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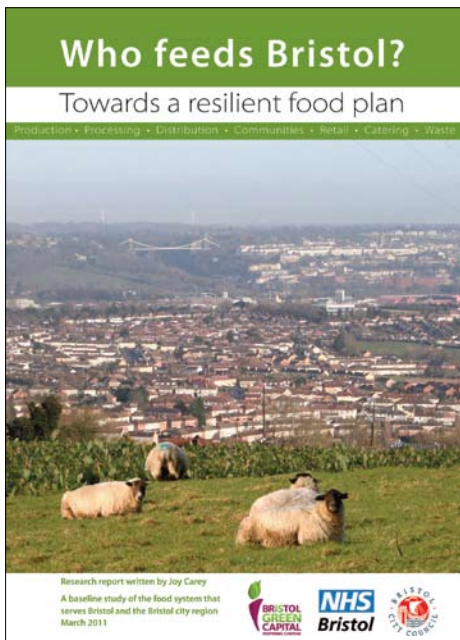
IN THIS ISSUE: Vanguard Local Plan • Councillor Interviews • Priorities

Who Feeds Bristol?

The "Who Feeds Bristol?" report was commissioned by NHS Bristol in response to a need identified by Bristol's Green Capital Momentum Group. It is a snapshot of the current state-of-play of Bristol's food systems – its food businesses, how it deals with food waste, where our food is produced, what's going on in community projects, and some suggestions about what we could do to safeguard our food supply in the future.

Some of the scariest statistics to emerge, concern the increasing supermarket domination of the city's food supply, and the fragility of the supply chains which keep our independent retailers going. For example:

- In 2004, the 'big four' supermarkets had 19 stores in Greater Bristol. By 2010 this had increased to 76, with 21 stores being given planning permission within the last 2 years.
- There are only 180 independent shops left in Bristol which supply fresh food on a daily basis – that's an average of 5 shops per ward. However, 10 wards (out of 35 total) are without any independent greengrocer at all.
- St Philips wholesale market supplies virtually all the independent greengrocers from Oxford to Cornwall. Supermarkets all operate their own supply chains, keeping as much business 'in-house' as possible. With their increasing domination, and a shrinking independent sector, the wholesale market will come under economic threat. Without it, our nearest wholesalers will be in Birmingham or London.



There is a general feeling that the city is at a tipping point. If you're interested in pushing things in the right direction, then get in touch.

Continued overleaf...

Oldbury

Oldbury is one of 8 sites considered suitable by the Government for new nuclear power. RWE company is expected to put in a planning application to build new reactors there. The existing power station was due to close in 2008 but, despite 2 recent incidents, the lives of 2 reactors have been extended.

Reg Illingworth of Shepperdine against Nuclear Energy (SANE) attended the RWE shareholder conference in Germany on April 20th at which the largest and fourth largest shareholders, controlling billions of pounds of shares, urged the board to get out of nuclear.

Reg tells of the flood risk- Oldbury being in the highest risk category. He reminds us of the 1607

flood in the Severn Estuary which killed 2000 people. Protection of the plant against such an event would be very difficult. He warns of the terrorism threat and health risks to local people. The million strong Bristol conurbation is only 20km (12 miles) away. The new reactors would require huge cooling towers up to 200m high.

Nuclear power in the UK has a history of delayed implementation and unreliability. RWE is urged to avoid making the costly mistake of proceeding with plans for construction. It could instead pursue cost-effective low-risk options tapping the vast potential of renewables in the UK.

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'Who Feeds Bristol continued

The report's 'Suggestions for action' will hopefully shape the agenda of the newly formed Bristol Food Policy Council:

- Establish a food systems planning process with key stakeholders.
- Safeguard the diversity of food retail.
- Safeguard land for food production in and around the built up area.
- Support urban community food production and processing.
- Redistribute, recycle and compost food waste to support production of more food.
- Protect key infrastructure, transport and distribution networks for supply of food from the surrounding area.
- Increase the opportunities for local food producers to sell into the city.
- Support community food enterprise models.
- Engage Bristol's community in transforming the city's food culture.

Let's hope that the lessons from the report are taken on-board, before it's too late to save

both our independent retailers, and our best agricultural land. Sainsbury's already have planning permission to build their largest store in the South-West, on BCFC's Ashton Gate football ground. On Whiteladies Road, Sainsbury plans to open in the old Woolworth's building on Blackboy Hill, and Tesco at the old petrol station site next to Whiteladies Picture House. On Gloucester Road, Sainsbury would like to build on the Memorial Ground. And no one can possibly have escaped the controversy surrounding Tesco's store in Stokes Croft.

There is a general feeling that the city is at a tipping point. If you're interested in pushing things in the right direction, then get in touch.

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You can download a summary and Joy Carey's full report at:

www.bristol.gov.uk/whofeedsbristol

<http://keepwhiteladieslocal.blogspot.com>

<http://notesco.wordpress.com>

www.stopsainsburys.co.uk

Voice, Vision, Volunteerism, Vanguard

Lockleaze ward in North Bristol has long been spoken of as a “deprived” area. A few years ago the local people were encouraged by the Bristol City Council (BCC) to produce a document outlining the problems and recommendations for remedial action. The group, known as “Lockleaze Voice”, was helped by Council officers, Planning Aid staff and administrators of the voluntary Neighbourhood Planning Network. It became the “Vision” which was recently “signed off” by the Council.



It was probably this history of local involvement that led to the choice by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) of Lockleaze as one of the 17 areas

across England to be awarded “Vanguard” status on 21st February as part of the “Big Society” localism. It is one of few urban areas with the status, most being very rural.

The Vanguard scheme (also known as Pilot or Front Runner) is expected to help realise the Vision. It is hoped that, in the next few months, the group of about 22 residents, now known as a Forum, will evolve a plan for a limited area of the ward. It will have to comply with the National Planning Framework and accord with the aims of BCC’s new Core Strategy.

The work relies on “Volunteerism” and no funding has been provided either by CLG or BCC. But Quartet has responded by granting funds towards costs.

It has been agreed by the Forum that overarching aims would be for sustainability and about energy. That despite Eric Pickles’ placing growth above sustainability in his policy.

Amongst matters to be addressed are the current poor retail provision, transport, housing and employment. It is appreciated that any one project may assist achievement of several goals, For example young people might be employed in retro-fitting homes for energy conservation using insulation and installing solar capture devices on roofs. Opening of new shops would generate much needed local employment and provide better nutrition. The Forum has generous support and mentoring from NPN and will have technical support from the City Planning Department.

It is hoped that, in the next few months, the group of about 22 residents, now known as a Forum, will evolve a plan for a limited area of the ward.

Progress will be closely monitored by CLG officers and it may well be that their observations will influence the wording of the eventual Act. (The legislation is still making its stately way through Parliament.)

The evolved plan will have to be examined for compliance by an independent expert agreed by the Forum and the Council and may need to be “recycled” to amend any deficiencies. It will be necessary for the Vanguard Forum to carry the local community along with its aims because after that the plan will need a majority of those voting in a referendum before it can be approved. However the referendum cannot be held until the legislation is in force. If successful the plan will stand as THE plan for the area in lieu of any plan made by the City Council.

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Councillor Gus Hoyt

Gus has just won Ashley from the Lib Dems with a very respectable majority, giving the Green Party its second Councillor and the balance of power on the Council. This he intends to use to the full to push current Lib Dem green policies a whole lot further, which of course means protecting our Green Spaces.

A former chef, he is passionate about healthy seasonal, organic and local food, which inevitably led him to support the 'No Tesco in Stokes Croft' campaign and continue to call for an ongoing boycott of the unwelcome supermarket.

Transport issues are also a major concern of his and he is about to join a new cross-party working group, which aims to sort out Bristol's abysmal traffic problems once and for all. He believes that the Ultra Light Rail Transport scheme, otherwise known as the tram, is a workable project and not just a flash in the pan, which could start with one line and eventually lead to many more. This, along with

an integrated transport hub at Temple Meads is both a sensible and achievable target.

He also has a dream – that Westmoreland House and the Carriageworks in Cheltenham Road could be converted to provide something that the local community really wants and needs and not what some developer thinks they want, so he is looking for ideas.

As far as supporting FOE goes, he positively welcomes their expertise in all areas of green policy as the Green Party is completely volunteer run and needs all the help it can get.

Gus is green by conviction. 'It was the failure of the talks at Copenhagen in December 2009 that made me realise that there were no other parties had the political will', he said, 'and that's what sets the Green Party apart – that it refuses to mindlessly repeat the mantra of economic growth.'

I rest my case.

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Councillor Christian Martin

'Environmental issues should be at the forefront of everyone's consciousness' says Christian Martin, the newly elected Lib Dem Councillor for Clifton East. Personally, he has made significant changes to his own lifestyle in order to reduce his carbon footprint and he positively enjoys growing a wide variety of fruit and veg in his garden.

To encourage others to do likewise he aims to promote an integrated planning policy in Bristol, which would foster community and reduce the need to travel by prioritising local shops and amenities over yet more pubs and clubs. He also believes that the Council does not need to wait for government legislation to take initiatives on retrofitting insulation to local homes.

A great fan of the hydrogen ferry, he sees this as the perfect example of the kind of technology which produces spin-offs which themselves create new jobs and help to put Bristol on the map. The whole issue of waste disposal is very

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important to him and he is proud of the Lib Dem's commitment to no landfill by 2013.

Street litter is a particular bugbear and, apart from picking it up himself sometimes and asking others to do so, he strongly believes that a renewed programme of education in such civic responsibilities is long overdue. Finally, he feels that the environmental challenges before us could lead us to 'claw our way back to more community involvement', which would be of benefit to everyone.

He sounds like a man with a holistic and committed approach to green issues, with whom FOE could have a good working relationship.

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Nuclear Justification

Justification is a necessary preliminary to the Government's new nuclear programme. It is based on the internationally accepted principle of radiological protection which states that no practice involving exposure to ionising radiation should be adopted unless it produces sufficient benefits to the exposed individuals or to society, to outweigh the health detriment it may cause.

This principle is from the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) of May 1996 which sets the basic safety standards for protecting the health of workers and the general public against the dangers of ionising radiation.

In the UK these regulations require any new practice involving radiation (such as nuclear power stations) to undergo a high-level assessment of whether the social, economic or other benefits outweigh the health detriment.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change is the sole Justifying Authority in this case and any decision will be UK-wide.

Following a public consultation it was decided that two nuclear reactor designs, Westinghouse's AP1000 and AREVA's EPR, have been justified: that their benefits will outweigh any radiological health detriment they may cause.

This will enable new nuclear power stations to be built in the UK.

Challenge

1/5/11

A member of Heysham Anti Nuclear Alliance challenged the Government's 'justification' of new nuclear power stations in the UK. The Alliance had to make a 'community contribution' of £16,000 towards the legal aid fund.

6/5/11

The Government released a report saying they had proven there was no link between

cancer clusters and nuclear power stations in the UK despite a German study (KiKK) which found a doubling of childhood leukaemia and a COMARE Report in the UK which found a 22% increase in various types of leukaemias and non-Hodgkins lymphoma in children living near nuclear stations.

Prof Alex Elliott, chair of COMARE, said it was time to look elsewhere for causes. "We should be keeping a watching brief but we think we should be looking at other places," he said. There are other theories about the possible causes of cancer near power plants.

Accusations of selecting or "cherry picking" their data have been made.

Dr Ian Fairlie's INITIAL CONCLUSIONS refer to "irregular handling of data says it excludes data from the Calder Hall nuclear power station although stating "...their inclusion would certainly have yielded a higher estimate of risk." He says that COMARE should release its data on the observed numbers of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemias within 5 km of Sellafield between 1969 and 2010.

12/5/11

At the High Court in Leeds there was a procedural hearing to decide if the case should go to a full Judicial Review in London but Mr. Justice McCombe turned down the Application.

20/5/11

The legal team has decided to seek leave to appeal against the decision to refuse the judicial review on the government's justification process.

BIG Question has the effect on health of the people of uranium mining, enrichment and reprocessing and disposal of waste long term been taken into account in the 'justification'? After all these processes are just as necessary for the production of nuclear power as construction of a reactor!

Sue Flint *gypsusue.flint@virgin.net*

Priorities for a Good Fair Sustainable Future

So many issues, how do we prioritise?

For me it's a question of understanding the big picture, analysing the basic drivers and addressing those problems head on, by raising awareness with public and politicians, while trying not to get too distracted by the secondary issues.

Where there is threat of irreversible change, that adds urgency. So those things people and governments do that drive destruction of remaining tropical forests and extinction of species get prioritized. Also where the earth has finite usable material resources, especially where using resources such as fossil fuels threatens irreversible (in human timescales) climate change, that must be important.

Fortunately many of the issues are connected and the solutions make things better for us as well.

With energy, insulation of buildings makes them warmer and also reduces their energy demands. So planning to ensure that new building is done correctly and to retrofit existing buildings is a big priority; whilst promoting renewable energy capture and avoiding false solutions like nuclear fission and inappropriate biofuels are also important.

With food, eating patterns with a much lower eco footprint are also healthier and better for development, whilst current dietary trends are leading to increasing 'Western diseases' of obesity, heart attack, diabetes, some cancers and others. So improving our food strategy is also a big winner. And we need to protect our oceans and tropical forests from over exploitation.

Then we have to deal with the other issues as best we can, keeping them in perspective.



So, at our first event this year, as part of Bristol's most sustainable food festival, 'VegFestUK', we organized and filmed a light-hearted

cookery competition involving leading Bristol chefs and cookery school experts to get people talking about 'Protein-Rich and Planet-Friendly (without meat and dairy)', and everyone (mostly meat-eaters) seemed to really enjoy the food which was healthy and really tasty. (The film is currently in editing.)

Then at our weekend stall at the event we collected 150 letters to 50 different MPs calling for strengthening amendments to the Energy Bill going through parliament now, including the 'warm homes' amendment for better rented home standards, as well as gathering local contacts and interest in solid wall insulation.

We look forward to continued engagement with the council, other collaborating groups, and the public over the year. National FoE are planning a drive on energy later in the year, and Bristol's new Food Policy Council will be starting to look at Bristol's food strategy. I hope we can be involved with creating a network of 'energy champions' across the city and engaging with the city's Neighbourhood Forums and Partnerships, collaborating with Bristol Energy Network. Maybe also be involved with a 'Bristol Local Energy' directory as good as 'Bristol Local Food'.

What do you think? I look forward to hearing from you.

Julian Jones julian.p.jones@gmail.com

About Bristol Friends of the Earth

Bristol Friends of the Earth is an active local group of the international environmental organisation Friends of the Earth. We currently run campaigns on local climate change, Bristol airport expansion, food, waste, local transport and sustainable housing. We hold a monthly group meeting plus separate campaign meetings (visit www.bristolfoe.org.uk for details).

If you would like to know more about us, help by campaigning or raising money, or you want to come to a meeting to see what we do, please get in touch. You can help by volunteering and giving your time, or by joining Bristol Friends of the Earth and helping us financially.

How do I join?

Membership of Bristol FoE includes a free subscription to InFoE. To join us, just complete

the form below, and return it to the Membership Secretary. Please pay by standing order if you can – it really helps to cut time spent on admin. Subscription rates are:

Ordinary £15 | Unwaged £5 | Joint / Family £25

Contact us

Bristol Friends of the Earth

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email: info@bristolfoe.org.uk

voicemail: 0117 911 4084

To join the Bristol Environment email list, which circulates local news of environmental events and campaigns, please email your name and email address to: bristol_environment@bristolfoe.org.uk

To find out about future events or our next monthly meeting visit www.bristolfoe.org.uk

Yes, I'd like to join my local group

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone

E-mail

I enclose £_____ membership and
£_____ donation

TOTAL £_____

cheques payable to Bristol Friends of the Earth OR:

I'd like to pay by standing order:

My bank

My bank's address

Postcode

My account no.

Sort code

Account name

Standing Order Instruction

Please pay the sum of £_____

on _____ / _____ / 20_____

and thereafter the same amount on the same day
each month/year*

(*Delete as appropriate. Please make first payment date at least
one month from when you fill in this form)

To Co-operative Bank plc, sort code: 08-90-02

Bristol Friends of the Earth, account no: 50296440

Signature

Date

Please return to: The Membership Secretary,
Bristol Friends of the Earth, 10–12 Picton Street,
Montpelier, Bristol BS6 5QA

Your records will be stored on our computer. If you have any
objections to this, please contact us.