

PRESS RELEASE

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

June 30th 2017

Clean Air Campaign

Pictured are members of the public signing postcards to their MP demanding urgent and effective action to clean up polluted air and phase out dirty diesel vehicles. The event, which took place at Castle Square in Haverfordwest recently (Saturday 24th of June), was organised jointly by Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth and Transition Town Haverfordwest as part of the UK-wide Clean Air Campaign.

Eleanor Clegg of Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth said:

“Air pollution is a health crisis. It is linked to heart disease, lung cancer, worsening asthma and poor lung development in children. Each year in the UK, it is estimated to cause around 40,000 premature deaths [1].

The government has recently been ordered by the High Court to produce a new air quality plan to address illegal levels of pollution in the country. We are calling on our local MPs to act urgently to tackle this serious health problem”.[2]

Kevin Thompson of Transition Town Haverfordwest said:

“Air pollution is an invisible killer; road traffic in the town centre is the biggest problem – and diesel is the worst of all. Which is why we need bolder and quicker action to get diesel vehicles off our roads and encourage people to walk and cycle more.”

“Here in Castle Square you can see that traffic is prioritised over pedestrians, people have a long wait for the traffic lights to go green, on this narrow street. The cars go by and accelerate up the High Street pumping out exhaust fumes.”

This is Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth thirtieth Year of Campaigning. On the evening of Saturday 8th of July, the group will be celebrating their successes with a party at the Pentre Ifan Centre at Felindre Farchog near Crymmych. All are welcome [3].

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Editor’s notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-35629034>
2. For more information about Friends of the Earth’s Clean Air campaign visit: <https://www.foe.co.uk/clean-air?origin=d7>

3. A small group of volunteers have, for over three decades, ensured that Pembrokeshire FoE has put into practice the founding philosophy of FoE, "*Think Globally, Act Locally*". Past successes will have to be replicated in the future if we are to play our part in protecting and enhancing the natural environment, which is our life support system, at the local and global level. A summary of Pembrokeshire FoE's successes over the last thirty years can be found on this link: <http://www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk/>

