



NEWSLETTER



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The problem with writing news is that within a very short time it is old news. I've been hanging on waiting to finalise some of the issues, but closure is not always possible so I've decided to send this off so that you have time to consider it over the festive season.

When I started writing this newsletter at the beginning of December there were big questions hanging in the air about the future of BOB Recycles (and consequently Recycle-y-Byke, which was hosted at the Byker Arches rented by BOB Recycles). The BOB Recycles executive had spent most of September, October and November exploring the possibilities for recycling cardboard and, when that proved untenable, glass at the site. The urgency of finding a viable solution was exacerbated when the City Council announced in mid November that it intended to claw back all the outstanding money from the original scheme, meaning that from the end of December, when the rent free period on the Byker Arches was over, BOB, and by association, Recycle-y-Bike had to vacate the premises. The latest news is that the City Council has said that it is willing to leave £8,000 in the BOB Account as necessary matched funding for the bid to Newcastle Regeneration Fund for a £60,000 grant. The latest news is that the NRF panel will now assess the BOB application at the meeting on the 31st December 2006. If successful, the new project will be called the **Byker Bottle Glass Company** and will be a completely new social enterprise formed from BOB Recycles and Norcare Ltd. It will collect quality wine bottles from selected restaurants in the city center, convert some of them into flat glass for arts and crafts, possibly granulate some of the others and send the residue for conventional recycling. So, the trials and tribulations of BOB Recycles as it struggled to survive and adapt through 2006 continue into 2007. The only thing that we are clear of is that the new incarnation, if it happens, will be completely separate entity from BAN Waste, so this may be the last time I refer to BOB Recycles in a BAN Waste Newsletter.

Val and Ralph Barton and Nick Fray attended a FoE Incineration Conference in London at the beginning of November and reported back on a lively event with a number of quality presentations, including one from Nicky Gavron, the Deputy Mayor of London. If you would like to see her presentation and that of some of the other speakers I've created a link from our website (not present yet, still waiting for FoE to add it to the site).



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The open consultation stage of Newcastle's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of its future waste strategy finally opened on the 28th November 2006. Despite strenuous efforts from Little Wasters and other members of BAN Waste to ensure that it was as accessible as possible the final document does not make easy reading and the choices are somewhat limited. The method of distribution of the special copy of City Life, as an insert in the local free paper, left something to be desired insofar as a number of people have already reported that they do not receive the paper or discarded it along with all the inserts.

If you have not received a copy and would like your response to be recorded, as well as commenting on the process, do complete the relevant online version at <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/wasteandrecyclingconsultation?opendocument> .

It may be that you feel that you have something to contribute to the discussion of how the handling of waste and recycling is carried out in the city that seems to lie outside of the consultation process, such as the way the doorstep recycling collection operates. If so, let us know and we can collate the responses and present them to the Council Officers at the regular partnership meetings.

Forthcoming Events

BAN Waste 'Away Day' Ouseburn Valley Farm Saturday 20th January 2007 10am to 2pm.

The idea of the Away Day is for members to have an opportunity to focus on the future of BAN Waste.

It seems that for a number of years now the nature of our organisation has been changing. The dismantling of the chimney for the old Byker incinerator was an event that in some ways marked the end of the old campaigning group, although as the move toward a new technology, prototype incinerator plant in 2005 showed we need to be on our toes, and we do not know what is going to come out of the current Waste Strategy Consultation as yet.

One suggestion that seems to meet with approval is that we concentrate on waste minimisation and try to secure funding to develop ourselves as the organisation promoting this in the North East. Also of interest is what contribution we can make to the promotion and implementation of recycling in neglected waste streams that are of little interest to the big players in the arena, such as old keys, tools, etc.

And what of our partnership with Newcastle City Council? Is it working? How can we improve it? Do we identify too closely with the Council's aims? What differences will the introduction of Groundwork into the city make for our partnership?



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We need as many of the wider membership as possible to consider these questions.

The exact format and agenda for the day is undecided yet, but if you indicate a willingness to attend I will contact you early in the New Year. We will also order you a delicious lunch from The Cluny.

I realise that some of you signed up for the Away Day that we hoped to hold a few weeks ago and that we had to postpone. Apologies once again for that and I hope that it does not deter you from signing up for this one which will go ahead (short of major flooding in the Ouseburn valley). So get back to me as soon as possible if you intend to come along.

Dates for your Diary

BAN Waste Management Meetings

Monday, January 8th 2007 **All meetings take place at 5.00pm**

Monday, February 5th 2007 **at Newcastle Healthy City Project**

Monday, March 5th 2007

Monday, April 2nd 2007

North East Recycling Forum

The next NERF meeting on the 23rd January 2007, from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Redcar Race Course. If you would like to go e-mail Jo at jobennison@eif.org.uk in the new year for an agenda.