



Update

The Age of Stupid

After a successful screening at St Gabriel's church in Willesden, we are looking for other opportunities to show this film. See our new campaign page <http://brentfoe.com/ageofstupid> for details.



Photo: Jonathan Goldberg

Eco Hustings

Over 80 people and all four candidates for Brent Central attended our public meeting in Willesden in April, putting parties' environmental policies in the spotlight.

Brent Cross

Group members raised questions at several Parliamentary Hustings, gaining further press coverage. New Secretary of State Eric Pickles has now approved the scheme that his predecessor, John Denham, put on hold. The Coalition continues to call for a public inquiry. See <http://brentcrosscoalition.blogspot.com/>.

Website

Our new website www.brentfoe.com was launched this Spring, replacing the old site which is now at <http://archive.brentfoe.com>.

Fix the Food Chain

Brent MPs were not drawn in a Private Members' ballot for a Sustainable Livestock Bill. Take action to ask MPs to back a meat and dairy law at http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/biodiversity/press_for_change/ask_mps_to_back_bill_23806.html.

Climate Change Strategy

Budget cuts have meant 2 redundancies in the Environment and Culture department. We are lobbying to ensure the Climate Change Strategy is kept on track and still await the steering group, promised this Spring, to be set up.

Does Blue and Yellow Equal Green?

David Cameron has pledged to make the new coalition the "greenest government ever", yet local Conservatives fell short on green policies at a pre-election eco hustings organised by Brent FoE in Willesden.



Photo: Carmen Klammer

FoE has responded to Cameron asking him to cut UK emissions by 42 per cent by 2020 without offsetting. Other appointments to note include Lib Dem Chris Huhne who has replaced Ed Miliband as Energy and Climate Change Secretary, and Britain now has its very first Green Party MP, Caroline Lucas, representing Brighton Pavillion.

At our hustings in April, Conservative candidate Sachin Rajput defended his party's policies before an 80-strong audience. Lib Dem Sarah Teather MP, now re-elected as MP for Brent Central, was vocal in supporting her party's manifesto - the greenest of the three main parties according to FoE. Labour's Dawn Butler MP was proud that her Government had introduced the world's first climate change law, yet she reiterated the dubious business case for the now-axed Heathrow expansion.

Shahrar Ali outlined the Green party's ambitious plans for green jobs and emissions reductions. Both he and Sarah Teather have signed FoE's [climate change election pledges](#), alongside Labour's MP Barry Gardiner, who held onto his Brent North seat. Glenda Jackson was re-elected in neighbouring Hampstead & Kilburn for Labour.

For videos of the hustings see: www.brentfoe.com/node/59

Green Tip: *It's no coincidence that BBQ season coincides with the time many locally grown fruits and vegetables are at their best. Local produce typically means fewer chemicals were used to grow and preserve foods, and since it doesn't have to travel long distances, less energy is consumed in transporting them. Consult a seasonal produce calendar, visit your local farmers' market, or why not grow your own veg.*

Read and recycle

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. Please recycle once you have finished it or, better still, give it to a friend.



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Read this newsletter online at www.brentfoe.com

Brent FoE Members In Council Elections



Photo: Campaign for Better Transport

In May three Brent FoE members – Shafique Choudhary, Wystan Palm and Lia Colacicco - ran for seats on Brent Council. Shafique won a seat in the Barnhill ward for Labour, with 14% of the vote.

Wystan stood for the Liberal Democrats in Kilburn, and Lia (pictured above with Shafique), who leads the Brent Cross Coalition, stood for the Green Party in Mapesbury. They gained 10% and 4% of the vote respectively - significant for Lia as the Greens had only a small party backing. This was the first year that the Green party fielded a full slate of candidates across Brent in the local elections.

In a reversal of the national trend, the Council's leadership has now changed from a Lib Dem/Conservative coalition to a Labour majority. Cllr James Powney (Labour) is the new lead member for the environment. FoE is waiting to see whether the change will make Brent more or less green.

Lia thinks at least one policy could help: Labour have promised to cut a £25 fee for collection of old household items. "People used to leave items in the street, so they would be classified as contaminated and thrown away," she said. "Now the council will pick them up, so they will be reused or recycled."

Brent Labour party have pledged to introduce a Green Charter in consultation with local residents and stakeholders. We look forward to seeing what this will mean for the Borough.

Brent Campaign against Climate Change



At the end of March, a network of environmental campaigners, trade unionists and representatives of tenants', residents' and community associations in Brent launched their own group of the national Campaign against Climate Change.

While the national Campaign is best-known for organising a yearly climate march in December, the local branch aims to promote climate initiatives within the borough.

Brent CaCC recently held a public meeting at the Tricycle in Kilburn. Mary Brodwin from the national CaCC and Brent trade unionist Roger Cox talked about their experiences at the People's World Conference on Climate Change in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The conference took place in April in response to 2009's failed summit in Copenhagen.

The Brent group is holding a public meeting and discussion, "The Facts About Climate Change" on climate change scepticism on June 23rd at 7.30pm at Willesden Green library. Brent FoE member Steffi Gray will chair. All are welcome. For more info see <http://www.brentcacc.com/>

CaCC held a similar event in Bloomsbury in April. Speakers from CaCC, Greenpeace, Climate Outreach & Information Network and the Guardian talked about climate change coverage in the press. They discussed how the media has given sceptics equal coverage for the sake of journalistic "balance", when only a very small percentage of scientists deny climate change.

For more information about the Brent campaign email brentcacc@gmail.com.

Monthly meetings Brent Friends of the Earth meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Why not come along and get involved? Visit www.brentfoe.com for details.