

Green Pepper

The newsletter of the Chiltern Green Party

Issue 6

No to ALL airport expansion

The decision to go ahead with a third runway at Heathrow will result in an extra 270,000 flights a year over South Bucks and the Chilterns. This will be "intolerable for anyone who values peace and quiet", according to the Chief Officer of the Chiltern Conservation Board.

This comes on top of proposals by the National Air Traffic Service to redirect flights over the Chilterns, mainly from Luton airport. Despite opposing the Heathrow runway, the Conservatives have not ruled out further expansion at airports in the South East, which could include Luton.

The Green Party opposes *all* airport expansion, rejecting economic arguments as misleading when set against the future costs of dealing with the effects of Climate Change.

Local Green MEP **Dr Caroline Lucas** said: "Any government which even thinks about giving the go-ahead to expansion at Heathrow, while at the same time promising a huge reduction in carbon emissions by 2020, is quite simply living in a fantasy land."

Of the Emissions Trading Scheme, which the Government hopes will do the job, she noted: "The [EU] Commission's own figures show that the result of the ETS will be that by 2020, instead of growing by 142%, the European aviation industry would still grow by around 135%!"

Traffic Reduction - not traffic lights!

Chiltern Green Party reacted with dismay at proposals to address traffic and air pollution problems in the Broad St and Berkhamstead Rd areas of Chesham by installing new traffic lights. **Phil Folly** commented: "The Council should be thinking about a Traffic Reduction Plan for this area, not traffic lights. Pollution can only be addressed by reducing the volume of traffic; there's every chance that traffic lights will just worsen the problem."

At the heart of the Traffic Reduction Plan should be a commitment to more frequent and later-running buses with greater outreach to the nearby villages. Worryingly, no mention of the rural transport problem appeared in the first draft of the Older People's Action plan, jointly produced by Chiltern and Bucks County Council. With the area's problems only likely to get worse when the Healthzone arrives, Greens are demanding improvements to these services.

We also believe there should be more active promotion of the county's Car Share scheme www.buckscarshare.co.uk. "Chesham in Transition" promoter **Robert Craig**, who lives in central Chesham, said: "My family conducted an informal survey and found that over 90% of the cars travelling along these roads had only one person in them. The times of heaviest congestion are when people are on regular journeys, such as to and from school or work, so there is huge potential for car sharing to be both viable and effective."

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate **Nick Wilkins** commented: "Traffic reduction planning is a vital ingredient in reducing our environmental impact. The Council is failing to take advantage of provisions in the Sustainable Communities Act to introduce a whole series of green measures, from free home insulation schemes to keeping open local amenities such as Post Offices."

Local MEP and Green Party leader **Dr Caroline Lucas** said recently that the UK was "failing miserably" to meet air quality targets that it was supposed to have met in 2005. This was in the light of Defra applying for a further extension to achieve them and the EU commission threatening legal action.

She said: "Months down the line, we see ministers blindly persisting in their efforts to open new coal fired power stations and expand airports - despite the levels of pollution that these developments will cause, and ignoring the warnings of health and environmental experts."

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Dr Caroline Lucas MEP

Contact your candidate

You can contact your candidate through our website:

www.chilterngreenparty.org.uk

or by calling **020 8144 0671**

Diary Dates

Wed 3rd June, 1pm & 8pm
The Age of Stupid, Elgiva

Thu 4th June
VOTE GREEN AT THE COUNTY AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. RE-ELECT CAROLINE LUCAS!

Wed 10th June, 7.45pm
'Palestine Then and Now', White Hill Centre, Chesham

Sat 13th June
Chesham Carnival

Sat 20th June, 10am-4pm
'Change For Chesham' (wiser travel and anti-pollution event), Lowndes Park, Chesham

Thu 25th June, 7.30pm
Green Drinks, Drawing Room



Other News

Chesham in Transition

Chesham in Transition is part of a worldwide movement that aims to transform the way people live in order for our community to prosper in the wake of the twin challenges of climate change and diminishing oil supplies.

If you wish to learn more about this, or become involved, please Email info@cheshamintransition.org.uk

The Age of Stupid

"The Age of Stupid" is the new cinema documentary from the director of 'McLibel' and the producer of the Oscar-winning 'One Day In September'. This ambitious drama documentary-animation hybrid stars Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite as an old man living in the devastated world of 2055, watching "archive" footage from 2008 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change while we had the chance?

The Age of Stupid will be shown at the Elgiva, Chesham on **Wed 3rd June** at 1pm and 8pm, with a guest speaker at the second showing.

Green Drinks

On the last Thursday of every month, a new social event takes place at 'The Drawing Room' cafe in Chesham. The gathering is open to all like-minded ethical and environmental thinkers and is non party-political. The evening starts around 7.30pm.

This is an opportunity to find out more about our community groups, things that are going on in and around Chesham, or just have a drink with friends.

You can buy Fairtrade coffee etc and other soft drinks and snacks, or bring your own (corkage applies).

County Council Election Candidates



Chesham North-West
Phil Folly

Chesham East
Nick Wilkins



Thames
Jem Bailey

Chiltern Ridges
Robert Craig



Chess Valley
Tina Kamei

Chalfont St Peter
Tony Abbott