

Countryside watchdogs, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, are today warning of the severe damage to Glossopdale that will be caused by new road building. Far from relieving Glossop's traffic problems, the Spur road would increase traffic on the A57 through Glossop and into the Peak District National Park by up to 50 per cent and slice through traditional farmland between Mottram Moor and Woolley Bridge.

"This would mean more jams, tailbacks and rat-running on residential streets and country lanes" said Anne Robinson Transport Campaigner for CPRE's Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch. "The potential for the River Etherow to flood would substantially increase and those who live in the area know how ineffective flood defences were in August 2002".

The impact of the new road on Glossopdale would be severe. The livelihood of one of the three farms in the valley would be extinguished. Glossop's Green Belt would be cut in half at Dinting Vale destroying valued countryside. The new road would ruin the setting of the Roman fort at Melandra, which is a nationally protected monument. The road would also wipe out wildlife habitats for badgers, bats and other animals.

Stop Climate Chaos

This alert has been sent to all the members of the organisations that make up the Stop Climate Chaos coalition. The coalition includes RSPB, WWF, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Oxfam, Transport 2000, Sustrans, Airport Watch, Christian Aid, the Women's Institute, Road Block and many more. This is the biggest ever mobilisation on climate change so far, as the ground is shifting significantly on climate change policy at the moment, in the run up to the UN Montreal climate talks. Please read the below and send an email to your MP as soon as possible, and forward this to your friends, family and colleagues.

Write to your MP. Urge them to ask Tony Blair to publicly state his support for legally binding targets to cut greenhouse gases, both at home and internationally. See <http://stopclimatechaos.org.uk/lobby.asp>

In an alarming development, Prime Minister Tony Blair signalled that he is shifting away from legally binding targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Speaking at a meeting of international environment and energy ministers at the beginning of November, Tony Blair said that legally binding targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions made people "very nervous and very worried".

But without legally binding targets, what will make governments take the necessary steps to slash their emissions? And how will we know whether we are on track to stop climate change?

The window for action to stop climate change is narrowing and there will be no second chances. That's the real reason to be "very nervous and very worried". Ask your MP to make sure that Tony Blair supports legally binding targets to cut emissions of greenhouse gases.

It's a simple two-step process.

1. Find your local MP by typing in your full postcode at <http://stopclimatechaos.org.uk/lobby.asp>
2. Send a letter by email to your MP

For more information on Stop Climate Chaos see <http://stopclimatechaos.org.uk/index.asp>

RESOURCES

Resources from our annual campaigners Conference 2005

We now have a wealth of material from the event online at <http://community.foe.co.uk/conference>. The website includes photos, transcripts of some of the main sessions, the results of the Earthmovers Awards, write-ups and presentations from workshops, and a video review of Conference.

Say No to the WTO!

Current World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks intend to 'free' up trade in natural resources and manufactured goods e.g. gems and minerals, electronics, forests and wood products, fish and fish products, footwear, chemicals etc. These talks are called Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) talks.

The aim of the talks is to get rid of 'barriers' to trade in non-agricultural goods. Barriers can be tariff or non-tariff. Non-tariff barriers are subsidies, and environmental and social regulations or standards. If successful, these talks could dismantle hard-won national laws which protect the environment, social well-being and health.

Want to do something about NAMA? We have produced campaign materials to help you run a public stall about this issue – to find out more please go to:

http://community.foe.co.uk/campaigns/global_trade/nama/

Young People and Climate Change

At our regional meeting in October we ran a session on our new Shout About teaching pack on Climate Change. As a result of the day we were able to produce some additional guidance on working with schools on the issue of climate change. If you would like copies of this information please contact calliel@foe.co.uk or phone 0115 9506 926

GOOD NEWS!

302 MPs have now in one way or another declared support for the Climate Change Bill. 293 of these have signed EDM 178 (the easy way to do this) but another 9 have informed us or constituents of their support in another way.

And more good news too - the Renewable Heat Bill that we tried to get through in the last session of Parliament, but was blocked by DTI Ministers has now gone through to Committee stage as part of a more wide-ranging Bill we are supporting. It's not all over yet, because Ministers indicated they would be seeking amendments, and are still uncertain that the Renewable Heat Obligation we propose is the best way to support renewable heat - but it's a lot better than last year. I think we can be

confident heat is now on the agenda, and will get some form of support from Ministers - we are now fighting for the best possible package.