

Wycombe Friends of the Earth – Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008, 7.30.p.m.  
The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

**Present:** 9

**Apologies:** 2

1. The FOE Local Network Developer attended the meeting.

**2. Finance:**

- There will be an AGM in November which should include a financial report.
- The group is in credit.

**3. Biofuels**

- 30 signed postcards have been collected and will be taken to Thame & Chinnor FoE to hand over to the MEP after sending to national FoE for statistical purposes. Last date to hand over cards is the end of September.
- Local groups are requested to carry on working on this project until mid-Sept. Biofuel targets have not yet been reduced. There is another meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September and the final vote is mid to late October. FoE is still lobbying for this reduction.
- A link to the site for a community discussion forum on the National FOE website will be made available.

**4. Eden Centre**

- A meeting, plus follow-up meetings, with the Marketing Manager of 'Eden' will be set up. Suggestions to discuss: recycling points, foliage/trees, plastic bags. Sam has also suggested turning off the rooftop purple light at night -- reducing energy wastage and light-pollution.

**5. Sharing Gardens scheme (Bare gardens)**

- Wycombe FOE members will support this project where required.

**6. New Eco Tip of the Month**

- Energy or petrol related tip should be used.

**7. Schools Energy Update – St. Bernards link**

- Some members of Wycombe FOE will meet the Science teacher at St. Bernards to set up a link between WFOE and St. Bernards.

**8. Priory Road**

- Appeal took place 3<sup>rd</sup>. Informal discussion and tour round site for those interested. Decision expected within 3 weeks. Likely to go ahead with 9 houses.

**9 National Conference**

- One member will attend.

**10. AGM Date**

- It was decided that the November meeting should be used as the AGM.

## 11. FoE How are You Survey.

- A survey from national FoE has been received, which should be completed by the group.

## 12. Network Developer

- Our Network Developer for Bucks groups (and others) can give support, advice and information to any member, if required, as well as to the group as a whole ; he deals primarily with processes.
- The big campaign for autumn is renewables which is a mini-sequel to the Big Ask. Prototype postcards and handouts are available. The campaign will consist of two phases. The European directive says that the UK's target is for 15% of our energy to come from renewables by 2020 (at present it is 2%). The UK government is attempting to pull back on this.
- **Phase 1:** 25<sup>th</sup> October is to be a national day of action. Main emphasis will be on getting postcards signed to send to MPs to ask them to urge the Prime Minister to keep the UK's commitment on renewables. There will also be some kind of mobile graffiti wall to attract attention. Gaining media attention and meeting local MP will be the second priority. Cards need to be returned by 1<sup>st</sup> November (to be sent on to MPs). European Energy council meets on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December. Fast action on cards is required.
- **Phase 2** runs from November – March 2009 and will be on coalition building. Once the directive is passed with the UK target, then the UK will need to come up with strategy. FoE wants to get strong action on renewables by getting many organisations involved.
- It was suggested that we could show a film on wind power at the October meeting. There is one produced by Green Peace. We need to decide if we want to support this project and be involved in it.

## 13. Other Business

- The group has signed up with Marinet.
- Details of a meeting about local democracy in Berkhamsted will be circulated.

## 14. Next Meeting

Will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October **at 7.30pm** at the Environment Centre (first Wednesday of each month).