

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter July 2008



Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth launches petition as part of a campaign to oppose plans to build a 2000MW power station burning LNG.

Built on the site of the old power station at Pembroke; it would result in emissions of CO2 of almost 6 million tonnes a year, and the heat wasted would be the equivalent to about 40% of Wales' electricity demands.

We calling for alternative plans for 3-4 smaller plants using CHP (combined heat and power) be built on the shores of the Haven. The waste heat of these plants can be used in the oil refineries and the LNG terminals where energy is required for re-gasification of the LNG

Have your say

Go to www.localeyes.org.uk to vote:

1. Build the Power Station as proposed
2. Build 3-4 CHP stations around the Haven
3. No power station
4. Other (send your ideas)

Twenty Years on the Front Line

Pembrokeshire is renowned for its wonderful scenery, sandy beaches, varied wildlife and other tourist attractions. Yet, over the last two decades, it has been in the front line of one environmental battle after another and Pembrokeshire FoE has taken a lead role throughout.

Formed originally as Narberth FoE in 1988, one of its first acts was to set up a one-day a week paper recycling trailer in the town. The inadequacies of this soon became clear when, on windy days, local group members received phone calls asking them to collect newspapers blowing around the streets. As a result, it was decided to launch a fund for a bottle bank. This was quickly rewarded when a businessman responded to our press release by donating two – one for Narberth and one for Pembroke Dock.

This was the first in a long line of successes for the group. Some of the others were:

- Taking legal action against the government to force it to compel oil and gas companies to provide environmental impact assessments for drilling activities off the north Pembrokeshire coast and in Cardigan Bay.
- Supporting parents in Fishguard who believed their children were being made ill by raw sewage being discharged into the harbour.
- Whilst campaigning for better recycling facilities, we also helped local residents at Cresselly block plans for a landfill site near village. *Continued on next page*

A petition is enclosed with your newsletter, plus background information by post /email

- Gave campaigning and legal support to the Tenby Clean Seas Campaign that ensured that the best treatment was used for the town's new sewerage system.
- Fought a seven year and often bitter battle to prevent dirty orimulsion fuel being burned at Pembroke power station.
- Responded to the Sea Empress oil spill at Milford Haven by helping to collect oiled birds from the sea, doing loads of media work, and producing the first report of the disaster. Our head office in London set up a legal team that collected a large amount of expert opinion and prepared a case for a prosecution that was then taken forward by the Environment Agency.
- Supported local people in preventing proposals for a nuclear waste site at the former arms depot at Trecwn.
- Played a similar role in seeing off plans for growing GM crops at Mathry.
- Put forward an alternative plan to the A40 dualling proposal that included minor but effective improvements. This upgrading proposal forms the basis of Welsh Assembly Government policy on the issue today.



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Not all our campaigns succeeded. Bluestone has gone ahead despite being in breach of planning guidance and the Welsh Assembly Government rejected our request to call-in the planning applications for the LNG terminals at Milford Haven because of their proximity to populated areas.

As well as working specifically on local issues, Pembrokeshire FoE has also campaigned in support of important national and international ones. We have had street stalls collecting signatures to, for

instance, halt rainforest destruction and protect peat bogs. We have lobbied in support of parliamentary measures such as the Home Energy Conservation Act and the Traffic Reduction Act. The most successful of these, though, has been the Climate Change Bill which is currently going through parliament and will compel the government to introduce policies that will cut greenhouse gas emission on a yearly basis.

In addition, Pembrokeshire FoE has, over the years, issued hundreds of press release and letters, done numerous radio and TV interviews, organised public meetings and given scores of talks and presentations on a wide range of issues. These have all helped to create a far greater awareness of environmental issues amongst the public and our political representatives.

Although the environmental movement has won many battles, we are still losing the war as the natural environment, humanity's life support system, continues to be degraded. Locally, we still have too much to do as we campaign for the proposed Pembroke power station to use LNG as efficiently as possible, keep a watchful eye on fresh government proposals to offer licences for oil and gas drilling off our coast, maintain strong opposition to the dualling of the A40 and much else.

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth AGM

Our AGM was held at SPAN on 22nd April. Richard Darwin chaired the meeting. Rebecca Cadbury will continue as treasure and membership secretary and Eleanor Clegg as co-ordinator for another year.

Paul Wimbush gave a talk about Lammas, the eco-smallholding project, which he illustrated with slides and a large constructed model of the site. They have put a lot of work into producing a very impressive and professional design. The group is very hopeful that they will get planning permission for the site at Glandwr this time. For more information about Lammas visit: <http://www.lammas.co.uk>

Thank you to everyone who donated plants to our stall at the SPAN BIG PLANT SALE

We made £93 after paying for the cost of the stall

Victory over Dualling of Robeston Wathen Bypass

We are delighted to report that, following the public inquiry into the Robeston Wathen bypass, the inspector has rejected the arguments of Pembrokeshire County Council that this road should be dualled.

The objections to the scheme raised by PCC just prior to the public inquiry were based on possible future traffic flows and safety issues with regard to the two plus one design. In this design, opposing traffic is separated by a meter wide red surfacing infill and double white lines (it is not the dangerous and discredited three lane variety, which nobody supports these days).

In particular they sighted a recent accident on such a road when a car exited from a lay-by. The council clearly hoped that if they could get this section of the A40 road dualled it would strengthen their demands to have the A40 dualled all the way from St Clears to Fishguard.

The inspector has suggested that the lay-by be closed or redesigned but rejected the overall arguments in favour of the dual carriageway. FOE has long always argued that dualling would not benefit Pembrokeshire, and we would like to this money invested in road improvement schemes and public transport.

Transition News

The Transition initiative, started by Rob Hopkins, is based around community projects that prepare for life after oil. The first town in the UK to embrace a future without oil was Totnes in Devon in 2006. The idea has rapidly taken root in cities, towns and villages in Britain, Ireland, USA, New Zealand and Australia.

Transition Bro Gwaun set up earlier this year in Fishguard is now producing a regular newsletter and is running courses in sustainable living. (Contact Dot on 01834 891286)

The film End of Suburbia was shown at the Small World Theatre in Cardigan on 10th July to launch Transition Teifi. About 70 people attended. Some

interesting environmental projects were suggested including a scheme to do trading by sailing boat. (Contact: info@naturewise.co.uk, tel: 07717473435)

The South Preseli Transition group has been formed following a showing of the film "Power of the Community" (how Cuba has survived and thrived without oil) at Llanfallteg Village Hall on May 23rd to a large and enthusiastic audience.

(Tel: 07768228584 and leave a message)

To find out more about what is happening in your local community go to: www.localeyes.org



Seeing what happens inside a wind turbine.

A visit to Mynydd Glogau Wind Farm at the end of an inspiring weekend at the FOE Cymru Conference at Gregynog Hall near Newtown

Power Boat Race in Pembrokeshire Waters

We recently, along with a number of other organisations, objected to the Royal Yachting Association's round Britain power boat race that passed through the wildlife rich waters off our coast. At this time of year, there are large numbers of protected cetaceans, seals and seabirds living in the route area. This includes common dolphins, harbour porpoise, minke whale, seals, puffins and manx shearwaters. As a result of our objections, the route was modified and restrictions were placed on the boats.

The Climate Change Bill has reached the committee stage in Parliament.

The government is sticking to the recommendations of a report made in the year 2000 to reduce CO2 by 60% by 2050, although powerful arguments were made by MPs in Parliament in favour of an 80% cut, the minimum cut proposed by leading Climate Change scientists. Friends of the Earth has been working hard lobbying MPs to support this.

The third reading of the Bill will take place after the summer recess. Many MPs feel that the Committee on Climate Change should make the final decision. They also believe that when the Bill is finally passed, it is important that the committee enforcing these cuts is independent of the Government and that the Prime Minister should be responsible for its enforcement rather than The Secretary of the State for Environment

While our government is dragging its feet Portugal, without its own oil, coal or gas and with no expertise in nuclear power, is pitching to lead Europe's clean -tech revolution with some of the most ambitious targets and timetables for renewables.

The world's largest solar photovoltaic farm, generating electricity straight from sunlight, is taking shape near Moura, a small town in a thinly populated and impoverished region that boasts the most sunshine per square meter per year in Europe.

In less than three years Portugal has trebled its hydropower capacity and quadrupled its wind power. The world's first commercial wave farm is being assembled in Porto and will shortly be towed out to sea and start pumping electricity into the grid later this year. (Extract from article in *Guardian Weekly*)

Airline emissions 'far higher than previous estimates'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/airline-emissions-far-higher-than-previous-estimates-821598.html>

A vision of a sustainable world rises up in a field; welcome to the climate camp

This year the Camp is at Kingsnorth power station in Kent, where the government and e-on think they are going to build the first coal-fired power station in thirty years. The Climate Camp has other ideas, like leaving fossil fuels in the ground for example! Today, burning coal is responsible for around one quarter of our global CO2 emissions. Unless there's a big fight over Kingsnorth these companies, with the backing of Government, want to build six more coal fired power stations in the next few years.

MASS DAY OF ACTION ON 9TH AUGUST

www.climatecamp.org.uk

If you are interested in going to camp or for the Day of Action contact Pembs FoE .

How Can I Stop Climate Change?

The biggest concern for us all today is the threat posed by climate change. In order to help us do something about it, FoE and Collins have produced an excellent and well-illustrated book, 'How Can I Stop Climate Change'. Clearly setting out the scientific evidence and stating what our governments need to do, it's also full of practical solutions to help you reduce your carbon footprint, top tips for green living, and a useful directory of green organisations. It can be bought online from www.foe.co.uk/shop fro £12.99.

Tip of the Day

Also, receive a tip each day on how to green your lifestyle by going to:

<http://www.foe.co.uk/living/tips/index.html>



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