



Update

Brent Against Climate Change

In March, Steffi Gray spoke at a public meeting organised by Brent Campaign against Climate Change (pictured above), where groups and individuals shared their disappointment with the Copenhagen accord and discussed what to do next. As a result of the meeting, a steering group has been set up focussing on local action, such as improving Brent Council's climate change strategy. For more information email: brentcacc@gmail.com.



Photo: Jan Nevill

The Age of Stupid

A second community screening of 'The Age of Stupid' was held for International Women's Day in March. Our next free screening is at St Gabriel's Church in Willesden Green on 27th April at 7.30pm, followed by a discussion with speakers from FoE.

For more information see http://www.brentfoe.com/AoSposter_st_gabriels.pdf.

Food Chain

With Parliament now dissolved, we've written to all major Parliamentary candidates in the Brent Central and North constituencies, asking for their support when MPs return to Westminster. For more on the campaign:

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/biodiversity/press_for_change/chance_fix_food_chain_22686.html

Brent Cross

The Coalition is celebrating the Government's decision to put the proposed development on hold, after London Mayor, Boris Johnson, passed it in March. A complaint about Boris' mocking of local opposition led to a Coalition video being shown on BBC London news. See the video and latest news: <http://www.brentcrosscoalition.blogspot.com/>

Vote for the Environment!



With the local Government and general elections set for May 6, we have a great opportunity to vote for the environment. Brent FoE is holding an event to find out which of Brent's potential MPs is the greenest.

We are pitching four main candidates for the new Brent Central constituency against each other at an Eco Hustings. Labour MP Dawn Butler, Shahrar Ali for the Greens, Conservative Sachin Rajput and Liberal Democrat MP Sarah Teather will each talk about their environmental policies and answer questions from a local audience.

Brent FoE's Press Officer Viv Stein, who organised the meeting, hopes it will test the candidates' commitment to a greener agenda.

Friends of the Earth are not affiliated to any political party, but lobbies politicians on environmental issues that affect us all. The Brent group has previously engaged several parties in campaigns such as opposing plans for a third runway at Heathrow, fixing the food chain, establishing firm policies on climate change – both locally and nationally - and has achieved near cross-party support for the Brent Cross Coalition.

All are welcome at the Eco Hustings public meeting on 29 April at 7.30pm, Learie Constantine West Indian Association, 43-47 Dudden Hill Lane, Willesden. More info on the meeting see: http://brentfoe.com/eco_husting_A5_flyerlow%20res.jpg

For more info on FoE's Election 2010 campaign see: <http://election.foe.co.uk/>



Help create a demand for the stuff you recycle by buying products made with recycled materials. Visit <http://www.recycledproducts.org.uk/> for more details including suppliers, many of which are high street names. There's over 3,000 products listed, from office stationery and wine glasses, to garden furniture, clothes and CD racks - and plenty more!

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

Brent Cross "New Town" Suspended



Photo: Viv Stein

In March, after months of lobbying from a Coalition of over 20 local pressure groups including Brent FoE, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government John Denham put plans for the 4.5 billion Brent Cross development on hold, pending a decision to call a public inquiry.

With the general election looming, it seems the decision will be postponed until the next Parliament. "We've won the battle, but not the war," said Brent FoE member and Coalition Co-ordinator Lia Colacicco.

Barnet Council approved the scheme in November, despite opposition from Brent and Camden councils. The plans include a gasifying incinerator with a 140-metre-high chimney, a business district with 25-storey office blocks and 7,500 high-rise homes, a stone's throw from Hampstead Heath. Developers have only committed to doubling the existing shopping centre and less than 800 new homes, but they and Barnet have refused to consider a much-needed light-rail link to local tube stations. The development is expected to cause 29,000 extra car journeys per day by Barnet's own predictions.

Local FoE groups recently linked up with the Green party and other campaigners in a stunt to highlight toxic fumes from the 'dinosaur' incinerator chimney.

For more information see the Coalition blog: <http://www.brentcrosscoalition.blogspot.com/>

Lia is standing as a candidate for the Mapesbury ward in the local Council elections.

New Co-ordinator for Brent FoE



Photo: Robert Gray

At the AGM in March, the group elected Robert Gray as its new Co-ordinator. Robert, a member for three years, was previously Membership Secretary and Website Officer. He has recently been busy building a renewed website for Brent FoE, which will be going live soon.

His aim as Co-ordinator is to get the group involved in more practical projects locally, in addition to the more political national campaigns it already engages in. "We want to keep up the good work on the Brent Cross Coalition, Fix the Food Chain and the Age of Stupid film screenings, while working on more practical ways of getting people's attention. One of our members, Elaine, came up with the idea of getting energy meters for local libraries that people could borrow and see how they can reduce their energy consumption - immediate, practical benefits," he said.

Robert was introduced to the group by his friend, now wife, Steffi. Two years ago their green wedding gained considerable media attention. Outside Brent FoE, Robert works as a speech therapist and enjoys doing gigs with his band, in which he plays bass guitar and keyboard.

With summer approaching Brent FoE will be having stalls at a number of local festivals across the Borough. Why not come along, say hello and find out more about the group?

To get in touch with Robert email: info@brentfoe.com

Monthly meetings Brent Friends of the Earth meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Why not come along and get involved? Visit www.brentfoe.com for details.