



Update



Photo: Jonathan Goldberg

Welsh Harp

In December, both Brent and Barnet Councils rejected planning applications for a housing development at the Welsh Harp reservoir, after a successful campaign by local residents and pressure groups including Brent FoE, Brent Schools Without Walls, Brent Green Party and LibDems, the Welsh Harp Conservation Group and Natural England. A public consultation on the Welsh Harp Management Plan ends on March 24th.

Brent Cross Cricklewood (BXC)

The Coalition for a Sustainable BXC Plan, formed by Brent FoE members Lia and Viv, is still calling for a public inquiry after Barnet Council approved plans for the development in November. Barnet has yet to submit papers to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, saying it would submit them 'some time in February'. For up-to-date information and a petition see www.tiny.cc/BXblog.

The Age of Stupid

Our first free screening of [The Age of Stupid](#) took place at the Kingsgate Community Centre in Camden in December. Since then, there has been more interest for future screenings from local community groups, with a showing at St Gabriel's church in Willesden Green being planned at the end of April. See our website www.brentfoe.com for more details soon.

Brent's Climate Change Strategy - More Hot Air?

Elaine Henderson and Steffi Gray



Brent Council's Climate Change Strategy was launched at a lavish event in December. Brent calls it innovative, but we fear it is vague and hard to implement, with no clear targets, funding or timetable. Public services, the private sector, residents and community groups will all be "delivery partners" alongside the Council. Residents can also sign a "Climate Change Pledge" by making small lifestyle changes, such as walking, cycling, or using less energy at home.

Implementation of the Strategy is via a new steering group, on which these "delivery partners" will be represented. This was due to be established in January, but has been put back till the end of March. Recruitment for this voluntary committee has not yet been advertised. Brent FoE has expressed an interest in being represented. Funding for a new Strategy Officer is still frozen, which is a further set-back.

We remain hopeful that greenhouse gas emissions in Brent will reduce – the Council has signed up to [10:10](#), to cut them by 10% in 2010. Whether the greater reduction of 20% by 2011, agreed by the Council in 2007, or the national target of 20% by 2020 will be achieved remains to be seen.

For more information see <http://www.brent.gov.uk/climatechange>



10:10 aims to unite every sector of British society behind one simple idea: that by working together we can achieve a 10% cut in the UK's carbon emissions in 2010. Individuals, schools, councils, businesses and other organisations can all get involved, pledge to reduce emissions and receive tips to help them along. The idea was first mentioned right here in Brent. The Council has already signed up, alongside 50,000 individuals and thousands of organisations. Join in at <http://www.1010uk.org/>

Read and recycle

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. Please recycle once you have finished it or, better still, give it to a friend.



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Read this newsletter online at www.brentfoe.com

One Member's Experiences in Copenhagen



Photo: Wystan Palm

Brent FoE member Wystan Palm travelled to Copenhagen in December with two coach-loads of UK FoE supporters taking part in The Flood, a 5,000-strong demonstration demanding climate justice.

Despite delays on the Eurostar, and being searched for three hours by German police, the group arrived bleary-eyed on December 12th, "had a shower, breakfast, and went to the demo."

The demo was backed by the alternative Copenhagen conference, [KlimaForum09](#), which had talks on climate issues, plus a restaurant offering "some fantastic vegan food".

Wystan joined the band *Rhythms of Resistance* for the six-mile march from Parliament Square, which was "jam-packed" with a broad range of groups, to the UN conference centre.

He was surprised to witness police arrests en route. "I wasn't expecting it as I didn't see anything non-peaceful". Wystan was blocked from entering the final rally by conference security as there were so many demonstrators.

Ultimately the talks failed to produce a strong, fair and binding agreement. FoE is calling for the UK to show leadership by committing to 40% emissions cuts by 2020. Ask Ed Miliband to support this at: <http://www.foe.co.uk>

Wystan will be standing as a candidate for the Kilburn ward in the local Council elections in May.

Copenhagen – A Masquerade



Photo: Sandra De Andrade

Brent FoE member Sandra De Andrade went to Copenhagen and reports on the UN accord that resulted.

The accord's biggest failure is its lack of binding CO2 reduction targets. It sets a vague global aim to keep temperature rises below 2C, but lets each country set their own greenhouse gas targets. It's hard to see how this 2C level will be achieved without industrialised countries reducing emissions between 25% to 40% by 2020, and 80% to 95% by 2050, as experts recommend. Neither developing countries like China and India, nor industrialised nations want to limit economic growth for the sake of the planet. This new approach undermines the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which placed real reduction targets on 37 industrialised nations.

The "worst outcome" is a scheme paying forested nations in the South, in the hope Governments will place more economic value on forests. This misses the real causes - mining, logging and construction, and could even increase deforestation.

The accord also promises to establish a Copenhagen Green Fund of US\$30bn a year, rising to US\$100bn by 2020, to help developing countries adapt. However, this is only half the amount recommended by the Alliance of Small Island States.

For more info, see <http://21st-centurynetwork.com/blog/?p=2225>