



# **New Forest Friends of the Earth Newsletter**

## **March/April 2012 No.160**



### **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OUR GROUP AGM** was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February in the Oak Room at the Brockenhurst Village Hall. Fifteen of our members and eighteen non-members attended.

A copy of the following Campaigners' reports for 2011 was given out to all members present and is printed below.

#### **ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE – John Walker**

Energy was the most important part of our campaigning last year and will continue to be so when phase II of the Final Demand campaign takes off in April. Actions taken already include contact with government to improve Feed-in Tariffs (FITS) above the ridiculously low level they originally proposed. This resulted in a written ministerial statement on 9 February 2012 with reference to the new FITS reform package.

#### **NEW FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Marion Howard

This committee was set up some years ago to monitor the effects of the considerable number of industrial operations that have grown up in the Waterside area of the New Forest alongside the Esso/Exxon refinery which was set up in 1929. There had been quite a lot of incidents of pollution of air and water over the years and the situation has now improved with the help of more stringent regulation .

The Committee meets three times a year with representatives from New Forest District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council , Hampshire County Council , Hythe & Dibden Parish Council, Marchwood Parish Council, Fawley Parish Council, Marchwood Power, The Environment Agency, Esso/Exxon, Mobil Chemicals, GEO Speciality Chemicals, Nalco Polimeri, RWE Power, Veolia, Tradebe Group & New Forest Friends of the Earth.

**GEO SPECIALITY CHEMICALS UK LTD.** have recently acquired COGNIS

UK because COGNIS had been ordered to sell the Hythe operation due to monopolies issues. GEO are based in America and Hythe is their only UK site. Their representative emphasized that GEO is committed to maintaining the current high standards in process safety and environmental performance.

**FAWLEY POWER STATION** - A range of options is being considered for the future of this plant. Given its connection to the National Grid and proximity to areas of high electricity demand it was considered that there is a strong case for continuing power generation on this site. Anyone interested is urged to contact the projects development team on 01793 892017 or email [fiona.auty@rwenpower.com](mailto:fiona.auty@rwenpower.com)

### **AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN THE DISTRICT**

Areas of concern are: Lyndhurst High Street & Junction Road Totton due to traffic congestion, Fawley due to exceedances of sulphur dioxide levels. An action plan in Fawley has been extremely successful with the control room at Fawley Refinery being connected directly to the real time air quality monitor in Fawley village. When there is a rise in sulphur levels the refinery can respond for example by switching to lower sulphur fuel.

At the most recent meeting of the Committee on 3rd February 2012 at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Richard Ashworth MEP for our region was there and made a very interesting presentation as to the workings of the European Parliament and their committees. He was asked a number of questions including how the European legislation affects the local industries and also how he could help with our environmental concerns.

### **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL – Jenni Tubbs**

I attended five of the six meetings held during 2011 but missed the tour arranged by the Forestry Commission to look at mire and stream restoration.

Items of interest were as follows:

1. The Independent Panel on Forestry, including a visit by the Panel on 28 Feb:2012
2. Presentation on a NPA project to record, promote and preserve the archaeology of the New Forest coast and beneath the Solent.

3. Various discussions, and presentations on the restoration of mires and streams by the Forestry Commission.

4. I raised our concerns over the management of roadside verges and greens and this has been taken up by the NPA. I am awaiting further contacts.

- Presentation on the Natural Environment White Paper
- Government National Park Governance Review.
- NPA Land Management Advisory Service.

Dates of 2012 meetings: 1 March, 3 May, 5 July, 6 September, 1 November 7.30 pm. Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst. **The public are welcome to attend meetings as observers.**

### **BIODIVERSITY– Ann Vasilescu**

Following several reports in *The Independent*, an article on ‘Bees’ was published in the July newsletter- ‘Why are the bees dying and what can we do?’ It has been estimated that bees pollinate at least a third of the world’s crops and together with other pollinating insects they are essential to human survival. The disappearance of bees is now a worldwide problem, probably for a mixture of reasons but pesticide use is strongly suspected to be a major cause. One of the most lethal pesticides are chemical compounds known as *neonicotinoids*. One of our group visited two local garden centres and found they both stocked **neonicotinoid weedkillers**. This pesticide is also widely used in British agriculture.

Interest in the plight of the bees is growing. The recent BBC TV series, ‘Bees, Butterflies and Blooms’, gave useful advice on flowers, wild and cultivated, which are nectar-rich - rather than merely colourful but without nectar and therefore useless for bees and other insects - and garden centres nationwide and the Royal Horticultural Society are now beginning to take the issue seriously.

**On 21<sup>st</sup> April** FOE is launching a new national campaign on Bees to highlight the problem and suggest ways every member can do something to help.

We will be making a ‘Bees’ presentation board for our group’s stall at the New Forest Show this year, using FoE's materials.

We also published a short article in the newsletter in December on the destruction of ancient, deep-sea ‘coral gardens’ off the British Isles by

foreign European trawlers.

**MARINET - Sarah Fawkes**

June 2011– We wrote to our 2 local MPs and 10 MEPs about the European Union’s Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) asking them to encourage CFP Reform - to implement the *ecosystem-based approach* to the management of fisheries.

November 2011 –the UK's seas are fully protected (Marine Conservation Wrote to Mr Benyon MP to urge him to take forward all 127 Marine Conservation Zones in 2012. Less than 1% of Society)

**Actions Needed Now - 2012:**

**Marinet** – Help stop Fish Extinction [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk) and search ‘Fish Extinction’

**Wildlife Trusts** – Petition Fish – Make sure that the Marine Protected Areas are:

- 1 in the right place – where nature conservation is required;
- 2 support recovery from past decline - not just maintenance of their current, sometimes damaged condition, and
- 3 managed well - with adequate regulation and controls.
- 4 At [www.wildlifetrusts.org/petitionfish](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/petitionfish)

PS (unfortunately the Government has now abandoned its timetable for setting up the reserves saying it needs more evidence)

**COORDINATOR’S REPORT: Penny Russell**

(1) The Wessex Film and Sound Archive, held at the Winchester Record Office, has retained a copy of the New Forest Carbon Footprint Project 2007-8 DVD Film, for use in the New Forest Film Archives Project, for education use only.

(2) The Group has concentrated on NATIONAL FOE CAMPAIGNING FOR REDUCING WASTE, A PETITION CALLING FOR NUCLEAR FREE & SAFE ENERGY, THE ENERGY CONVERSATION, AND PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY ALTERNATIVES TO NUCLEAR, at THE Greener Living Show at Fordingbridge, and at the NEW FOREST SHOW in July.

We have also promoted local group Membership at all our public displays. But despite receiving some initial enquiries, none of these have brought new members.

(3) THE CURRENT ‘FINAL DEMAND’ NATIONAL CAMPAIGN IS STILL

RUNNING, ALL PRESENT WE ARE URGED TO SIGN THE PETITION.

Phase 2 of this Campaign will continue throughout the summer. More information will be available soon.

(4) THE GROUP WANTS TO THANK NEW FOREST TRANSITION FOR ALLOWING US TO DISPLAY LEAFLETS AND TO PROMOTE FOE CAMPAIGNS AT THEIR EVENTS

(5) THE COMMITTEE has continued to hold regular monthly Planning Meetings at the home of Arthur & June Hurrell, who have extended their hospitality. On behalf of the group the coordinator thanked them. John Walker endorsed this.

The biggest difficulty at all these events has been the lack of additional support from members. We do need YOUR help. If each member could help at just one event for 2 hours it would make an enormous difference.

## **Changes**

1. Sarah Fawkes is the new Webmaster for the group. The new website is now an FoE local groups website for the New Forest group. It also has direct links with the National FoE site.

<http://www.foe.co.uk/groups/newforest/>

John Walker was thanked for his hard work in setting up, running and updating the original website.

2. Arthur Hurrell has requested to stand down as Membership Secretary and as Treasurer. He has agreed to continue during 2012 until a replacement can be found.

3. June Hurrell has requested to stand down as Newsletter Editor, she has also agreed to continue during 2012 until a replacement can be found.

4. The Group intends to send the Newsletter by email to all members with email addresses. Those without email will still receive a paper copy in the post. However, the next newsletter for March/April will be sent by post.

## **The Newsletter**

As mentioned at the AGM It's time to keep up with the times. The committee agree that it makes sense to send our newsletters by e-mail from May 2012, rather than by post. This would save money on photocopying & postage as well as saving some paper, (although you can print it yourselves of course).

If you think this is a bad idea for any reason, e.g. less likely to bother to read it, can't download attachments (which will be in MS Word), do please let us know. Indeed some of our members don't have or use e-mail and will continue to receive paper copies.

NOTE: WILL ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTIFY JUNE HURRELL IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED. Thank You

## **WINDPOWER: ITS FUTURE IN THE U.K.**

After the AGM a very informative talk was given by FOE's experienced S.W. Campaign Coordinator, Mike Birkin. Whilst the Friends of the Earth organisation has always given their full support for renewable energy solutions, each project has to be given serious consideration with regard to their location, size and the inevitable environmental impacts. Mike stressed the importance of good practice by all project developers, and also commented on the growing concern over mis-information from those who are anti-wind power installations.

Information leaflets were available with website links including '7 Myths about Wind power dispelled.'

This was followed by a short visual presentation by Rebecca Evans from Eneco Wind U.K, giving us a brief background to the history of the organisation.

Eneco and of their proposals.

They held various public consultation days to inform us of their plans for the proposed Navitus Bay Wind Park, (referred to in an article in the previous newsletter by Enid Knight). It was acknowledged by the developers (Eneco) that they still have a lot of work to do to understand all the potential environmental impacts. The group posed several relevant questions about the impact of both onshore and offshore cabling, suggested cabling routes, operational noise levels, effects on marine life, birds, tourist and visual impacts, time scales for planning and more public consultations. Everyone agreed that it was also important to begin countering the objectors to wind energy more positively.

### **More on Navitus Bay Wind Park**

On the webpage <http://www.navitusbaywindpark.co.uk/news-detail.aspx?newsID=478> you have an opportunity to complete an online survey about the proposed Navitus Bay Wind Park and the potential

offshore impacts of the development. The deadline for completing this survey is 17th April 2012 after which we will be assessing all feedback from members of the public for this initial stage of public consultation. We have also made the second Navitus Bay newsletter available to view online as well. This provides the latest news and information about the Project, along with a consultation programme for the proposed development. Please see link: <http://www.navitusbaywindpark.co.uk/news-detail.aspx?newsID=480>

If you would like more information about the public exhibitions, consultation programme with the public or wider Project, then you can contact us at either of the addresses below.

By post to: Round 3 development, Eneco Wind UK Ltd, 3 Athena Court, Athena Drive, Tachbrook Park, Warwick CV34 6RT or by email to: [info@enecowindo](mailto:info@enecowindo)

## **SNIPPETS**

1 When did you last buy a cauliflower? As an ex-pat Cornish woman, may I urge you to check its origin ?! AND make sure it is English, and [preferably Cornish.] Broccoli as it is known down there, is a vital source of income to many a cash-strapped farmer....right now the tractors are busy in the fields cutting, packing and transporting by road and rail 'up-country'. *Gill Preston*

2 In 2010, Member States of the European Union agreed to consult a group of experts on the development of the Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) specific to marine litter, in part to consider the sorts of targets that should be set for 2020. The final report of the group has just been published.

"This report makes a strong case for setting practical marine litter reduction targets for 2020. The problem of marine litter and particularly plastic pollution in our seas is growing and is a major concern for marine wildlife, marine industries, coastal communities and human health. Member States must take this advice on board and set out ambitious marine litter reduction targets for 2020," said Chris Carroll of Seas At Risk.

Member States now have 6 months to act on this advice and set ambitious reduction targets in order to combat this growing problem.

## NEEDED

\*MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

\*TREASURER

\*NEWSLETTER EDITOR -

Any Member interested please contact Arthur & June Hurrell

\*HELPERS AT THE GREENER LIVING SHOW ON 21st APRIL just for 2 hours, between 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.

Venue: The Sandballs Holiday Park, Godshill, Fordingbridge. Free Entry & Car Parking.

Campaign: BEES & BIODIVERSITY

Contact: Penny Russell (coordinator) OR Ann Vasilesco

## Network Training Day at Emsworth

Enid and Ann went to this . Their report will be in the next newsletter. In the meantime if you have access to the internet look up and find information on the BEE Campaign after April 21st. More next time.

## Dates for your Diary:

Monday April 16<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting at 4, Daniells Close, Lymington 2.30-4.30

April 21<sup>st</sup> Greener Living Show

May 19<sup>th</sup> Transition Spring Fair at Priestlands School

### COMMITTEE

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Our website: [www.nffoe.org.uk](http://www.nffoe.org.uk)