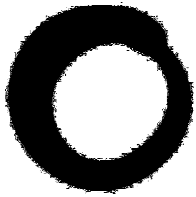


Welcome to Nottingham Friends of the Earth. We are one of around 150 local Friends of the Earth groups campaigning for a better environment locally as well as nationally and internationally. **Friends of the Earth** has a reputation for effective campaigns backed up by authoritative research.



Nottingham
Friends of
the Earth

NOTTINGHAM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Down to Earth

Notts anti-fracking groups dig in



Solidarity in action: anti-fracking protestors demonstrating outside IGas' Tinker Lane exploratory shale gas drilling site between Barnby Moor and Blyth in Bassetlaw. The start of drilling at the site in November brought together campaigners from across the region: Frack Free Misson showcased their homemade papier-mâché owl, to highlight the threat posed to owls by fracking activity. IGas' site near Misson is close to Misson Carr Notts Wildlife Trust reserve, with its nationally rare marshes and wetland. It is home to one of the most extensive arrays of wildlife in the county, and is under threat from pollution caused by fracking. Drilling started at Misson in January. More on this on page 6.

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Rebel with a cause

Extinction Rebellion Nottingham is a local group of the international organisation Extinction Rebellion.

They have three demands:

- 1) The Government must tell the truth about the climate and wider ecological emergency, reverse inconsistent policies and work alongside the media to communicate with citizens;
- 2) The Government must enact legally binding policy measures to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2025 and to reduce consumption levels;
- 3) A national Citizen's Assembly to oversee the changes, as part of creating a democracy fit for purpose.

More information is on their website:

<https://rebellion.earth>

So far, three significant actions have taken place locally: a promotion rally in Nottingham City centre; a Funeral for the Future held in Nottingham city centre; and pushing the City Council to act on the climate crisis.

The first rally was held on the Council House steps on the 15th December 2018. The aims were to raise awareness of the group, gain new supporters and gather signatures for a petition to the City Council. There were about 12 members leafleting, speaking on the megaphone, explaining about the group to interested passers-by and signing people up. Although it was cold and most people were busily absorbed in their Christmas shopping, the event served to announce that the Nottingham Extinction Rebellion was starting.

The Funeral for the Future was planned to cause an impact using a combination of a march and street theatre (held on the 19th January 2019 – see photo on p3). Around 40 members formed a funeral procession complete with funeral director, coffin and pallbearers, band and black-clad mourners. The cortège proceeded down the southern end of Milton Street (stopping traffic for a few minutes) and then down Clumber Street where it stopped in front of HSBC and Barclays banks to bring attention to their complicity in the climate crisis. The sombre procession then gathered on the steps of the Council House for a service, where there were powerful readings, poetry and songs. The event was reported by Nottingham Post

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/you-might-see-coffin-being-2446876>

The group made contact with Cllr. Sally Longford and supported her at the City Council meeting on 21st January 2019. The motion proposed to commit the City to being carbon neutral by 2028 (although the difference between this and zero-carbon has been noted). Although stopping short of declaring a 'climate emergency', numerous initiatives were discussed. The debate was well informed and recognised the potential for multifaceted social and economic benefits arising from the commitment. Repeated calls were made for more power and support from central government. The motion was passed unanimously

<http://www.mynottinghamnews.co.uk/nottingham-aims-to-be-first-carbon-neutral-city-in-the-uk/>

Now the City Council have made a commitment to which they can be held accountable. Extinction Rebellion and the world are watching.... The following day Extinction Rebel Darren Wells was on BBC Radio Nottingham Breakfast and Gem 106 explaining the action and its aims.

Further actions are being planned and there are regular organising and planning meetings. For more information, find Extinction Rebellion Nottingham on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/XRNottm/>

Etienne Stott



Extinction Rebellion's Funeral for the Future demo – Nottingham, January 2019

Tomorrow's environmental leaders



In 2016, Friends of the Earth launched its project *My World My Home*, a year-long academic programme available to students whilst studying in further education and 6th form colleges. The purpose of the programme is to learn about the methods of Community Campaigning, alongside the creation of their own environmental projects at their colleges.

In its third year, *My World My Home* is now underway in three colleges across the East Midlands - Derby College, West Nottinghamshire College (in Mansfield), and Nottingham College across the city.

The students start their projects by conducting 'listening campaigns', to get a feel of what the community are most concerned about when it comes to the environment. This year the

students at Nottingham College found that green spaces, or lack thereof, was the biggest concerns of their fellow students. That and the single-use plastic across some of their campuses. The committed group for this year's project have hit the ground running, identifying the key stakeholders across the college, and starting negotiations to create their green spaces and cut down on plastics as much as possible. The students are excited to start the creation of their green spaces, with well-being, biodiversity and upcycling practices in mind.

The students in West Mansfield are also in the beginning stages to create wildlife-friendly spaces in public spaces near their college, and the students in Derby are working to minimise food waste leaving their college.

To find out more about the programme and the student's previous successes, you can visit the programme's page here:

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/about-us/my-world-my-home-creating-environmental-leaders-tomorrow>

Hannah Evans

Seeing through the haze: Nottingham's air pollution strategy dampener



Nottingham has illegal levels of air pollution. Public Health England state "poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, as long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD [Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease] as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy".

The British Lung Foundation has produced the following data in their statement: "People in and around Nottingham are already disproportionately likely to suffer from respiratory problems compared to the national average:

- 38% more likely to be admitted to hospital for asthma;
- 25% more likely to die from asthma;
- 92% more likely to be admitted to hospital for COPD;
- 41% more likely to die from COPD than the national average."

Children and the elderly are at particular risk. Studies have shown associations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in outdoor air with reduced lung development, and respiratory infections in early childhood and effects on lung function in adulthood (Royal College of Physicians).

Nottingham is one of six UK cities in the UK found to have illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide since 2010. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) estimates that 80% of nitrogen oxide gasses (NO_x) emissions in these cities are due to transport, with the largest source being emissions from diesel cars and vans.

In 2010, the European Union required all 28 countries to limit NO₂ emissions to an annualised average of 40 microgrammes per cubic metre of air. Eight years later, the UK is still in breach of that directive to clean up our air in 37 out of 43 areas, including Nottingham. This is despite environmental activist lawyers Client Earth taking our government to the UK Supreme Court in 2015, 2016 and 2018 and winning all three times, with Judges ordering our government to take action and clean up our air. In 2018 Judges directed this be done as soon as possible and no later than 2020.

However, our government, effectively, handed responsibility for this national crisis to city councils, including Nottingham, ordering them to produce local plans to comply with the EU directive.

Last September, the government approved Nottingham's planned solution. Key points include:

- Investing in cleaner buses;
- Investing in cleaner taxis and private hire cars;
- Leading by example - converting 20% of the council's refuse and specialist vehicle fleet to electric by 2020;
- Revising the city centre Clear Zone to prevent delivery vehicles and taxis entering the zone unless they meet lower emission limits;
- Extending the city's Air Quality Management Areas to cover the whole city to enable action to be taken everywhere such as banning engine idling;
- Taking action against engine idling – for example outside schools.

Friends of the Earth support many of the numerous initiatives taken in past years by Nottingham City Council, including the Workplace Parking Levy and the tram.

However, we doubt these city-centre measures will solve a city-wide crisis. We maintain that more radical initiatives should have been implemented, including the following:

- Declaring a charging Clean Air Zone so reducing traffic levels overall – thereby reducing highly dangerous 'particulates' from engine, tyre and brake wear especially 'PM2.5s' which medical opinion considers there are no safe levels for and mitigating climate change emissions;
- Promoting active travel – walking and cycling – 40% of journeys are less than three miles;
- Promoting safe walking/cycling routes to school;
- Tree planting to absorb pollution;
- Comprehensive bus services (including from surrounding villages) to/ from new park and ride sites;
- Diesel scrappage scheme.

For full details of these and many other proposed solutions go to our website at <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/clean-air>. Then take action yourself by trying alternatives to the car and lobbying your child's school, local councillor and MP to make changes locally and nationally – for the sake of everyone's health.

Karl Barrow



City Hospital to stop burning coal

Up in smoke: the City Hospital's boiler chimney in 2016

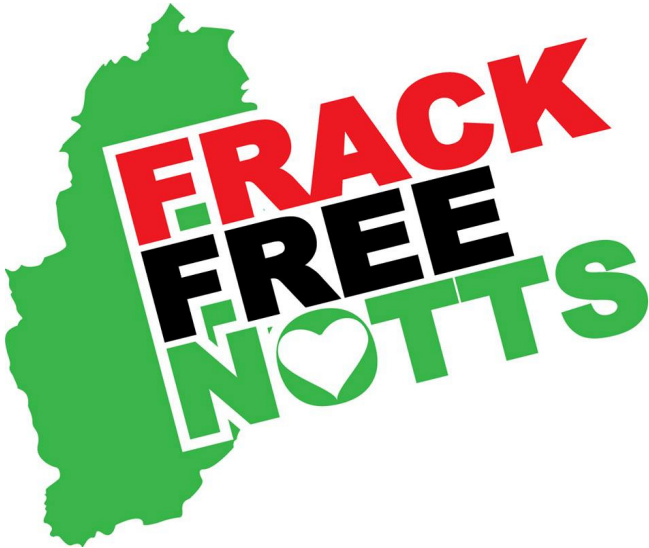
Back in 2016 we were contacted by residents in the area near Edwards Lane next to the City Hospital. They had suffered years of soot and grit from the hospital's 40 year old coal-fired boiler – which was still in use!

We supported them in leafleting the area. Surprisingly, perhaps, the hospital responded by inviting residents to a meeting. They found money from a Carbon & Energy Fund to install a gas-fired boiler, solar panels, air-source heat pumps and combined heat and power units, as well as improving energy efficiency.

However, the old coal-fired boiler will be retained on stand-by until 2020.

Nigel Lee

Frack Free Notts Activism Update



Over the last year we have seen further moves towards fracking in Notts. And widespread mobilisation against them.

IGas finally started exploratory drilling for shale gas in November 2018 at its Tinker Lane site between Blyth and Barnby Moor in North Notts. It took just 20 days to find no shale gas. (They had been warned that they didn't have adequate geological data to ensure no risk of breaching previous coal working or of activating fault lines. But it was still a surprise that they had been drilling where there is no gas!)

There was a protector camp and daily protests, with a number of arrests.

Now the focus has moved to Misson Springs where IGas started drilling in mid-January 2019. This is close to a wildlife site managed by Notts Wildlife Trust with a number of rare species including long-eared owls. But planners still allowed it to go ahead. This drilling is bankrolled by chemical company Ineos.

There is a protector camp at DN10 6ES.

Ineos also has licences to frack around 1,000 square kilometres around Sherwood Forest. It has used the threat of legal action to force the National Trust to allow extensive seismic testing across Clumber Park. That is likely to take place later in 2019. But the Trust has said it will oppose any fracking on its land.

Just outside Notts, Ineos is trying to overturn planning decisions not to allow drilling at Marsh Lane in NE Derbyshire and Woodsetts in S Yorkshire. Approval was given to another site at Harthill in S Yorks but that was challenged in a Judicial Review in January 2019.

Both Ineos and IGas have obtained court injunctions to allow them to take punitive action against anyone disrupting their activities. There are ongoing challenges to this use of injunctions.

Ineos has also been challenged over its role in causing plastic pollution. It produces bulk plastic, often in the form of 'nurdles' – large numbers of which have been found in the North Sea close to Ineos' Grangemouth site in Scotland.

During 2018 the government launched a consultation on whether exploratory drilling should be "permitted development" – which would remove the need to get planning permission. There was widespread opposition. Even Notts County Council opposed this. A government decision is expected later in 2019.

Nationally, Cuadrilla started fracking again near Blackpool in October 2019 – after a delay of seven years caused by earthquakes which damaged the wellbore. Almost immediately it created a large number of minor earth tremors – enough to require them to stop fracking. (They had been warned that they didn't have enough geological information to identify all the local fault lines – but proceeded in ignorance.)

Locally in South Notts, no progress appears to have been made in shale gas licence areas to the South and West of Nottingham. Egdon Resources, which has the licence between Attenborough and Loughborough, does not seem to be currently pursuing this area. But it has suggested that small oilfields in Central Notts at Dukes Wood and Kirklington could be reopened.

For further information see
<http://nottfoe.gn.apc.org/antifrack.html>

Nigel Lee

Notts is a 'laggard' on climate change



Nottingham FoE taking part in a demonstration against the City Council pension fund investments in fossil fuel industries

Members of Notts Pension Fund have continued to press the County Council to get their money out of fossil fuel companies. The Fund invests over £5bn on behalf of 136,000 members.

The Bank of England has been warning since 2015 that over two thirds of coal, gas and oil reserves are “literally unburnable” if we are to limit the impact of climate change. That could result in the value of many fossil fuel companies being based on “stranded assets” which become worthless.

At the Fund AGM in October 2018, members wanted to know why their funds are being risked on such dodgy assets. And why the County has failed to do an analysis of the financial risks of climate change – as they are required to do. Unfortunately no adequate answers were provided.

In November 2018, Friends of the Earth produced a ‘Risky Business’ report which revealed that many local authority funds are not doing enough to reduce the financial risks of climate change. Out of 19 large funds, Notts came in the bottom category of ‘laggard’ –

taking almost no action to protect their members.

The report says “Their failure to act is a breach of their fiduciary duty”.

There is nothing in Notts’ Investment Strategy Statement about climate change risks. And no evidence that their main investment managers are addressing these risks.

A working party of Notts Pension Fund did accept a recommendation to consider using a low carbon index (MSCI LCT) – which would exclude fossil company shares from a portfolio. This was in early 2018, over two years after the AGM in 2015 promised they would consider such an approach. But there is still no indication that a low carbon index has yet been adopted.

The ‘Risky Business’ report is linked from our website at <http://nottfoe.gn.apc.org/fossilfree.html>

Nigel Lee

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For general information, please visit our website (see below), or write with an SAE to Nottingham Friends of the Earth, c/o Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX.

For information about joining the group, please mark the envelope "Membership".

For latest campaign news and contact details, visit

<http://nottfoe.gn.apc.org>

National Friends of the Earth: The Printworks, 131-143 Clapham Road, London SW9 0HP (020 7490 1555), or email info@foe.co.uk.

See national website www.foe.co.uk for easy online actions.

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month (except August and December) at The Dice Cup, 68 Mansfield Rd NG1 3GY, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Please come and join us. You would be very welcome.

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If you would like to receive future editions of this newsletter electronically to save paper, please let us know your email address. You can contact us by email via our website (see above), or alternatively nottinghamfoe@hotmail.com. Please note that the file size can be over 1MB.

AGM announcement

Our next Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday, 26th March 2019 (7.30pm, The Dice Cup – see above for address)

We look forward to seeing you there.