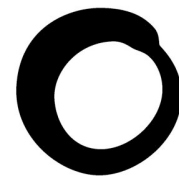


# North Somerset Friends of the Earth

## THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter!

Friends of  
the Earth

### First Wind Turbine in North Somerset

We are pleased to report our success in helping Woodbury Primary School in Winscombe obtain planning permission for the first wind turbine in North Somerset. Typical objections include fear of noise and damage to wildlife - particularly birds. Yet detailed studies have shown that the levels of noise pose no threat to the amenity of an area or public health, and, according to the RSPB, "the scale of bird strike does not seem to be of serious concern". For the pupils of Woodbury Primary School, this will be of huge educational benefit and provide a real inspiration for tackling climate change.

### Environmentalist victory in the Mendips!

North Somerset Council has rejected an application by Avon Ski Centre for an area of the Mendips to be turned into an executive 'playground' with 4x4 trails, clay pigeon shooting, quad biking and grass boarding. In our letter of support for residents, we reminded the council that this area contains a Somerset Wildlife site, ancient woodland, calcareous grassland and protected species comprising badgers, bats, peregrine falcons, dormice, lizards, adders and slow worms. The area is also used by birds such as chaffinch, coal tits, song thrushes, blackbirds, wrens, blue tits and great tits.

We have received a grant of £1500 from Central FoE to finance our Jute Bag project.



*A Jute bag produced for the Natural Food Company.*

Sourced from Jutexpo, a company dedicated to reducing plastic bag pollution (<http://www.jutexpo.co.uk>), these bags are not only ethical, eco-friendly, biodegradable and climate neutral but also stylish!



*Jute is a sustainable plant fibre, second only to cotton in amount produced and range of uses.*

The bags, due in January, will sell for £3 in small shops in North Somerset, and we will need to run a huge PR campaign beforehand. Thanks to Phil and Julian for their work on this project. Volunteers are still sought to approach shopkeepers in their local area.

### Climate Change Bill



Our letter to Liam Fox requesting a call for a more powerful Bill, including an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, the inclusion of aviation and shipping emissions and the setting of annual milestones, met with an encouraging response. The Party's Quality of Life Policy Group has recently submitted a report with various proposals to the Shadow Cabinet. Dr Fox confirmed that an 80% target is a possibility and supported the need for rolling annual targets. He is concerned at the Government's proposal for a monitoring Committee composed entirely of Ministers and which has no responsibility for setting targets. The Conservative Party is committed to replacing APD with an airline pollution duty, so that full and empty planes would pay similar amounts. This would encourage companies to invest in newer, cleaner planes.

## IN BRIEF

### Airport Campaign

The Airport has now pulled its planning application until the middle of next year for an 'environmental assessment'.

### Plastic recycling

The Winscombe Parish Council skip has been withdrawn for economic reasons.

### Guest Speaker

We have been offered a speaker from the Environment Agency on the subject of 'Managed Coastline' and hope to organise this for March 2008.

### Meeting Venue

Suggestions are welcome for a more commodious meeting venue than All Saints Church.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### 7<sup>th</sup> November: New Food Group

November sees the launch of the new Food Group in Nailsea. Phil Carter has organised a 'brainstorm' food campaign meeting, inviting those who have shown an interest in food campaigns in the past.

### 21<sup>st</sup> November: Next meeting

This will be held at All Saints Church, Clevedon at 7.45.

### 6<sup>th</sup> December: St Nicholas Fair

Once again we will be having a stall at the evening St Nicholas Fair held in Hill Road, Clevedon. Please campaign for better weather than last year! Nearer the time we will organise a simple thank you party afterwards for members.

### 8<sup>th</sup> December: Climate Demo

This will be at 12.00 in central London. Julian and his family will be going with the banner.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

We would like to organise some social events so that members can get to know each other better. Ideas include visits to places which would be of interest to our group as well as more socially focused activities. Please contact Julian with any suggestions you have.

## FUTURE ARTICLES

The Newsletter will be produced quarterly. If you would like to contribute an item of interest, please send this in bullet point format (with any pictures) to [felicityharper@lineone.net](mailto:felicityharper@lineone.net) or by post to Felicity Harper, 28 Ash Grove, Clevedon BS21 7JR by 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

## WHO'S WHO?

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