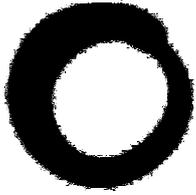


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2013

Welcome to Nottingham Friends of the Earth. We are one of around 250 local Friends of the Earth groups campaigning for a better environment locally as well as nationally and internationally. **Friends of the Earth** has a reputation for effective campaigns backed up by authoritative research.

Up In Smoke



Nottingham
Friends of
the Earth

NOTTINGHAM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Down to Earth



The incinerator at Eastcroft could see more fuel arrive on it's doorstep as Nottingham's recycling levels drop.

Inside:

- Bee Cause
- Air Pollution
- Energy Bill
- Wind Turbines
- Recycling
- Growing Wild Flowers

Nottingham could fail to meet air pollution targets

Air pollution from traffic kills more people than road accidents

The UK's record on air pollution is not good. The main problem is too much traffic. The pollution comes from buses and lorries as well as cars - though a lot of the problem is made worse by congestion.

Much more needs to be done to clean up traffic pollution. A number of cities around the UK, including Nottingham, have levels of NOx (oxides of nitrogen) above permitted levels. The EU has given the UK an extension upto 2015 to get pollution down. But we are likely to fail – and that could lead to Nottingham being fined.

We need stronger policies to reduce the number of cars on the road. Action in Nottingham is mixed. The Workplace Parking Levy is right, but it may need to be increased to the point at which it causes people to leave their cars at home. But widening the A453 to bring more cars into the city is going to make the problem worse.

We need more people cycling to work - and making roads safer for people to walk and cycle. That is where investment needs to go - not into roads which cause more congestion and more pollution.



Busy traffic on Trent Bridge – set to become worse as more traffic enters Nottingham from the south

According to research published in 2012, air pollution from traffic kills more than twice as

many people as road accidents. In the UK around 5,000 people each year die prematurely as a result of vehicle exhaust fumes, mostly as a result of fine particles. From all causes of air pollution, around 13,000 premature deaths are caused in the UK each year. For details see:

www.nhs.uk/news/2012/04april/Pages/air-pollution-exhaust-death-estimates.aspx

Where air pollution is above permitted levels, local authorities are required to declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and draw up action plans. All of the councils in the urban area around the city have AQMAs as a result of high levels of NOx caused mainly by traffic. But their action plans are too little too late.

- The City has AQMAs on the main roads into the city centre and at Dunkirk near the ring road. The highest pollution is at Canning Circus and Upper Parliament Street.
- Rushcliffe has AQMAs near Trent Bridge along the roads towards Grantham (A52) and Loughborough (A60), along the ring road, and on the A52 near Radcliffe-on-Trent.
- Gedling has AQMAs along the A60 through Daybrook.
- Broxtowe has AQMAs near the M1 at Nuthall and Trowell.

Nigel Lee



There are too few dedicated cycle routes in the City

Austerity hits recycling rates in Notts

In November, the Post reported that recycling across Notts fell in 2011/12, following continuing improvements in previous years. Only Gedling increased recycling. The biggest fall was in the City – down from 37% to 33%.

Figures for the last two years for household waste collected by the City are:

Nottingham City - household waste				
tonnes	collected	recycled/composted	residual (not recycled)	% recycled
2010/11	116,235	43,394	72,841	37.3%
2011/12	112,477	37,355	75,123	33.1%

This shows that even though household waste reduced by nearly 4,000 tonnes, the amount of residual waste went up by over 2,000 tonnes – because recycling went down by 6,000 tonnes. Although recycling rates fell in all other Notts districts, apart from Gedling, there were no significant increases in residual waste in any district outside of the city.

Reasons given by the City for this abject performance were:

- abandoning food waste collections
- reducing green waste collections
- introduction of 'optimised bin collection'

Clearly, it is financial cutbacks which have undermined the City's already indifferent recycling performance.

One way of improving recycling collections would be to collect a wider range of recyclables by separating them at the kerbside in vehicles with multiple compartments. This would mean not contaminating paper, and separating the different colours of glass to improve the price received and reduce carbon emissions. It would also allow a cost-effective way of collecting food waste on the same vehicle.

Instead of collecting food waste separately for anaerobic digestion, the City prefers to leave food in the residual bin and to send more waste to the Eastcroft incinerator.

Nigel Lee



Do we want more of this?



Or more of *this*?



Energy Bill

Please ask your MP to vote for a decarbonisation target in the Energy Bill

There is an Energy Bill currently going through parliament. After scrutiny in committee it should be considered on the floor of the House of Commons at 'Report Stage' in the next couple of months.

Unfortunately,

- It does not include a target for decarbonising electricity. (We want to see a target of 50g CO₂/kWh by 2030 compared to nearly 500g now – in line with a recommendation from the Committee on Climate Change.)
- Energy conservation is not adequately considered. (We want to see £4bn p.a. from carbon taxes used to eradicate fuel poverty.)
- Emission limits for power stations are too lax. (It could mean that current gas-fired power stations could continue without improvement to 2045.)

- In matching supply to demand, much more emphasis is needed on energy saving and storage.
- Biomass should not be allowed unless it is genuinely low carbon and from sustainable sources.
- The current proposals will squeeze out small scale community renewables.
- The government's complex 'Contracts for Difference' proposals will favour big companies and allow covert subsidies for nuclear power.

If you have not already contacted your MP, please ask him/her to vote for a decarbonisation target in the Energy Bill.

Relevant links to background information are on our website at www.foe.co.uk/groups/nottingham/574.htm

Nigel Lee



If you were at the recent Friends of the Earth national conference at South Kensington, it is likely that you would have seen a 'human bee' walking around the campus, as well large amounts of publicity material suitably printed in yellow & black...the colours of Friends of the Earth's 'Bee Cause'. This campaign started in response to worrying reports from a variety of sources about the continuing reduction in pollinating insects around the world. It isn't just honeybees, of course. We now have a situation in which the balance of nature is severely compromised. The consequences could be dire; without pollination, many foods that we take for granted could disappear altogether – up to a third of the food we eat comes from pollination. Various developments have been identified by researchers, including:

- 'Colony Collapse Disorder' is a term describing the sudden wholesale loss of huge numbers of bees worldwide. In the UK alone, half of the honey bees kept in managed hives have disappeared, wild honey bees are close to extinction, and solitary bees are declining in more than half of the places in which they have been studied.
- A bloodsucking parasitic mite (*varroa* mite) has massively increased the global prevalence of a fatal bee virus, 'deformed wing virus'. The mite transmits the virus directly into the bee's bloodstream as it feeds, thus bypassing all the bee's natural immune defences.
- Bees ingest pesticides from crops treated with systemic insect nerve agents, namely neonicotinoids. This, plus loss of habitat, has weakened colonies, making them more vulnerable to infestation.

In an interesting 'techno fix' originating from Aberdeen University, researchers from the University plus the National Bee Unit, part of

the Food and Environment Research Agency, have worked out how to 'knock down' genes in the parasitic mite causing it to die. Funding for this research worth over a quarter of a million pounds comes from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Vita (Europe) Ltd. This is clearly not addressing the wider issues of habitat loss, and is mainly to allow continued use of neonicotinoid pesticides business as usual, in other words.

Replacing the pollination of food crops that the UK's bees perform for free (i.e by importing them from another country such as New Zealand in vast numbers each season, as happens currently in USA) would be hugely expensive, while hand pollination could cost £1.8bn.

We have to act quickly to save bees and other pollinators from extinction, by educating farmers, gardeners and the general public. The Bee Cause has a very interesting and colourful section on the FOE website, and there is also a useful and informative website from the TV series 'Bees, Butterflies and Blooms' by Sarah Raven, which is also worth taking a look at:

<http://www.sarahraven.com/beesbutterfliesblooms>. (Ed: The author has a DVD copy for those who are interested – contact me for details)

FOE is focussing on the planting of wildflower plots as just one of the solutions to the loss of pollinators. For those interested in developing a wildflower meadow, or growing bee friendly plants at home, the following may be useful pointers:-

- Good potential meadow sites include cemeteries – usually no objections – and canal sides.
- There is a wildflower farm in Notts at Langar (commercial enterprise but they sell bee and butterfly friendly plants, wildflower seeds of all varieties and provide good advice).
- The Royal Horticultural Society now has compiled a list of plants that are 'perfect pollinators', and last year for the first time had a category for wildflower-friendly schemes.
- The BumbleBee conservation trust website (see www.bumblebeeconservation.org) has lots of planting suggestions.

Martin & Maggie Gallimore

Want to bee friendly?

Wildflower growing hints & tips



Bee-friendly plants can be divided into annuals (flower for one season then need replanting) and perennials (planted once, they return every year).

PERRENIALS : Disadvantages – take a while to become established and usually need ongoing management. A fully flowering meadow can take years to fully establish, and needs continuity of maintenance for years. They have a limited flowering period, and when that is over they can look ‘tatty’ (which is why some parks & garden supervisors get complaints from members of the public when perennials are in abundance....people want colourful displays for as long as possible in the summer season). However, perennials usually conveniently set seed just before farmers take the hay crop. When hay is cut in September, nettles etc may grow, so another cut over winter is usually beneficial.

ANNUALS : come quickly into flower after planting. They are usually in flower for 6-7 months of the year. If cutting at the end of the season you can inform the local council that this is saving them money (if on council land) as they sometimes cut up to 20x during the season ... the meadow system only need two or three cuts, thus saving money. Also the process of digging up last years’ growth can give valuable soil disturbance. Suitable sites may be a minimum of, say, 5 square metres. Long stretches of ground alongside canals, etc, may be suitable as well. The disadvantage with annuals is that you need to disturb the soil (the top 2cm) to allow seed to germinate (they need light to germinate). Warning note: In

rural meadow planting, don’t plant non-native plants (they may spread); however, in urban environments it’s generally ok to plant non-native plants.

PH value of soil - this is not a crucial factor, though generally chalky soils are good, while acid soils not so. Before planting (e.g in nature reserve) it is a good idea to check first if someone hasn’t planted daffodil bulbs. These, being very popular, are often planted in large numbers, but they have no effect as bee-friendly pollinators. It is difficult to establish wild flowers in existing grassland or dense turf. It is best to start with bare soil, as turf/grass prevents seeds from setting in the soil. A rotavator is a good tool for breaking up grassland (though hire is expensive – eg £350 per day, and they are not easy to work on slopes or rough ground), or if a local farmer can lend a chain harrow, this is ideal for larger areas. Generally, volunteer power is required, with good old fork and spades, to break up ground before planting. Disturbing the soil will release weeds, and so weeding will have to be done 2 or 3 weeks later to clear the site. Finally, rake to a fine tilth, with approximately 1-2cm of loose soil, then the site is ready for sowing. It’s best to mix the seeds with sand or sawdust, to help distribute them more evenly across the ground (3 parts sand to 1 part seed, or 10 parts sawdust to 1 part seed is about right). Broadcasting is the best method of spreading, and use seed sparingly at the first ‘pass’ so as not to run out before getting to the end of the sowing area – filling in sparse areas at the end (this is the advantage of using the sand/sawdust mix – it’s easy to see against the soil). When all the seeds are in the ground they must be ‘bedded in’; volunteers can do this by ‘shuffling’ along the ground.

Seeds need protection from hot sun, so don’t sow in baking hot weather. Late March or early April is ideal, but some mixes are fine sown in the autumn. Regular watering is a must; if there is no access to water, as in a standpipe, hand-watering will be necessary for the seeds to germinate.

Getting together with members of your local community to plant wildflower areas is an activity that rewards in many ways – it’s social, it’s fun, it’s healthy outdoor exercise, and the end result is both beautiful and beneficial. Most of all - the bees will love you!

Martin & Maggie Gallimore

Wind energy update

Nottinghamshire struggles to contribute to national renewable targets

Nottingham University's applications for three turbines at **Grove Farm**, has been dealt a blow. The Broxtowe Borough Council planning officers recommended refusal on grounds of proposed allocation of part of Boots' land for housing, but in their recommendation to the Committee the Officers stated that the benefits of the turbine outweighed the 'limited harm [to the Green Belt]'. However, the Broxtowe Planning Committee disagreed, and added to their reasons for ultimately refusing permission that the turbine *would* cause unacceptable harm to the Green Belt. The University has appealed to the Secretary for State. Then in February this year, the other two turbines at Grove Farm, which fall within the boundary of Nottingham City Council, were turned down for similar reasons to Broxtowe, but with the addition of radar impact on East Midlands Airport, and visual impact upon Clifton Grove (in this case citing a supposed requirement for a minimum 650m separation distance from residences) and nearby playing fields. The radar problem is significant where there is more than one turbine over 90m in height – hence the reason for apparent non-compliance in this instance.

After a period of uncertainty, Nottingham's other university wind energy initiative – at Nottingham Trent's **Brackenhurst** college site, near Southwell, has also hit an unfavourable reaction from the planners – this time Newark & Sherwood Borough Council. The proposal for two 330kW turbines – one of which would be community owned – was turned down in December, for, in the view of the planners, the detrimental affect the turbine would have upon the view and position of the Southwell Minster. It is not known as yet whether an appeal will be made.

Woodborough Park Farm, who received planning approval in November 2011, had since been subject to a judicial review issued by anti-group WACAT against Gedling Borough Council. The court hearings have twice held for the planning decision, but WACAT's lawyer has appealed on both occasions.

In January, a planning application was made by a developer (East Bridgford Community Energy IPS Ltd – an Industrial and Provident Society for the benefit of the local community) in **East Bridgford** for a single turbine in the power range 500-800kW. The turbine would be visible from less than 1% of the houses in East Bridgford. Public consultations have taken place, and although the turbine would be in the Green Belt, the proposal has had significant support. It is estimated that the turbine should provide net revenue of £1m to £2m for community benefit over 20 years, most of which will be made available to local community projects, and some to overseas communities hardest hit by climate change.

Severn Trent Water has launched a fresh planning proposal for their site at **Stoke Bardolph** water treatment works. Last April, Gedling Borough Council turned down an application for two turbines on the site. Reasons given were impact on the Green Belt, visual impact upon the landscape appearance and historical buildings, and upon the local sports facilities. However, in July a consultation was launched by the developer with an exhibition held in Burton Joyce, for an amended scheme, in which Severn Trent have sought to address some of the concerns held by local residents. This was followed up in December by a formal planning application submitted for the new scheme, this time for a slightly smaller, single turbine of 2.5MW. At the time of writing the public have opportunity to comment. Nottingham FoE – and Pro Wind Alliance – will be supporting this proposal.

Nottinghamshire, and the East Midlands region, are falling behind others in contributing to meeting the country's targets for renewable power generation. Despite political and planning endorsement for on-shore wind, misinformation and poor planning decisions have caused projects to be delayed or aborted. Nevertheless, for this coming year, and despite the setbacks, Nottingham Friends of the Earth – and Nottingham Pro Wind Alliance - remain optimistic that there will be positive news to come. We urge you to do your bit too – follow our updates on the Nottingham FoE website (details on back page of this newsletter) and do what you can to support well designed wind turbine proposal in our area.

Roger Steele

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For general information, please visit our website (see below), or write with an SAE to Nottingham Friends of the Earth, c/o Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX.

For information about joining the group, please mark the envelope "Membership".

For latest campaign news and contact details, visit
<http://www.foe.co.uk/groups/nottingham>

National Friends of the Earth is at 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ (020 7490 1555), or email info@foe.co.uk
See national website www.foe.co.uk for easy online actions.

We now meet on the **last** Tuesday of the month (except August and December) at the Friends Meeting House, Clarendon St, Nottingham NG1 5JD, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Please come and join us. You would be very welcome.

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This Newsletter desk top published by Emma Toone.

If you would like to receive future editions of this newsletter electronically to save paper, please let us know your email address. You can contact us by email via our website (see above), or alternatively nottinghamfoe@hotmail.com. Please note that the file size can be over 1.2MB, or you could choose to receive a text-only file.

AGM announcement

Our next Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 26th March 2012 (7.30pm, Friends Meeting House – see above for address).

We look forward to seeing you there.