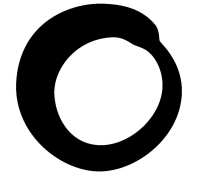


Harrow Friends of the Earth

Summer Newsletter 2003

Coordinator: Bernard Burns – 020 8422 8158



**Friends of
the Earth**

Wood Farm – Wildlife at Risk

Developers are seeking permission to build 19 houses on a valuable wildlife site – Wood Farm, off Wood Lane, Stanmore. This 62 acre site has become a haven for wildlife, such as skylarks, grass snakes and reputedly peregrine falcon. The development threatens to degrade these habitats on land which should be protected due to its designation as a **Site of Borough Importance** for Nature Conservation, and its status as **Green Belt Land**. It is also a **Countryside Conservation Area** and part of **Watling Chase Community Forest**. The developers do propose adding much of the land to the adjacent Stanmore Country Park, but Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, who manage that land, and have much ecological expertise, do not approve of the proposal, and have not even been consulted on the impact of the works.

A survey of habitats was performed last year, which recommended three further detailed species surveys to be done on bats, amphibians and reptiles, but none of these have yet taken place.

Objections to the plans should be submitted by 4th September, using the Harrow Council website at: www.harrow.gov.uk/council/departments/planning/dcform.asp?sid=P/1619/03/CFU or by post to the Chief Planning Officer at the Civic Centre. The application is due to be discussed at the meeting of the Development Control Committee on 10th September.

Other Green Belt sites in the same area to keep an eye on for potential development proposals:

- Cloisters Wood Country Club
- BAE's factory site
- Bentley Priory
- The National Orthopaedic Hospital

Esso Boycott

The local group have been helping to support the boycott of Esso petrol stations. This has taken the form of informing drivers about Esso and its American parent Exxon Mobil's disregard for global warming and its part in getting president Bush to reject the Kyoto agreement. Members are asked to support this boycott by avoiding filling-up at Esso petrol stations.

See also www.stopesso.com



Monthly Meetings

Harrow Friends of the Earth meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Scout headquarters in Northumberland Road, North Harrow, from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. The next meeting is on 10th September. Contact Bernard Burns on 020 8422 8158.

Airport Expansion

Harrow FOE recently set up a mock cheap flights check-in desk in the town centre, to draw the public into discussion of the environmental impact of airports expansion, and persuaded a number to write to their MPs expressing discontent with the government's subsidies to the aviation industry. Several of our members also responded to the public consultation.

The government is forecasting a large increase in demand for airport capacity over the coming decades. They don't point out that this demand is driven by the insanely low price of air flight – aviation fuel is untaxed. Air traffic contributes more to climate change than any other form of transport; it leads to more road congestion, air pollution and noise, and the subsidies encourage the import of more products that could have been produced locally. We would like to see promotion of cleaner alternatives such as high-speed rail networks and for the air industry to pay its way instead of being heavily subsidised by the taxpayer.

Clean Slate magazine

This is The practical journal of sustainable living. This contains regular articles and features such as: safe slug killing, ethical finance and building an eco bathroom. Clean slate is published every quarter to over 10,000 members of CAT (Centre of Alternative Technology). To become a member of CAT [from £12] and get your copy of Clean Slate: -

- 1) Phone 0845 330 4593
- 2) Go to the membership page at www.cat.org.uk
- 3) Post your payment to: CAT, Freepost, Machynlleth, SY20 9AZ.

Solar water heating grants!

Grants are available from the government for £500 for solar water heating. Other monies are available for other energy saving items eg heat pumps and PV installations.

<http://www.clear-skies.org/default.htm>

Or: Clear Skies, BRE Ltd, Building 17, Garston, Watford, WD25 9XX. Phone: 0870 243 0930

Who is your MP?

Many campaigns that are run urge people to contact their MPs. Now this is easier said than done. Some are unaware who their MP is and when they do know the name what is their address? Well there are a few web sites that give you this information. For instance there is: www.locata.co.uk/commons/ Just use your postcode.

The two Harrow MPs are Tony McNulty and Gareth Thomas. The address for all MPs is: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Meeting with London Assembly Representative

We have been invited to City Hall to visit Darren Johnson, our Green Party representative on the London Assembly, on 15th September.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

I/We wish to join/renew membership with Harrow Friends of the Earth: -

- NAME:.....
- ADDRESS:.....
- TELEPHONE and EMAIL:.....

Subscription rates: Individual £5....Household £8.... Unwaged £2.... Donation.....

Please send to: Jacob Gloor, 53, The Ridgeway, North Harrow, Middlesex. HA2 7QL.

Cheques made payable to 'Harrow friends of the Earth'.