

MANCHESTER CLIMATE FORTNIGHTLY

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Issue 54, August 1 2010

Manchester City Council...

'fesses up,

The leader of Manchester City Council, Richard Leese, has been quizzed by MCFly in a face-to-face interview covering everything from Peak Oil to the eating of meat, the November 30th "Stakeholder Conference" to the desirability of economic growth.

On the Airport's role "Will we still be hosting those [international] events, will people want to travel around the world to do things, is that something we ought to be encouraging? I would say most definitely yes....But this is not a status quo argument. The point is we're going to have to start doing all those things differently. It will change."

The full transcript of the interview is available on the MCFly website. Mr Leese has also agreed to be interviewed after the Council's Internal Delivery Plan for its climate change action is launched in September 2010. If you've questions you'd like us to put to him, let us know editor@manchesterclimatefortnightly.info

makes plans,

As Richard Leese said in the MCFly interview "Where I think we are at the moment is we've got a bloody good strategy, but having a bloody good strategy is the first 5%"

So, Manchester City Council is working as fast as it can to produce its "Internal Delivery Plan" for reaching the goals of the Manchester Climate Action Plan (a 41% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 and the creation of a 'low carbon culture'). The drafters of the internal plan are keen to get maximum possible 'buy in', and have therefore been using an innovative process of engaging relevant officers throughout the bureaucracy, using a "virtual team" approach.

The Internal Delivery Plan is formatted along the same divisions as the 2009 "Manchester Climate Change Action Plan" - buildings and energy, transport and mobility, green spaces, sustainable consumption and production and

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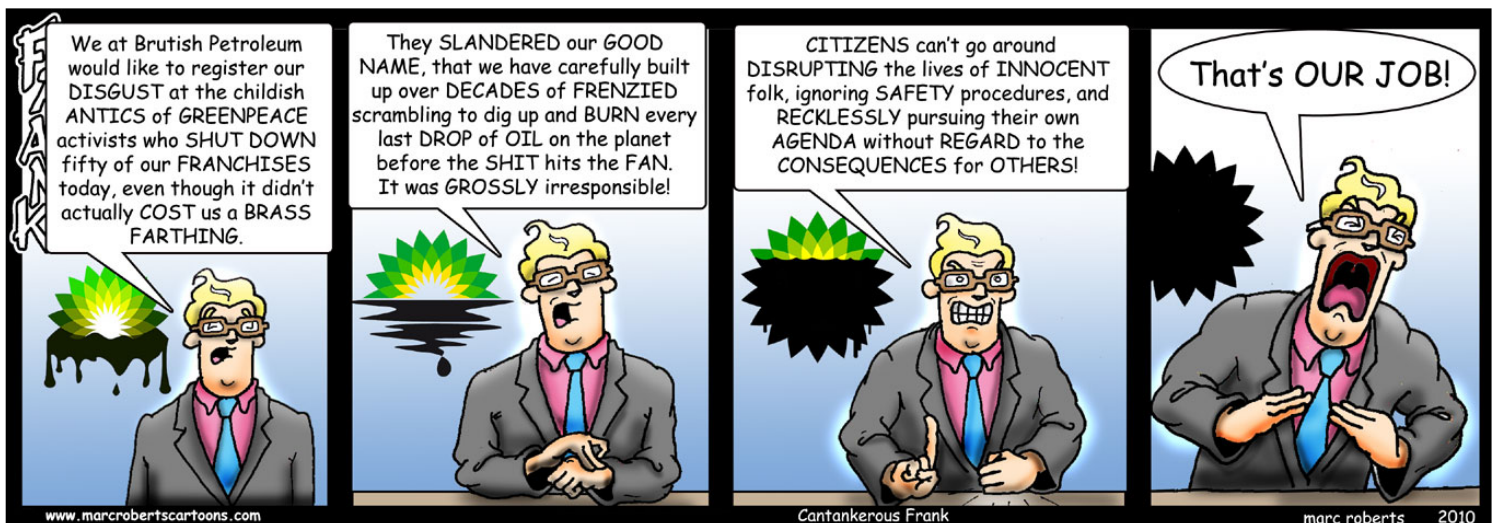
er, breaks law?

"For the years 2007 to 2009 inclusive, can you provide the following details:

- 1) The number of air flights, destinations and purpose of the visits made by:
 - a) the Leader and Executive Members of Manchester City Council when on official Council business;
 - b) the Chief Executive and members of Manchester City Council Senior Management Team when on official Council business.
- 2) Whether any carbon-offsetting arrangements were made for any of these flights and if so, details of the carbon-offsetting scheme used and payments made"

These are the questions that MCFly submitted to Manchester City Council in late June, using the Freedom of Information Act. On 30th June, we received a letter (available for you to see on the MCFly website) acknowledging the request and promising an answer in 20 working days (the maximum allowed time for a response). *continued on page three*

On Tuesday 27 July, Greenpeace activists briefly shut down all 50 BP petrol stations in London...



The Council Gritter...

for nuggets that fall off the back of a truck.

Stakeholder Conference

The Stakeholder Conference on Tuesday November 30th will be the most important event for Mancunians concerned about climate change for many a long year. Its format and delivery is the responsibility of the "Steering Group" (see below). In the previous month, the grassroots 'Call to Real Action' group has visited various campaigning groups to ask their opinions on what the opportunities and dangers in such a conference were (see calltorealaction.wordpress.com for more info). People were mostly worried about 'death by powerpoint' and it being just the usual suspects talking among themselves.

MCFLy can report that the Steering Group has now discussed the Conference. The priority will be to engage and interact with as many diverse groups as can play a part in both shaping the Action Plan, and in taking action. The event will take place in the daytime with the option of an informal event in the evening. A venue will be announced within the next 6 weeks, and people will be able to apply to attend (criteria not yet decided) approximately two months before the event itself, that is to say, late September.

The format will NOT be 'death by powerpoint' - there will be a small number of presentations in a plenary at the outset, but plenty of opportunities to talk to each other, learn from each other and feed back, especially to larger institutions like the Council, via workshops and facilitated peer-learning (which is more fun than it sounds.) The organisers of the Conference are also keen to capture thoughts and opinions before the conference and play these back on the day.

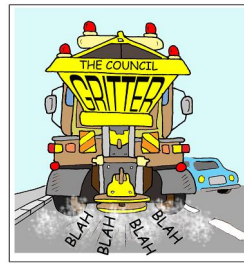
So, here is an opportunity for the Council and "Civil Society" to learn from each other. It's now up to climate/social justice campaigners in Manchester to take this opportunity to use the space – physical and political – to best effect. Will they?

What's in a name?

While the conference's working title, "Brinkadom" has some highly-placed supporters, it is unlikely to survive scrutiny from Castle Greyskull. "FutureManchester" perhaps? "Uncertain Future"? "A new lease on life"? "Murphy's Law"? "Our own private Copenhagen"? If you've got an idea, send it in to MCFLy Towers and we'll forward it on to the Relevant Authorities. Who knows, you might win a prize, but given current financial constraints, it's more likely to be a kiss from Cllr Nigel Murphy (second prize two kisses).

THURSDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

**Keep the evening free. Interesting and inspiring things are afoot...
More details in the next MCFLy**



Manchester City Council makes plans...

communities and neighbourhoods. It lists some headline actions to be completed by April 2014, alongside longer term goals. Every action is thought about as either a emissions reducer or a 'low-carbon culture' enabler, or both simultaneously.

The "Environmental Advisory Panel" (made up of Council officers and assorted campaigners, businessfolk and academics - see page three for report)) was asked its opinion on an early draft in late July. After further drafting it will go to the internal "Environmental Strategy Programme Board" (observers not allowed) and then to the Senior Management Team, before the Executive signs off on the plan on September 15. It is expected that further individual service delivery plans will be ready shortly afterwards, and certainly by April 2011.

Manchester City Council's emissions only make up five percent of Manchester's total (120,000 tonnes out of a total of 3.2 million tonnes (not counting the 55% of Manchester Airport that the Council owns – the other 45% is shared equally by the other nine Greater Manchester local authorities). So no matter how good its own plan is, it won't make much difference unless it brings others with it. It sees itself, therefore, as having four roles – deliverer, influencer, regulator and leader.

When the Delivery Plan becomes public domain on September 8th, MCFLy will be inviting individuals and campaigning groups to join it in analysing the plan's strengths, weaknesses and silences. There is also an even more pressing question.- how many other organisations are working on their own plans? If any MCFLy readers want to share good (and bad) experiences from the places they work, or study, or visit, then feel free.

Steering Group News

As reported on the MCFLy website, the Steering Group has new members. From the Council – Cllrs **Paul Andrews** (Exec Member for Neighbourhood Services) and **Nigel Murphy** (Exec for Environment) and **Richard Paver** of the Finance Department. From the "Manchester Board" **Phil Korbel** (of Radio Regen), **David Regan** (Director of Public Health) and **David Keitch** (spelling maybe wrong!) (GMITA)

From the EAP - **Dave Coleman** (Friends of the Earth), **Nigel Rose** and **Steve Connor** (Chair).

Four other (gasp, female!) steering group members have signed on - **Jackie Potter**, chief exec of "Corridor", **Helen Bidwell**, Director and Head of Research and Consultation at Vision TwentyOne, a "Stakeholder Analysis and Communications" company, **Gaby Porter** of Action for Sustainable Living and **Laura Wolfe**, of the marketing company Journey 9 "marketing for innovation and growth." Two more people have been invited – a business person and an academic. If/when they accept or decline, MCFLy will report. The Steering Group next meets late September, but will NOT be opening its meetings to observers in the short term. Outcomes of the meetings will be posted on www.manchesterclimate.com.

Manchester City Council... breaks the law

(cont from page 1)

That deadline passed on Wednesday 28th July. We waited forlornly for the slap of envelope on doormat. Thursday. Friday. Saturday. Nothing.

MCFly knows (don't ask how) that the Council knows how much carbon they've used on aviation recently. For 2008/9 it was 65,393 tonnes, and in 2009/10 it was 78,502 (including, naturally, two people flying to and from Copenhagen last December). What we don't know is if the rest was on one fact-finding mission about sea-level rise impacts in the Seychelles for the entire Senior Management Team, or if someone is flying back and forth to sunny Bournemouth for Local Government Association conferences, (following the recent example of some Manchester Liberal Democrats.) That's why we asked. When (not "if", we assure you) we find out, we'll let ya know.

Environmental Advisory Panel

Eighteen people met last week for the latest "Environmental Advisory Panel" meeting, including Richard Leese (Leader) and Nigel Murphy (Environment Exec), with apologies from Jim Battle (deputy leader of the Council). Gender balance was predictably appalling, with only 5 women. The meetings are held now in the new First Street building, and beforehand its developers gave a presentation on the massive retrofit they did (gutting a four story building, turning it into 6 stories and adding lots of clean tech, including a green roof). Panellists were invited to a rooftop tour with a view of Manchester and promised "all this could be theirs". When one person asked at what price, he was held over the edge by his ankles until he endorsed "Manchester A Certain Future." The meeting then took in process of getting internal 'buy in' of the Delivery Plan, before panellists split into groups looking 'delivery' 'leadership' 'regulation' and 'influencing', rather than individual actions being planned. Next meeting- September x.

Social Clim^{at}ing

Cycling past Kro 2 on Oxford Road in late July, MCFly was unsurprised to see the outdoor space heaters on, presumably warming the lung cancer sufferers of the year 2025. Kro is the outfit that wouldn't answer simple and civil questions about its "climate work" (sic) late last year, work done in collaboration with "Foundation", the Climate Change Fund for the Northwest. It is one of the few silver linings in the death of the NWDA (and consequent return of matching European funds to Brussels) that we won't (presumably) much longer have idiotic guilt-assuaging stunts like 'offset your trip to South America by sending us 15 quid.' Don't believe us? Go visit

<http://foundation.climatefund.org.uk/news/174>)

HEAP's good!

Highfield Eco Allotment Project (theHEAP for short) is a community allotment based at the Levenshulme and District allotment site, located at the top of Highfield Road. The friendly people there follow a vegan organic and permaculture approach to growing their fruit, vegetables and herbs.

If you want to get involved, you would be more than welcome.

Contact them via info@theheap.org.uk

www.theheap.org.uk/blog

The Revolution will be Youtubed!

"Budding film maker wanted for a peaceful and legal street action to take place at undisclosed location in Manchester City Centre at the end of August. The focus will be a major climate injustice and the part played in it by a major national institution with iconic presence locally. We're looking for a fast turn round from action to publication to the web so that we can capitalise on hoped mainstream publicity being used as a hook to lead the public to the film and the film to lead them onto taking action.

An example of the sort of thing we had in mind is on

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGFBx447Oc>

If this goes well there may be other occasions when we could collaborate. No money available, but international web cudos, eager actors, and the chance to bask in that warm glow caused by helping to change the world! To discuss this and find out more, leave a message for Stephen Pennells on or stephen_pennells@yahoo.co.uk."

Researchers need Salford residents for the battle against climate change

Researchers Philip Brown and Maria Burke at the University of Salford are trying to trace residents who have lived in some specific and unique homes in the city.

In the 1970s researchers at the University worked with Salford City Council to design and develop houses that were much more energy efficient and robust than other properties at the time.

These houses were constructed in order to tackle the poor state of repair and expense of heating homes experienced by Council tenants at the time.

The researchers believe that possibly up to 200 houses were built to this design across the Salford area. They are keen to talk to the people who lived in them to find out how these houses have stood the test of time.

If you think you live(d) in one of these properties, get in touch with Phil and the team by emailing v.jolly@salford.ac.uk

MCFly in reprinti of council press release shocker!

"Elderly residents in north Manchester are to use green energy, with solar panels put on the side of their housing block.

Manchester City Council has teamed up with Northwards Housing and contractors Wates Living Space to install the panels on Whitebeck Court Extra Care Scheme in Charlestown. Tenants moving into the 91 flats in the newly refurbished block will use renewable power generated by the panels for their lighting and electrical use in the block's communal areas."

What's coming up

AUGUST

Weds 4, 6-8pm Transition City Manchester meeting, Eight Day cafe, Oxford Rd

www.transitioncitymanchester.wordpress.com

Weds 4, 7.30pm Manchester Climate Action meeting @ The Bowling Green Pub, Grafton Street, M13 6NZ

www.manchesterclimateaction.wordpress.com

Weds 4, 7.30pm First Abundance Trafford meeting at Firwood Community Centre, Longford Park, The Quadrant, Greatstone Road, Stretford, M32 8QS Abundancetrafford@gmail.com

Mon 9, 7.30pm Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign meeting Friends Meeting House, Mount St. www.gmcc.org.uk

Tues 10, 7.15pm – 9pm Friends of the Earth full group meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St.

www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

Weds 11, 7.30pm Manchester Climate Action meeting @ The Bowling Green Pub, Grafton Street, M13 6NZ

Thurs 12, 7 - 9pm Green Party Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St. www.manchestergreenparty.org.uk

Sat 14, 12-3pm Old Trafford Amateur Gardeners' Society invites you to their Open Day at Seymour Grove Allotments, Warwick Court, off Kings Road, Old Trafford, M16 0JG (Warwick Court is beside Kings Road Primary School). On offer on the day: seasonal produce donated for sale by ploholders (subject to availability given the dry conditions this season - so come early!), Home made cream teas, with allotment jams, Car Boot Sale, "See More" Trail for kids. All proceeds from the day go to Old Trafford Amateur Gardeners' Society to run the allotment site.

Thurs 26, 7.15pm – 9pm Friends of the Earth campaigns meeting, Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St.

RIP Stephen Schneider (1945-2010)

One of the smartest and most eloquent climate scientists on t'planet died on Monday 26 July.

There's an excellent short clip of him warning in 1979 of what might be coming. Unfortunately, he was right...

www.youtube.com/user/greenman3610



Calling all Chorltonites or anyone who frequents the Chorlton area, be a part of making the Chorlton Big Green Festival 2011 bigger and better than ever! The first festival committee meeting will take place Sept 23rd 7:30pm but it's never too early to get in touch to get on board. We'll be nominating and voting on new roles at this meeting. Please let Erika know if you want to get involved, erika.nagae@afsl.org.uk

Reasons not to be cheerful

Sustainable Development Commission got de-sustained the other week, alongside the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, to save £5m. Meanwhile, when not busy missing the irony in MCFly readers' letters to their "postbag", the Manchester Evening News finds time to report on a Federation of Small Businesses survey saying most small companies are putting environmental issues on hold. They interview a South Manchester landlord and quote him as saying. *"I own 80 houses across south Manchester and have invested in converting 50 to carbon zero status. But the significant cost combined with the reduction in interest-free loans and the ending of government grants means I simply can't go full steam ahead."*

Meanwhiler still, phytoplankton, (microscopic plants that support all life in the oceans) are dying off at a dramatic rate (40% since the 1950s, and the boffins investigating reckon it's down to our ol' friend manmade carbon dioxide emissions.

MCFly is financially supported by APE

www.apeuk.org



MCFly 55- Sun August 21

All the usual features, with more information about pre-November 30 'Stakeholder Conference events, the delayed review of Bill McKibben's "Eearth", more interviews and "much much more"...

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Joe Romm, the (American) climateprogress.org blogger: *"The best thing about improvements in health care is that all the climate-change deniers are now going to live long enough to see how wrong they were."*

Environmentalist Rob Watson *"Mother Nature is just chemistry, biology and physics. That's all she is." You cannot sweet-talk her. You cannot spin her. You cannot tell her that the oil companies say climate change is a hoax. No, Mother Nature is going to do whatever chemistry, biology and physics dictate."*

MCFly is an independent newsletter covering climate change in (Greater) Manchester. We are not funded by any council (!), political party or campaigning group. MCFly is edited by Marc Hudson. We want more reporters!! Comments, leads, leaks and offers of no-strings money to

editor@manchesterclimatefortnightly.info
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