



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Friends House – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Attending**

Sarah Clayton	CPRE Surrey & AEF	Ray Cobbett	Friends of the Earth – Havant
Judith Martin	Association of Preservation Trusts	Andrew Lockley	Friends of the Earth - Milton Keynes
Michael Creedy	Brighton Peace & Environment Centre	Darrin Green	Friends of the Earth – Mole Valley
Derrick Coffee	Campaign for Better Transport – East Sussex	Enrico Petrucco	Friends of the Earth - Reading
Chris Burden	Campaign for Better Transport – Thames Valley Central	Brenda Pollack	Friends of the Earth – South East
Heather Buttivant	Climate South East (Speaker)	Anton Page	Friends of the Earth – Test Valley
Susan Fallman	Commonwork	Caroline Lucas	Green MEP for the SE (Speaker)
John Beech	CPRE Oxfordshire	John Stanaway	Railfuture Coastway
Marie-Helen Baneth	CPRE South East	David Eldridge	Railfuture Thames Valley
Edward Dawson	CPRE South East	Des Coles	Ramblers Association – Surrey
Philip Todd	CPRE Hampshire	Chris Corrigan	RSPB SE
Peter England	CTC South East	Alison Walters	SEFS (Brighton & Hove Friends of the Earth & South Downs Campaign)
Rick Kimber	Friends of the Earth – Blackwater Valley	Gret Woodason	Surrey Federation of Women’s Institutes
Jeremy Wire	Friends of the Earth – Elmbridge	Dave Burges	National Trust Thames & Solent and South East Regions
Alan Dutfield	Friends of the Earth – Gravesham	Ian Hepburn	Wildlife Trusts South East
Judy Dutfield	Friends of the Earth – Gravesham	Duncan Williamson	WWF South East

**Apologies**

Chilterns Society		Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign
Commonwork		Groundwork South East
CPRE Hampshire		Guildford Environmental Forum
CPRE Newbury & Hungerford		Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
CPRE Sussex		Railfuture Coastway
Friends of the Earth Aylesbury Vale		Railfuture South East
Friends of the Earth Blackwater Valley		South Downs Campaign
Friends of the Earth Bracknell		South Downs Society
Friends of the Earth Chinnor & Thame		Southampton Sustainability Forum
Friends of the Earth Lewes		Surrey Wildlife Trust
Friends of the Earth Manhood Peninsula		Sussex Wildlife Trust
Friends of the Earth New Forest		Sustrans
Friends of the Earth Portsmouth		The Woodland Trust
Friends of the Earth Reading		
Friends of the Earth Southampton		

**1) Election of Chair & Treasurer**

Lynnette Leeson was proposed as chair of SEFS for 2008/09 all were in favour and a vote of thanks was offered to Chris Corrigan for 10 years service as chair of SEFs.  
Surrey Wildlife Trust were nominated to continue as Treasurer of SEFs all were in favour

**2) Minutes from AGM 2008**

- All agreed the minutes from AGM 2007.

Questions from the floor

JB requested a speaker on LDF’s for the General Meeting in March 2009

**3) SEFS Accounts**

Although the total was correct, an error in the allocation in the income section was noted. It was put to the meeting that the Balance Sheet be amended and approved by P&EC at the next meeting the.

**Majority were in favour with one against this proposal it was therefore carried.**

Clarification as a Result of Questions from the Floor

- SEFS is aiming for reserves providing about 1 year's worth of operational costs
- The SEEDA grant provides funding for SEFS until March 2010 and is sufficient to cover core costs and ensure SEFS is on a good financial footing
- The grant is a Chairman's discretionary award
- SEFS is the only environmental network in the country with funding from the Regional Development Agency
- Other regions funding their environmental networks in different ways
- As a result of the funding the SEFS Coordinator will get an increase in salary to recognise the value of the position
- Surplus is held by Surrey Wildlife Trust and at present SEFS do not get the interest on this.
- **Action – P&EC will discuss the issue of interest on SEFS funds with SWT**
- The error in the allocations was not noticed earlier due to the focus being on making sure the numbers all balanced against records held both at SWT and by the SEFS Secretariat
- The transport deficit is as a result of a grant being held and spent over several years

#### **4) Dr Caroline Lucas – Speaker**

Dr Lucas gave an interesting talk on Behaviour Change, EU Policy and what has been achieved at the EU level.

#### **5) Review of the Year**

Clarifications as a Result of Questions from the Floor

- **Action - All to let AW know if lack of paper newsletter is a problem**
- Actions aren't in line with policy so the policies are not delivering on the high level aspirations.
- SEEDA has sustainability in its DNA however messages coming out as a result of projects aren't helpful.
- There is a lack of accountability and a need for close scrutiny across the board to prevent over engineered projects and token consultations both relating to SEEDA and Local Authorities.
- There is a need to see the economy in a broader and more positive sense
- **Action – All to let AW know of the Sustainability Groups/Officers in their areas**

#### **6) Constitution**

Discussion was held in relation to clause 14.8 of the constitution: 14.8 SEFS Appointees to public bodies, or their alternates, should not be standing Councillors and should not hold any position of responsibility within any political party and must not represent any party political viewpoint.

A decision was not reached by the meeting but there was a feeling that the clause did need to be changed.

- **Action P&EC to progress changes to the constitution**

#### **7) P&EC Elections**

As per the constitutional changes to allow all members of P&EC to be elected, meeting was presented with 12 nominations for the 12 P&EC seats.

**The majority of the meeting was in favour of electing all members en-block there was one vote against.**

**All nominations were therefore accepted.**

#### **8) Heather Buttivant – Climate South East**

Heather Buttivant presented community case studies on reducing carbon. Discussion from the floor covered issues of the importance of both top down and bottom up work and also the need for lobbying at all levels of government.

#### **9) South East Plan**

IH presented proposals for the SEFS response to the final consultation on the SE Plan. There was discussion on the content and concern that the outline response was not P&EC approved. It was proposed that further work should be done to provide more detail with P&EC approval.

## **10) Behaviour Change Work – Brenda Pollack**

Brenda outlined the SEFS Behaviour Change work and there was discussion about the proposed messages.

Clarifications as a result of questions from the floor

- It was outlined that members were encouraged to engage in the Behaviour Change work.
- There was concern about producing a set of generalised principles.
- **Action** – AW to check the footnotes in the Behaviour Change Messages Paper
- **Action** – P&EC to clarify with SEEDA who the target audience should be
- **Action** - AW to email the Behaviour Change work and links to the Sustainability Appraisal of the SE Plan to EP

## **11) Sub National Review – Chris Corrigan**

Chris outlined what was currently happening under the Sub National Review.

Clarifications as a result of questions from the floor

- SEERA will be in operation until early 2010
- SEFS is working closely and in agreement with the Social & Economic partners
- The regional minister has said he will look at the issue of reducing resources for the Sustainable Futures Group and Sustainable Development in general

**3.30 Meeting closed**