

Swindon Climate Action Network



March 2009

Transition Swindon

Transition Swindon held its first Food Networking Event at Lower Shaw Farm in January aimed at ensuring the future of local food in Swindon. Helen Browning, organic farming champion and the Soil Association's Food and Farming Director, spoke on 'The Future of Food' – including the dual challenges of ensuring a local food supply and getting it to a local market.

The ensuing debate touched on the difficulties of getting food to market in an efficient way, the tensions between producing food and encouraging people to grow their own, the need for diversification to survive in a challenging market, working with volunteers, public perceptions of organic/local food – particularly on price – and food poverty.

Community First, organic and biodiverse food producers, local food growers, allotmenters, the Farmers' Markets, Women's Institute and Swindon Primary Care Trust were among those represented.

Key points to arise were the need for collaboration, and to increase people's confidence in preparing fresh food, and growing their own.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust volunteered to take a lead in creating a network of people with expertise and enthusiasm to take these issues forward.

If you would like more information on Transition Swindon or to get involved, please contact adele@swindonclimate.org.uk or for more information on transition towns go to <http://transitiontowns.org>

Transport

An 800 strong petition has been handed in to Swindon Borough Council in protest at the proposed closure of Groundwell Park and Ride. SCAN supports SPARK (Save Park and Ride Campaign) as it believes in encouraging the use of public transport, to reduce traffic congestion and cut Swindon's carbon emissions. Contact Spark2009@hotmail.co.uk for further information

SCAN also spoke out in the Adver and on GWR against increases in bus fares by 10% and cuts in services, including annual bus passes, by Thamesdown Transport from 15th February.

SCAN 2009

The Meeting on 21st January agreed to focus on policy work, particularly transport, and Transition Swindon in 2009.

This will include supporting major national campaigns such as Fossil Fuel Day in April, Planet in Peril in September; and Countdown to Copenhagen in December.

We will also provide information on the green credentials of local Euro candidates through our website and raise climate change awareness through stalls, activities and a local showing of The Age of Stupid – the Oscar nominated movie starring Pete Postlethwaite.

If you have any suggestions for future activities, please email contact@swindonclimate.org.uk

Coming soon ...

Tuesday 3rd March

Green Drinks - Meet people interested in environmental issues in a friendly social setting. The Savoy, Regent's Circus, Swindon 7pm. For details email jenni@swindongreens.org.uk

Sunday 8th March

Greener Living Roadshow Organised by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust at Swindon Steam Museum, 11am – 2pm.

Saturday 14th March

'Greening your Home,' Priory Barn, Newton organised by Bradford on Avon group. £20 including lunch with some subsidized places. Email climatechampions@gmail.com or call 07507 782 523 for more details.

Sunday 15th March

Age of Stupid – Peoples Premiere. Empire, Greenbridge 5pm. Only cinema showing scheduled for Swindon.

Wednesday 25th March

Greener Living Roadshow at Lower Shaw Farm 10am-2pm.

Saturday 28th March

Earth Hour when millions of people will switch off their lights at 8.30 pm. to show that they care about the earth. 377 cities have signed up to date. For information see www.earthhour.org

Tuesday 7th April

Green Drinks as above.

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