

Green Pepper

The newsletter of the Chesham and Amersham Green Party
Issue 5

BOATS alert!

No, Climate Change has not hit Chesham quite so badly yet that our primary mode of transport has suddenly become the dinghy. Maybe next year. This year's BOATS problem arises from a ruling by DEFRA that Trapps Lane, Bottom Lane and Bunns Lane be designated as BOATS (Byways Open to All Traffic).

This overturned the previous decision of Bucks County Council, having been referred to DEFRA on appeal by the Trial Riders Fellowship.

If the DEFRA ruling stands it will mean that these beautiful lanes will become legally accessible to motorcycles and other motor traffic. This would ruin the area for walkers and riders, put them at risk of injury and threaten wildlife.

An Action Group ABC (Action for Bridleways in Chesham) has been set up to coordinate objections to the order that Bucks County Council will be obliged to issue. We are still awaiting this order, however it is likely it will be issued in April.

Contact for ABC is
Mel Chapinal on
(01494) 778325 or Email to
cheshamboats@btinternet.com

Say no to incinerators in Bucks

Bucks County Council is about to spend over **£100 million** of Council Tax-payers money on a giant incinerator. You'd hardly guess this since the "I" word has been conspicuous by its absence in any of their literature. It has now been re-branded as "Energy from Waste", and they even have the cheek to classify it as "re-use" in the Spring 2007 Chiltern Chronicle. The dioxins released in the process, however, are still the same.

Calling this process "re-use" is even more mendacious since the European Parliament looked into this very issue as recently as February this year. Local Green MEP Caroline Lucas said *"The decision by MEPs to reject an amendment which would have reclassified waste incineration is an important step for the environment: re-branding incineration as a means of recovery rather than waste disposal could create the impression that burning our rubbish is environmentally-friendly, which it clearly is not."*

An epidemiological study in France in 2003 noted a correlation between waste incinerators and the birth of **deformed babies**. It was conducted in one of the biggest regions of the country and took into account 70 incinerators. The authors concluded that "globally, significant risks for the exposed populations are observed for two types of deformities: chromosomal anomalies and other major deformities".

Nick Wilkins comments: *"At a time when, from the state of California to the Government of New Zealand, visionary authorities across the world are adopting Zero Waste strategies Bucks County Council seems set on burning its way out of its waste problem."*

Despite technological improvements, incinerators still remain a threat to public health since they release cancer-forming dioxins, some of the most toxic chemicals known to science.

Furthermore, incinerators actually create a demand for waste, because they require a consistent supply of materials (many of which could be recycled) to keep them in production. Oil production has peaked in many locations across the world, and the many oil derivatives (such as plastic) are set to become much more expensive. Put simply, sooner than we imagine we will no longer be able to afford today's over-packaged throwaway lifestyles.



Dr Caroline Lucas MEP

So let's use some of the millions of pounds earmarked for this canard in technologies that support recycling and reduction, and not suppose tomorrow's problems will be the same as today's."

The site for the proposed incinerator has not yet been decided. **Please make your objections known to your councillors before this plant lands on your doorstep!**

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Contact your candidate

If you would like to make contact with your Green candidate for the forthcoming elections, please Email to

info@cheshamgreen.org.uk

or telephone **778951**

Web site latest

Pay a visit to our web site for:-

- Biographies of all our candidates
- A tribute to Liz Southall, co-founder of the local Green Party
- Further comment on the BOATs issue
- Comment on the Town Council's environmental policy (relax...we quite like it!)
- Links to other Green web sites

www.cheshamgreen.org.uk



Other News

Trident: 'Illegal, Immoral and Obscenely Expensive'

The decision to replace the UK 's Trident nuclear weapons system is illegal, immoral, obscenely expensive – and utterly irrelevant to the real security threats we face today, according to local Green MEP Caroline Lucas.

Dr Lucas, who is also a national council member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Vice-President of the Stop the War Coalition, said: *"Voting in favour of replacing Trident is a shameful waste of billions of pounds of taxpayers' cash and it sends out a deadly signal to the rest of the world: 'we don't care about nuclear proliferation, so neither should you'.*

"It is completely hypocritical. How can we lecture countries like Iran on international law designed to halt the spread of nuclear weapons when we are prepared to so blithely ignore it ourselves?"

Dr Lucas, also a co-founder and Co-President of the European Parliament's cross-party peace group, added: *"The Government's support for Trident is yet another example of its failure to grasp the urgency of climate change. Imagine if its anticipated £76bn costs were invested in energy conservation and renewable energy generation – we might actually have a chance of cutting CO2 levels sufficiently to stave off the worst impacts of climate change.*

"Instead, we are left with an obscenely expensive white elephant that is likely to the world a more dangerous place – at best it is utterly irrelevant to the real security threats we face, chief among them climate change, and a missed opportunity to spend the cash on tackling them."

Funny Weather

Have you been looking at ways of communicating the facts about Climate Change in an entertaining and informative way? You might look no further than the excellent comic published by COIN (Climate Outreach and Information Network) called "Funny Weather". Chesham and Amersham Green Party has some copies of this that it would be happy to release to anyone who is interested, particularly if you have connections with education.

Green Candidates 2007

⇒ Waterside	Peter Hawkes
⇒ St Marys	Kate Folly
⇒ Lowndes	Phil Folly
⇒ Newtown	Nick Wilkins
⇒ Townsend	Rob Craig
⇒ Chalfont St Peter (Central)	Tony Abbott