

Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

Meeting Tuesday June 6, 2015

Those present: Lynne McNulty (LMN), Stuart Oliver (SO), Terry Brown (TGB)

Apologies: Kyle Christie, Susie Morrow, Mike Grahm

Notes of last meeting

- There were no published notes of the last meeting.

1) Review of “Putney Folk Debates Festival” (PFDF)

- The PFDF was an enjoyable event with, amongst others, Living streets, the Putney Society and the Wandsworth Society having a presence along with FOE
- A vote of thanks to Fanny Martin and the Cat’s Back for this opportunity to come forward and raise issues in public
- LMN,SO & TGB attended
- SO commented that he thought FoE had a good stall and that we had managed to get a few interested people signed up
- It was agreed that having a presence at the festival was a good thing to do and allowed Wandsworth FOE some public exposure and experience at stall manning
- TGB was interviewed for Wandsworth Radio
- Setting up the stall at the PFDF was a good experience and brought to light the need for the Wandsworth Group to have a clear Focus to present to the public.
- SO suggested that the "Campaigning for a greener Wandsworth" strap-line offered a neat summary of what the group was about
- Amongst others,LMN had met the chair of the Wandsworth Society and thought it an interesting organisation

2) Possible Campaigns:

- It had been agreed at the last meeting that some time needed to be devoted to what the focus of the Wandsworth Group should be. We had previously been concentrating on the recycling video and promoting renewable energy. The renewable energy theme had rather taken on a life of its own in CREW (Community renewable energy Wandsworth) have now separated off from the Wandsworth FOE.
- The recycling video had rather run out of steam.
- We reviewed the main National FLA campaigns as follows:
 - **Run on Sun**
 - This is a campaign to get schools to install photovoltaic panels on their roofs to offset their energy costs and cut down that their emissions. It is largely promoted by groups getting close to a particular school and helping them to get the PVs installed. We understand that about 1000 schools have signed up, but it's not clear how many of these are moving forward with an actual installation project.
 - There is also a national campaign to persuade the government to make it easier for schools to raise funds for renewable energy projects.
 - At the moment it is considered that crew have taken the renewable energy initiative forward and this may not be a major involvement for WFOE
 - **The Bee Cause**
 - The Bee Cause campaign seems mostly to be focused on individuals/homeowners who can make their gardens more bee friendly and a national campaign to maintain the ban on neonicotinoids, which are very dangerous to bees.
 - Two years ago the use of some pesticides called neonicotinoids was banned across Europe because they were found to harm bees, but now there’s a move to weaken the restrictions in the UK. The National Farmers Union wants our Government to allow seeds coated with neonicotinoids to be planted this autumn.

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- 'Bee Worlds' are larger wildflower spaces that have been created by community groups, businesses etc. We would need to find such a space if we were to pursue this.
- Unless WFOE could find a space for a "Bee World", the other parts of this campaign seem more appropriately dealt with at a national level.

- **Fracking**

- It was felt that the threat of fracking isn't sufficiently strong *as a local issue* and one of the criteria for a WFOE focus/campaign was to try and make it have a strong local dimension. While clearly, at a national level and in threatened areas, Fracking is a big issue, for Wandsworth specifically it doesn't seem to have a local dimension.

- **Climate change and the overview**

- TGB thought that climate change is a big issue that is not being sufficiently addressed in any way by government and it's not really taken on board sufficiently seriously by many people.
- It seems that, at a national level, FOE will be giving consideration to a new overarching approach to their campaigns and this will probably focus on climate change. Various aspects were touched on at this point including:
 - The divesting of funds from oil and gas companies
 - Whether people truly understand what can be done and through what channels
 - It seems such a huge issue that it's hard to think of a local dimension
- It was agreed that this topic needed more consideration and we would probably return to it at a later meeting
- LMN commented that she was going to attend a lecture by Nicholas Stern on the day following the meeting and this might give her some ideas about possible actions

- **Recycling**

- SO was of the opinion that the recycling video that we had planned offered an "easy win" and we should pursue it further
- If we could put the video together we could then upload to U-tube and it would be available to be used as and when required.
- Recycling is still alive issue, with many people still not really understanding what can and can't be recycled or feeling fairly cynical about it.
- There is also the issue of whether apartment buildings and other homes offer a enough space to separate recyclable from non-recyclable refuse
- It was agreed that we should aim to breathe new life into our video project
- SO reckoned that there were about 1000 members of the National FOE in Wandsworth and if we could reach them we might get more attendances at the Wandsworth Group meetings.
- The recycling video might offer us a way to draw attention to the local group

- **Any others?**

- It was agreed that a local focus is very important to anything that the Wandsworth Group might do and also would help us gain interest from others, leading hopefully to new members
- A big local issue at the moment is pollution on the streets, though this is being substantially addressed by Living Streets and the Wandsworth Environmental Forum

4) AOB

- TGB had received a number of communications, which he wanted to discuss with the group as follows (communications attached):
 - **National FOE workshop:** It was agreed that TGB should attend the national workshop, London meeting, which takes place July 11. The aim of the workshop is to seek opinions on the way that Friends of the Earth should move forward nationally
 - **Reading M4 Campaign:** This is a campaign against the widening of the M4. It was thought that this wasn't sufficiently locally focussed for Wandsworth to play a large part, but we will offer support to any campaigns or petitions

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- **The Challenge, National Citizen Service:** This is a youth & community programme involving participants aged 15-17, who will all complete fundraising & volunteering in teams to support local charities & organisations. It was thought that, if Wandsworth FOE were going to embark on any campaigning activity or man stalls at events in the coming months, it might be useful to have assistance from a youth group. It was agreed that TGB would find out more about what was involved

5) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 7 at the Brewers Inn.

Terry Brown 02015-0609

Mr T Brown
24 West Hill Road
LONDON
SW18 1LN

29 May 2015

Dear Terence

COME AND HELP US SHAPE THE NEXT DECADE OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH'S WORK

As you may know, we're working right now to shape the focus of the next 10-20 years of Friends of the Earth's work around a single clear goal. And we'd love you, and the members of your local group, to help by coming to a 2-3-hour workshop in the next two months.

What's this about?

Last year, we asked a load of people who partner and support us what they think of Friends of the Earth. They told us how impressed they were with our work on climate, nature and sustainable development. But they also said we need to be more focused – and tell a clearer story about who we are and what we're trying to do.

We're looking for a single 'organisational goal' for the next decade or two that we can focus all our work around – you might have heard us describe this as a 'Big Hairy Audacious Goal' in the past. That Goal will shape what we work on, and also how we work and who we work with. It will result in a clearer, more consistent way of describing 'who we are and what we do' in our publications, media work and online.

Doing this will help us attract more new people to get involved with us in our local groups and nationally, and will help decision-makers and journalists better understand why they should listen to us. And most importantly, it will give us more clout, enabling us to achieve far more change in the world.

We want your help

We've already decided, partly in response to your feedback, that we want to place 'people' at the centre of our goal. This will show how we deliver campaigns that tackle both social and environmental problems – because we see the wellbeing of people and the planet as one and the same – and also reflect that people are at the heart of how we make change happen.

Nowhere is this truer than with our Local Groups. You're our partners in winning campaigns and so we want to create this goal with you; it's essential that together we're able to get behind the goal and make real world change.

To help us do this, we're running a roadshow of workshops around England, Wales and Northern Ireland, inviting local group members, online activists, financial supporters and staff. We would love it

P.T.O.

if members of your local group could attend one.

At the workshops we'll share some ideas we've been discussing for possible goals and invite you to come up with better ones. We'll also spend some time getting your views on what makes us uniquely us – the words that get to the heart of who we are, and what we're here for.

We'll use what you tell us to shape 3 possible goals, which we'll test out to make sure they'll deliver the big changes we need to improve people's lives and safeguard the planet – and will inspire more people to get involved. In autumn, our new Chief Executive, Craig Bennett, and his Senior Management Team will then pick one. So your contribution will shape our work for the next decade and beyond.

The workshops will also be a great chance to meet staff and supporters you may not have met before; who knows, you might even recruit a new member or two!

Each workshop will be 2-3 hours from. **Refreshments and a tasty lunch/dinner will be provided.**

Dates/Cities

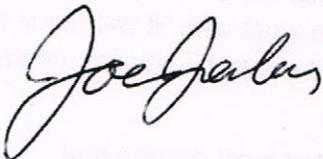
Manchester	27 th June (11:00 – 14:00)	London	11 th July (11:00 – 14:00)
Leeds	28 th June (11:00 – 14:00)	Bristol	11 th July (11:00 – 14:00)
Belfast	6 th July (18:00 – 21:00)	Cardiff	To be confirmed

Please do come – and please could you invite your Local Group friends and colleagues too (everyone is welcome, and it's first-come, first-served with a strict limit on total places)!

To register to attend please visit: www.foe.co.uk/go/workshops

If you have any questions please email orggoal@foe.co.uk

Best regards,



Joe Jenkins
Director of Engagement

(On behalf of the Senior Management Team)

From: Brenda Pollack brenda.pollack@foe.co.uk 
Subject: URGENT REQUEST: M4 Motorway campaign - can your group help please?
Date: 29 May 2015 22:08
To: Brenda Pollack brenda.pollack@foe.co.uk

BP

Dear Coordinator

Reading Friends of the Earth is campaigning against the widening of the M4. The proposals involve permanent use of the hard shoulder between junctions 3 and 12 - ie from near Heathrow out to Reading. As one of the key routes into London and Heathrow the scheme would affect a wide area. It would increase air pollution in an area already above legal limits as well as increasing CO2 emissions.

This is being treated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and it is therefore important we get as many people to register objections as possible.

The deadline for registering is July 3rd.

We would like you to consider whether your group could take an active part in the campaign.

Could you:

1. encourage your members to register an objection to the project
2. Discuss this at your June group meeting to see what your group can do to help
3. Consider writing to your local paper about the scheme - especially if your group is near the route
4. Help distribute online information about the issue
5. Distribute fliers at any stalls you have booked in June.
6. Register with Reading Friends of the Earth to receive further updates and calls for help (see below)

We realise that some groups might like to/be able to be more active on this than others.

Summary information about the campaign follows but fuller details of why we oppose the scheme and how to register are on the group's website as below.

Reading Friends of the Earth opposes the use of the hard shoulder on grounds of: reduced safety; increase in traffic affecting noise, air quality and climate change; loss of capacity to cope with accidents and road repairs; unnecessary cost.

Wherever you are, **please register online as an interested party** to the examination (to take place this autumn) and suggest topics to the Inspectors (this is easy to do and does not commit people to further action). By doing so, you'll help to show the strength of opposition. The online registration closes on **July 3rd**.

More information at www.readingfoe.org.uk/m4

e-mail m4@readingfoe.org.uk to be e-mailed future updates.

Thanks for reading

John Booth, Reading Friends of the Earth, Jenny Bates, London Campaigner and Brenda Pollack South East Campaigner.

Brenda Pollack | South East Regional Campaigner

Twitter @BrendaPollack

Friends of the Earth

From: Leah Apostolou leah.apostolou@the-challenge.org 
Subject: NCS Opportunity Wandsworth
Date: 29 May 2015 17:48
To: wandsworthfoe@gmail.com

LA

Hi Friends of the Earth!

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Leah and I am writing to you from a charity called The Challenge, where I am currently working on setting up Wandsworth's National Citizen Service (NCS) for 2015.

NCS is a youth & community programme involving participants aged 15-17, who will all complete fundraising & volunteering in teams to support local charities & organisations. For a clearer idea of how it works, please take a look at this [video](#). I have also attached a list of example volunteer projects (based on those which ran in and around the borough last year) and an overview of both NCS & The Challenge to give you a bit of background info into what we are about.

This year all the local NCS teams will complete their day of volunteering on the **Sunday 27th of September**. There would also be a short introductory visit one afternoon in August.

I would love to explore the possibility of working with with FOE in Wandsworth this summer. Hopefully we can get a group of young people to come and support your work!

Please feel free to give me a ring on 07867516977 or drop me an email back at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

Leah

Leah Apostolou
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The Challenge is a major provider of NCS (National Citizen Service)



POWERED BY



The Challenge is in 'The Sunday Times 100 Best Not For Profit Organisations To Work For' 2014.

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