



Hull

EC



Hull's environmental newsletter. Published by Hull Friends of the Earth www.hfoe.org.uk

October 2011 Issue 35

# Gasification scheme gets go-ahead

## Energy from Waste Gasification Plant planning proposal

Hull FoE at Planning Committee Wed 12 October, Hull City Council

### The Spencers' planning application was approved by 7 votes to 5.

There had been a flurry of late representations, for and against. Spencers marshalled their people to speak for; about 3 local businesses a resident, Hilary for HullFoE and Barry for Communities Against Toxics spoke against.

The discussion was mainly around transport ie whether the roads and/or river could cope with the volume of traffic generated. The Transportation Officer

said they could, and councillors felt they therefore had no reasons to refuse that would stand up on appeal.

#### Our position was that:

FoE has taken a keen interest in waste and recycling issues throughout its 40 years. We support the Council's recycling efforts and have helped pioneer some of them.

We've looked in detail at this proposal and have taken advice from FoE's national experts in waste management.

#### We are advised that this is slightly better than an incinerator, but only slightly. our two main objections:

- ▶ At present the industrial biodegradable waste goes to land fill where it produces methane and no energy recovery, and this schemewouldbean improvement on that. Many members of the group would prefer that this was composted and the compost used on the land to improve soil structure and retain minerals. That is what happens to our domestic (brown bin) food waste.

- ▶ The heat created in generating the electricity is not used. If this was a combined heat and power plant, it would be much more efficient in environmental terms. The applicants should have chosen a site where development could be combined with industrial or office development which could use the heat. We urge the Council to make this a requirement of future proposed energy from waste schemes.

Hull FoE members also pointed out that with the rising cost of food, less is likely to be wasted in the future; this proposed plant might draw from an increasingly large area with more traffic created.

If as a result of this application a consultative panel is set up, Hull FoE requested to be represented on it.

Ian and Sue Jolliffe

## DIARY DATES

### Tues 1 November 7.30 pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

### Sat 19 November 11-3

Green Fair, Spring Bank Community Centre, West Parade (near Tap pub).

Room set up from 9am. Stalls set up from 10am, open to public from 11am.

**Offers of help with set up, kitchen, kids' activities, music, HFoE stall as soon as possible please.**

All offers to help on stalls etc to Sue or Hilary (contact details back page).

### Hull Transition

Meet 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at The Eagle, Coltman Street, 7.30. Contact 07816 141169, email: lausannet@yahoo.co.uk

### Beverly FoE

Meet 1st Thursday each month at **Hodgson's Pub**, Beverly, 7.30.

Email: shan@voice-international.net

Although, this proposed scheme composts the waste in an anaerobic digester, it then uses the residual organic matter as fuel for the gasification plant. This is less beneficial for the environment and lower on the waste hierarchy. If Spencers get the contract for handling domestic waste, waste which is being composted will be diverted to a 'lower level' of treatment.

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# Incredible Edible Todmorden

## Last month Peter and I spent an inspiring weekend in Todmorden, West Yorkshire

We were taking part in a gathering of representatives, from towns in this country and abroad, who are already, or aspiring to, follow Todmorden's example in planting food all around their town. If you haven't heard of them, there is lots of great information on their website, [www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk](http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk)

They describe themselves as a movement of ordinary people acting together for a sustainable future, using the common language of food. From their beginnings with herb gardens, they've taken to planting and growing veggies and trees all round town. They've planted several orchards and there are more to come. They're working with public bodies around the town to use their land—like the fire, police and railway stations—or to work with them on their own Incredible ideas.

You may have heard of 'guerilla gardeners' planting surreptitiously anywhere there is waste or unused land; the new in word is 'Vegetantes'!

The canals around the area have been targeted and Incredible Edibles have been given permission to do whatever they like with all the canalside areas that are in need of attention.

Every school in the town is now involved in growing with them and they promote food-based learning for the community as a whole. One school is even using a nearby cemetery as a growing area. There are plans to further use this cemetery to plant fruit trees between the rows of headstones!

They have also branched out to greenfield sites, working on donated land from a garden centre, on the outskirts of town, to create a major resource for growing and learning.



We were very sorry to learn of the death of Hilary's mother recently, aged 90 years. The Friends extend their warmest sympathy to Hilary and her family.



## Mary Clear

from **Incredible Edible Todmorden**, will be at the Green Fair from **11am to 12 noon** on **Saturday 19 November** at Spring Bank Community Centre, to tell us all how it was done.

**Don't miss her inspiring talk!**

The schools have introduced horticultural lessons using the Incredible Edibles' large donated greenfield site.

People can visit the food trail with a guide, as we did, and there is a Bee trail as well to emphasise our dependency on the bee population.

The Town is now on the Eco-tourism trail, as one travel agent in Japan advertises Todmorden on one of its World Eco Tours!

Cookery demonstrations in the street emphasise how easy it is to produce and cook locally sourced seasonal food. Sellers in the covered market now state exactly where their local produce comes from.

At the weekend's workshops we were able to hear from other town groups about their 'Incredible Edible' efforts and we've come back determined to 'have a go' in Beverley.

Sue Dack

## Two designs of beehive in the Wildlife Garden, Pearson Park, Hull



Workers in the garden have noticed that the bees in the one on the right (an African design) seem less aggressive, but the honey is more difficult to harvest.

A Bee Campaign is to be launched by national FoE next spring. Hull FoE have agreed that locally this should highlight what is already being done to improve biodiversity, as well as the causes of problems.

# Green Fair

11.00 ..... Fair opened by **Mary Clear**  
from *Incredible Edible Todmorden*

11.30-12.00... **Making Towns Edible**  
Talk by Mary Clear, with opportunity  
to ask questions afterwards

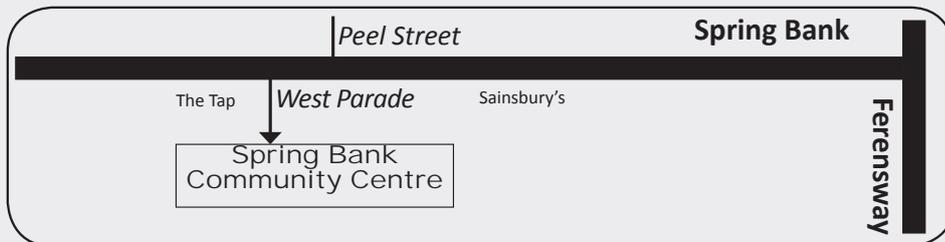
**Come and browse —  
there's lots of stalls, info on  
green issues, and our ever-  
popular café!**

**MUSIC, CRAFTS, BOOKS,  
ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS, AND  
FAIRTRADE/VEG/VEGAN CAFÉ**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**11 AM - 3 PM**

**SPRING BANK COMMUNITY CENTRE, WEST PARADE, SPRING BANK**  
TAP PUB ON CORNER

**ADMISSION:** GROWNUPS=20P BIG KIDS=10P LITTLE KIDS=FREE



Buses - Peel Street stop: 13, 15, 33, 34, 44, 45, 47, 63, 115



# Transition Hull — What's going on?

**As most Eco readers will know, Transition Hull is a community-based response to climate change and peak oil, and is one of many such initiatives across the UK and further afield.**

We were pleased this summer to learn that Hull City Council Community Initiatives Budget will be funding us for a third year running.

We used a small grant from the Tudor Trust to start developing the Constable Street plot to grow a variety of vegetables, herbs, salad stuff and flowers with local children, and this is one of the activities we will be continuing with the help of the HCC grant.

Other activities will include a Barn Dance on Friday 11 November (7pm at Boulevard Village Hall), a Scrappy Do Workshop in half term week, plus film showings and speakers aiming at raising awareness of the challenges and how we might respond to them.



We are delighted that so much activity with a green focus is taking place in Hull this autumn, which also provides a way for the various groups to network. The Raw Hull events—the Wild Exchange foraging event in September and the Green Exchange film and networking event in October—were really worthwhile and enjoyable.

## Common Fisheries Policy Marinet update

Marinet are taking the campaign to Brussels, where the Fish For the Future Forum led by Chris Davies MEP is attracting cross-party support in the European parliament.

Likewise the FCFCG-organised event at the start of October (Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens), which brought together different groups and started to map all the initiatives across the Hull and East Riding area, of which there are an impressive number.

At the end of October the BTCV Big Green Weekend event at Western Cemetery on Spring Bank (22-23 October) will be another great opportunity to get together and act together (yet another acronym—British Trust for Conservation Volunteers). Plus of course the Hull Friends of the Earth Green Fair in November!

We are keen to involve more active members in Transition Hull, especially since Transition initiatives have been set up recently in Beverley and Hornsea, which are now priorities for some of our previous members.

We hold regular meetings on 2nd Monday and 4th Monday of the month, 7.30, at the Eagle on Anlaby Road and sessions on the Constable Street field take place most weeks.

Ring Lausanne on 07816 141169 if you want to find out more...

Or contact Vicky on [zeetoria@msn.com](mailto:zeetoria@msn.com) to join our email circulation list.

Jenny Parsons

[www.transitionhull.co.uk](http://www.transitionhull.co.uk)

### CORRECTION

In the last copy of ECO in the item on the Common Fisheries Policy we implied that Diana Johnson MP had not responded to the request to contact the Fisheries' Minister on behalf of the campaign. This statement was not correct. Diana Johnson has since forwarded the letters that she wrote to Richard Benyon (the Fisheries Minister) on behalf of Haris (for Marinet/Hull FoE). These and the responses *did* include representations on behalf of Marinet.

On behalf of Hull FoE we would like to apologise for the misunderstanding and thank Diana for this support she has given to the campaign.

Sue Jolliffe  
Hull FoE Coordinator

# Humber Environmental Network Conference

## Legislation update

The first speaker was Martin Collingwood, a solicitor from Andrew Jackson, who had been a construction lawyer and was now involved with legislation in respect of renewable and mainstream energy issues. The regulations from Europe are targets in the form of Directives. National governments decide whether and how to implement them. Renewable energy aspirations produced in 2011 are aimed at producing results by 2050.

Martin defined 'renewable' as a source of energy which is natural and continuous in the environment. He listed wind, solar, wave, tidal, hydro, biomass and biofuels.

The UK is well placed for most of these. We have many geothermal hot spots as well as our long standing wind and tidal expertise. It has very good research and development facilities.

Our area, too, is well placed for expansion in renewable energy production. In terms of offshore wind power there are many factors to resolve before they are fully up and running. The new—third-round of development has to deal with issues of conservation, distance, communication, emergencies, servicing, and so on.

Martin dealt with many issues that FoE have highlighted relating to incineration, biomass and anaerobic digestion options including waste disposal, traffic, emissions, etc. European legislation covers many of these but issues around the competition for fuel and the disposal of heat and end product are still somewhat vague.

There is an aim for all new buildings to be zero carbon by 2050. At present 50% of carbon emissions come from

households. It is probably up to us to make sure our government departments do.

Jenny Lawson of Enterprise Europe Network Yorkshire ([info@ee-yorkshire.com](mailto:info@ee-yorkshire.com)) claimed that her session would be the most tedious of them all. In fact it turned out to be the most useful and interesting. The EE Network had started out in North Yorkshire as the Ryedale Environment Conservation Group. It now advises Yorkshire and Humberside businesses on doing business in Europe.

Regulations on industrial emissions are coming in seven stages up to 2013 and there will be standardisation of inspection visits of 1 to 3 years depending on the industry. More substances will be banned by 2014/15 including six to go now (unless authorised) eg cadmium in jewellery. A new classification of three million substances will be completed by the end of 2011.

In the pipeline—the waste Electric and Electronic Equipment [WEEE] legislation of 2002 needs amending and given wider scope; the biocides legislation scope will be extended and tightened. Also in draft—proposals for energy audits and incentives.

Possibilities for the future include research into the toxicity of mixtures of products; concepts of sustainability, nano materials, endocrine disruptors; bio waste reduction and unlocking its energy; construction waste, vehicle end of life exemptions; green procurement (public sector encouraged to lead the way with environmental criteria—again it's probably up to us to lean.)

Enterprise Europe Network has a free newsletter which might be a useful resource if it keeps us up to date with changes in legislation. The Yorkshire Energy Partnership is also a resource that we can tap into: [www.yorkshireenergypartnership.org.uk](http://www.yorkshireenergypartnership.org.uk)

The website [www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk) is highly recommended—updated regularly and comprehensive. It is specific to different types of organisation.

Mick Whittaker from Groundwork Leeds offers environmental management support to industries, businesses and the public sector. Environmental management equals risk management as it deals with issues of floods, drought, emissions, natural resources and the like.

### Diana Sandy

8 September 2011  
at Water's Edge, on on Humber  
[diana@sandy246.karoo.co.uk](mailto:diana@sandy246.karoo.co.uk)

### HUMBER ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK (HEN)

The Humber Environmental Network works with businesses in the Humber area to help them make sense of the green agenda and access support to reduce their environmental impacts.

Future gatherings may be noteworthy:

#### **15 November 2011**

Sustainable Procurement/Waste  
at Arc, Hull

#### **7 February 2012**

Renewable Energy  
at Water's Edge, Barton on Humber

*For further information about the Humber Environmental Network and the services available or to book for one of the events please contact Emma Davies*  
[emma.davies@energypartnership.org.uk](mailto:emma.davies@energypartnership.org.uk)

# Wildlife notes

**Letters in the HDM raised the issue of an untidy traffic island** outside the Northern Gateway which is maintained by the Environment Agency.

I had visions of an outbreak of the tidiness brigade wanting all wild areas to be cleared, so a site visit was needed. It was a damp day and I considered the bus pass, but how would I persuade the driver to make several turns around the island while I took notes? So on the bike and a pleasant ride along the Withernsea cycle path, alongside the Lozenge wildlife area, over the footbridge and along by Holderness Drain—well worth it! This brings you out on Hedon Road near the traffic island.

The offending piece of land is a strip about 3m wide around the edge which is now mainly covered with mugwort, while the rest of the island, which is about 50m across, is planted with trees and garden shrubs. Lack of funding means that regular maintenance has been reduced.

One approach, mentioned at a biodiversity meeting, would be to increase the variety of flowers and aim to give a more attractive and longer lasting display.

**Such pieces of land, even in the middle of a busy road, can provide sanctuary for bugs, bees and butterflies and are potential stepping-stones in the city.**

## August

YWT had a number of wildlife events arranged in August, the highlight for me being the **wild-food walk** at Loglands and the discovery that a wildflower, common on unused industrial land, makes the most delicious vegetable in spring. Something to look forward to!

**The Sidmouth Street School allotment** was tackled by two groups of volunteers from Jackson's Bakery. They made a good job of it and the challenge now is to keep it up to scratch.

The month finished with an **ECO day at Noddle Hill**. I had a go at being a bodger; there will be another chance for this at an open day, run by BTCV, in the General Cemetery on Spring Bank West on the 22/23 Oct.

## September

September and it was time for the Hull in Bloom presentations...

**Third** place for the Newland wildlife garden in the Wyke area and **first place for the Sculcoates Cemetery** in the wildlife section for Hull. A

somersault onto the stage, with the Payback Team colours, to receive the rose-bowl for the year.

Other groups have helped with this project, CVS (now finished because of lack of funding), Business in the Community and local residents.

## October

The autumn open day at the cemetery took place in early October. A chance to erect another bench and do some more planting ready for next year.

## November

The regular tree planting along Barmston Drain is set for **Friday 25 Nov** 1.00 to 3.00 p.m. with pupils from Stepney Lane School, weather permitting. Volunteers welcome.

David Longthorn

## "Running with Butterflies"

Some of the more long-standing members of Hull FoE might remember **John Walford** who between 1985 and 1999 was an active member and, for six of those years, editor of this magazine. John moved away to the Skipton area but for the past four years has lived in York. He has always had a wide range of interests (and jobs!) and in the last few years has written stories and essays which have been favourably received at open mic and writers' groups in and around York.

The best thirty two of these have now been collected into a book called **Running With Butterflies** and published by Stairwell Books of York. Much of the writing is set in and around Hull and should be of interest to locals.

Stairwell Books are running a stall at the Green Fair on 19 November, where the author will be present, and the book will be available at a special price of £5. Stairwell will also have a selection of works by poets and prose writers from the York area.

If you are unable to make the Green Fair but would like a copy of John's book, contact:

[john12walford@btinternet.com](mailto:john12walford@btinternet.com) or  
[rose@stairwellbooks.com](mailto:rose@stairwellbooks.com)

Alan Gillott  
Stairwell Books

## A grand day out down on the farm

Jenny Parsons visited East Hull Community Farm earlier this year, and sends us this report

**East Hull Community Farm** has been in existence for the best part of 20 years, and produces eggs, some bacon, sausage, beefburgers and lamb, and some seasonal fruit and vegetables. It is a registered charity and provides activity, education and training for adults with learning difficulties.

### Lots to see...

- ▶ The eggs are from barn-raised Rhode Island Reds, currently producing about 300 eggs a day.
- ▶ The sheep on the farm produced 18 surviving lambs this year, and sheep shearing is an annual event.
- ▶ There are traditional breeds of pigs producing piglets, and
- ▶ Calves which are raised for a local farm, where they spend a further period being fattened as beef cattle.
- ▶ The community farm is also home to ducks, turkeys, rabbits, guinea pigs, a cow, a donkey and a goat.
- ▶ There are some vegetable patches, raised beds and a large greenhouse.

With the current pressures on funding, it appears that the farm may not be able to provide activities on five days a week any longer. The open day on Saturday 7 May 2011 was designed to bring the farm to the attention of the public and was very well attended. It was a well-organised fun day out, run by friendly, helpful and knowledgeable people, making it possible to learn a lot about the farm.

**The Farm Shop is open every weekday up till 4 pm.**

East Hull Community Farm,  
Barnham Road,  
Bilton Grange, Hull, HU9 4EE

 **Tel: 01482 783990**

# Conference 2011 Nottingham

[http://www.foe.co.uk/news/remembering\\_conference2011\\_32709.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/news/remembering_conference2011_32709.html)

**This year's conference was entitled a passport to 2040—A celebration of the last 40 years and an introduction to the next.**

The message was unequivocal—the next 40 years are going to be difficult. We are going to have to face the problems caused by the last 40 years. It is not going to be an easy ride.

Friends of the Earth has been developing new strategies to deal with the changing situation. New campaigns are due and we hope that more people come on board to rise to the challenges that face us.

Highlights of the conference include an evening with directors past and present—Andy Atkins, Tom Burke, Jonathon Porritt, Tony Juniper and Charles Secrett who had the best quote of the night: 'Friends of the Earth always let facts get in the way of a good story!'

Their best advice was we should be more humorous, help people reconnect with nature, spread across other issues such as social justice and tackle economics head on—with facts.

At the awards evening, Marinet very deservedly won an award for the most powerful communication of the year—Stephen Eades accepted the award for the Marinet booklet 'The Ocean Planet'. After the awards, everyone sang happy Birthday to Hull Friends of the Earth. A fantastic tribute to one of the (if not the) longest continuously running FoE groups in the UK. I was so proud to represent the group.

As usual, the speakers were eloquent and relevant. A mention must be given here to Kate Pickett co-author of The



Lee-Ann at Conference

Spirit Level and part of the Equality Trust. Her talk on the links between inequality and society's ills was very revealing. The slides used in the talk can be seen at <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/resources/slides> and the evidence for health and social problems being worse in unequal countries can be found here: <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/why/evidence>

Conference gives me perspective. When we struggle to get people to an event or try to fit in time to help get postcards signed or turn out on a grim day it's so nice to go to conference and see that our hard earned 100-odd responses have been added to the contributions from the other 200 groups and it all makes thousands together. In the same way, hearing from international groups gives yet a larger perspective. We have it relatively easy in this country, no struggle for food or water, no aftermath of tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, drought, war. We sat in communal discomfort to hear stories from Friends of the Earth International's Croatian and Nigerian representatives only to be told how important our contribution is. Humbling but enormously motivating.

Lee-Ann Williams



Hull FoE stall at Conference



# Hull Friends of the Earth

## M E M B E R S H I P

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to subscribe to the <b>newsletter only</b> <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Payment</b>	
		I enclose:	
<b>Name</b> (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Membership or subscription fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
<b>Address</b>		Donation	£
<b>Postcode</b>		<b>Total</b>	£
<b>Telephone</b>		Please make cheques payable to Hull Friends of the Earth	
<b>Email</b>			
<b>Standing Order Mandate</b>		<b>Happy to help?</b>	
<b>Hull Friends of the Earth</b> Standing Order Mandate <b>OR</b> (delete one or the other as appropriate) Amendment cancelling any previous instructions to pay money to Hull Friends of the Earth. (Please fill in the details of your own account and the bank where it is held.)		Volunteers are always needed. If you might be able to help, please underline what you would be able to help with: ► <b>Stalls</b> ► <b>Letter writing</b> ► <b>Delivering newsletters</b> ► <b>Other ways</b> (please specify)	
Your account name		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Newsletter by email</b></p> <p>If you would like to receive the newsletter as a full colour <b>pdf</b> attachment, please send your email address to <b>sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk</b> stating whether you would like to receive it instead of or as well as a paper copy</p> <p>We will use the contact details you have provided to keep you up to date on our campaigns and how you can help us. If you'd rather NOT receive this information from us, please tick here <input type="checkbox"/></p> </div>	
Your account number			
Your bank			
Bank branch			
Bank address			
Bank postcode			
Upon receipt of this order and then every year following on or about the _____ day of _____ (month) until otherwise instructed, please pay to Hull Friends of the Earth, Yorkshire Bank plc, 38 Prince's Avenue, Hull HU5 3QQ Account number: 27534801 Branch sort code: 05 05 25 the sum of TWO POUNDS (unwaged) or FIVE POUNDS (waged) or _____ (delete and/or fill in as required - donations over the minimum amount are welcome) mentioning the reference _____ (your own name or something short we can identify you by on the bank statements!) Signed _____ Date _____			
Please return to the <b>Membership Secretary</b> , Sue Jolliffe, 47 Kingsway, Cottingham, HU16 5BB			

## Hull Friends of the Earth: CONTACTS

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