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**Public Transport
Your Views Needed**

Havant Passenger Transport Forum (PTF) is open to organisations, which have an interest in passenger transport issues. It is held twice yearly, and is organised by Hampshire County Council. The ERA and ECB send representatives to the PTF where they can raise issues and make representations on behalf of the public. Your input is important if we are to make best use of this opportunity.

The aims of the PTF are as follows:

1. Promote an understanding of passenger services in the area.
2. Provide a forum for discussing passenger transport areas of interest and concern.
3. Disseminate information on passenger transport developments at a national, county, and district level.
4. Identify local unmet transport needs and where possible contribute to the development of solutions.
5. Share good practice.
6. Involve people in passenger transport initiatives e.g. passenger transport reviews.
7. Provide valuable feedback on proposed new passenger transport initiatives.

Should you have any burning issues, e.g. about the rail service from Emsworth, or journeys to hospital by bus, please let me know. I can then convey these to Hampshire County Council through the PTF.

The ERA and ECB propose organising a joint open morning on passenger transport, possibly in June 2009. Meantime please get in touch with me on 01243 378435 or by email through the ERA website. *Chris Suter*

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www.uk.freecycle.org

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAVANT FREECYCLE**

Havant Freecycle celebrated its second birthday this year. Started in January 2007 by Jill Poole and myself, Trevor Austin of Bedhampton, Havant Freecycle covers the area in South East Hampshire from Emsworth to Waterlooville and from Hayling Island to Horndean. We now have over 2,800 members and it is estimated that our group's members save over eight tonnes of reusable items from being dumped every month.

Freecycle consists of local groups, run entirely by volunteers. Each group provides an online message board where members can advertise details of items they have available, or items they are looking for. The main rule is that all items must be given freely.

Havant Freecycle is part of the ever expanding Freecycle Network. There are now almost ONE? million members in 485 groups all around the UK. Internationally there are over six million members in over 4,600 groups in 85 countries. *Trevor Austin*

To join Havant Freecycle please go to
www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/HavantFreecycle



**Havant discovers
Climate Change**

Havant Borough Council has recently appointed a **Climate Change and Sustainability Officer** to write an environmental strategy for HBC. Councils everywhere are required by central government to create strategies to demonstrate their own green credentials and inspire other emitters of carbon in their areas to sign up to reductions.

Portsmouth, for example, has now published their draft strategy prepared with ideas from local Friends of the Earth (FoE) groups among others. Winchester has launched



WINacc as a fully funded social enterprise with an ambitious programme of actions.

2005 DEFRA figures for CO2 put Havant Borough over halfway down the table led by Hampshire's cities and the New Forest which includes Fawley refinery and power station. Havant is part of the County Council managed Local Area Agreement which has set a target of 10% reduction by 2011 over a base year of 2005. The government reckons that much of the reduction will be achieved nationally leaving councils little to do in reality.

It will be important for local groups, including tree wardens, to talk to Havant's Climate Change Officer before the strategy gets written to influence HBC's future resources for the environment.

Ray Cobbett

**Transition Town comes to
Chichester**



The idea behind Transition Towns is that if you have little confidence that governments are serious about climate change and "peak oil", then you team up as a community to do something about it.

Dr David Fleming who used to run the Soil Association and speaks and writes on lean energy solutions was the guest speaker at a recent talk in Chichester. The title 'Resilience and the Art of Coping with Surprise' sounds pretty obscure but got an audience of almost 100 people on a Friday night in February. Dr Fleming promised from the start to hurt our brains and he did!

His central proposition is that small is not only beautiful but essential to our future survival. He described the nature and properties of what he termed the resilience of life forms and species to survive. By and large people are better at organising themselves than being organised by governments. Small systems in a large-scale network are sustainable but large systems without any framework, today's scenario, are doomed to catastrophic failure. Look no further than the credit crunch.

Target setting and the whole central control apparatus disempower people to change anything including climate change and a say over their local environment. It is too easy to say it's the government's problem. It isn't, it's everybody's problem and so we should all be part of the solution but how?

Transition Chichester was launched in June 2008 and is not a membership-based organisation but an activity-based one and is still growing driven by cooperation and localism. Chichester has several different forums working together on housing, transport, local economy, energy, etc. Peak Oil - growing demand against diminishing supply- means that 'energy descent' planning is now vital for the survival of world communities.

The Transition Town model does seem to inspire with dozens of groups throughout the country since it first appeared in 2003 led by Rob Hopkins in Totnes, Devon. Much of the appeal arises from individuals who feel powerless to alone change society's disastrous behaviours towards the planet but find strength in working with like-minded citizens on specific community responses. www.transitionchichester.org *Ray Cobbett*

Fairtrade Havant

After years of campaigning by FoE, Church Groups and others, Havant has been awarded Fairtrade Town status. The five principles that needed to be met were:



1. Local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices and canteens).
2. A range of Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's retail outlets (shops, supermarkets, newsagents and petrol stations) and served in local catering outlets (cafés, restaurants, pubs).
3. Local workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade whenever possible.
4. Media coverage and events raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.
5. A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support.

Havant joins the over 400 towns Fairtrade family which includes only seven in Hampshire. *Ray Cobbett*

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