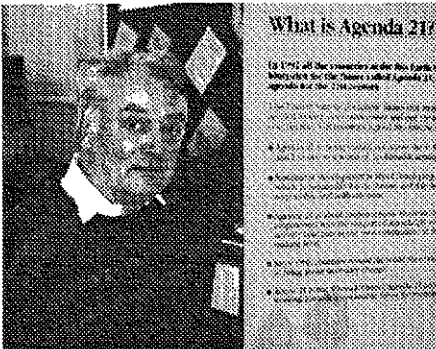


# TRANSACTION

A sustainable future *for* Warwick District



Agenda 21 Secretary Tom Holloway with display panels

## Green awards for Warwickshire

Prestigious awards keep piling in for Warwickshire County Council's new compost bin, the Compost Capsule.

The bin was 'launched' at the BBC Gardener's World Live Show at the NEC in June, where it won two Watford Crystal awards for being the best stand in its class - the 'Recycled Garden'. And Best Contribution to Environmental and Conservation Issues. The bin has also received Amateur Gardening's new products coveted five star award.



## MEET MISTER CLEAN STREETS

**Martin Chilvers of Warwick District's Waste Management**, (seen above left with some colleagues at a recent local exhibition), is a man with a mission. He regularly speaks at schools about waste management and recycling. "It's probably one of the most valuable things I can do and I wish I could do more of it" he says. He was on hand recently to see 20 Warwick District schools receive their 'Schools Litter-free Campaign' Certificates at the Town Hall in Leamington Spa. "We have 32 schools taking part" he says proudly, "and there's been a definite

increase in enthusiasm for the environmental message in the last year". This can clearly be seen in the photograph below at the presentation of one of the certificates to St Peter's School, Leamington Spa.



Transaction is the bi-monthly newsletter of Action 21. Action 21 is the Warwick District Agenda 21 action group, working towards a sustainable future for everyone. Transaction is available free from Action 21. Tell us what you or your organisation /company is doing about sustainable development. We value your opinion, good or bad, so write to Action 21, Spencer Yard, Leamington Spa, CV31 2SY. Tel: (01926) 888 333.

## PROPERTY WATCHDOGS

Warwickshire County Council's Property Services Department is working on a programme of benchmarking of buildings — that is, comparing the cost of running one building against another to highlight actions needed to improve efficiency and save money.

The process helps to compare expenditure and if high expenditure is identified e.g. on heating, lighting, caretaking and maintenance, then action can be taken. The work was initiated in Warwickshire, but has been developed for national use by local government organisations and has been recognised by the government.

## PEDAL POWER SHOWS THE WAY

In last year's Government White Paper "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone", Warwick District Council's Myton Cycleway/Footway was included as a national example of good practice.

It provides a continuous link between the Leamington Spa Station area and Warwick Railway Station area used by many local schools for cyclists and walkers.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD

The Warwickshire Trading Standards Enterprise, Quality and Information Project has now changed its name to EQUIP. It has helped 12 Warwickshire businesses to achieve ISO 9000 Quality Management Certificates and supported a further 3000 companies who did not require formal registration.

It is now providing support for the implementation of the ISO 14000 standard, an environmental system for business which incorporates environmental protection and improvement leading to minimalisation of waste and a reduction in costs.



A new bus service was launched in September 1999 linking local centres. Centrelinks was created as a result of a partnership between Warwick District Council, WCC, Stagecoach Midland Red & J.J. Gallagher

## Action for Energy Waste and Water

**drew an enthusiastic crowd to Warwick on 29th September.**

The panel of Richard Dobbs, Warwick District Council, Tom Taylor of Severn Trent Water, David Julian from Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre and Andy Sherlock, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council sparked a lively debate and answered questions from the floor.

Ideas which were suggested for immediate action were:

- Buying low-energy light-bulbs
- Avoiding heavily packaged goods
- Switching lights off whenever possible
- Turning off computer and TV screens whenever possible

In addition, longer-term issues were also discussed, and as always they will go to form part of Warwick District's strategy for sustainable living in the twenty-first century.

### **Strike a light!**

Lighting usually makes up about 15% of your electricity bill. Replace one normal 100 watt lightbulb with an energy-saving one and you can save up to £10 a year, or £50 over the bulb's lifetime. They cost £5-£15, but should last up to eight times as long. To ensure you get value for money, check that the bulb you buy states it will last for at least 8,000 hours.

Low-cost lighting

### **Wasted heat**

Only about 5% of the electricity used by ordinary (filament) bulbs becomes light—the rest is lost as heat.

### **Fluorescent bulbs**

Fluorescent bulbs are about five times more efficient than filament bulbs because they convert more of the electricity to light and less to heat. If you switch a fluorescent light off and on very frequently then you will reduce its lifespan. However, if you are leaving a room for about 10 minutes or more you would be better to switch it off than leave it on.

### **Electric Cooker**

Ring costs about 11p an hour  
Main oven costs about 17p an hour  
Full grill costs about 15p an hour

### **Gas Cooker**

Ring costs about 3p an hour  
Main oven costs about 5p an hour  
Full grill costs about 5p an hour

### **Fan ovens**

Fan ovens use about 20% less electricity than conventional ovens.

### **Check your fridge**

If the seal on your fridge door is not working properly, your fridge will have to work harder to keep your food cool. Check the seal by inserting a piece of paper between it and the fridge door. If the paper moves, or falls out, you need to replace the seal.

### **Stop dripping**

A dripping tap can waste 13 litres a day around a bathfull every week. So make sure you always turn taps off completely. Then fix dripping taps.

### **Stop running**

Instead of leaving the tap running, try to use a glass of water for cleaning your teeth, or a bowl of water for washing fruit and vegetables or rinsing soapy clothes or dishes. If you run the tap to make water really cold before you drink it, why not fill a jug and keep it in the fridge instead?

### **Shower power**

Replace one bath with a shower once a week and you'll be saving up to 25 litres of water. Water warning! Power showers can use even more water than a bath.

### **T.V.**

Remember to turn your television off if we all left our TVs on stand-by there would be enough electricity to power a town the size of Basingstoke or Burnley.

## GM - FREE SUPERMARKETS

In March a survey of 500 Totnes Safeway customers indicated that 76% of customers wanted the store to be GM-Free and 91% wanted GM Foods segregated on separate shelves. Surveys nationwide have confirmed the high level of concern - but are the supermarkets listening? Most supermarkets have promised to go GM-free - but as of 31st July 1999 not all of them are fulfilling this promise.

### **MARK & SPENCER VERY GOOD**

"We are pleased to tell you that all food product sold in our stores are now being made without GM ingredients or derivatives" (8/7/99)

Currently the best supermarket to buy GM-free food from.

However, take care when buying clothes - many contain GM cotton. Indian farmers fear that GM cotton will threaten their jobs and environmental groups are concerned about the environmental damage involved in growing it.

### **SAINSBURY GOOD**

"Sainsbury's have eliminated GM ingredients from its own brand products" (19/7/99)

Sainsbury's seem to be listening to their customers and have altered 1,500 product to become GM-free. We recommend that customer buy Sainsbury's own brands.

### **CO-OP FAIRLY GOOD**

The Co-op seems to be listening to their customers. We suggest that customer buy Co-op GM-free brands.

### **ASDA FAIRLY GOOD**

Asda seem to be listening to their customers. We suggest that customers buy Asda's GM-free brands.

## FOOD LABELLING

SUE DIBB, author of the report on GM foods, has also written a guide to general food labelling to be found in shops and supermarkets.

*Brown bread* - white bread dyed with caramel

*Pure juice* - concentrated fruit juice - frozen, shipped, diluted,



Alternative fuels, this gas powered family saloon was on display at the Green Transport event held in September

then heat-treated.

*Juice drink* - contains a little as five per cent actual juice.

*Low-fat sausages* - contain less fat than sausages not labelled "low fat", but not necessarily low in fat.

*Fish steak* - off-cuts, flakes and scraps blended, minced and reformed with help of water-absorbing polyphosphate additives.

*Strawberry flavour* - nothing to do with real strawberries whatsoever.

*Strawberry flavoured* - flavouring has come from real strawberries (watch the "ed")

*Gelatin* - pig ski, pig bones, cattle hide (Just so you know).

*Natural flavourings* - can include flavourings made from insects and flamingo feathers.

*Spring water* - could be tap water (as opposed to "mineral water" which is, by law, mineral water).

*Ham* - ham plus gelatin, sugars, nitrite preservatives, phosphates, gums, salt, soya proteins and up to 25 per cent water.

*Farm fresh eggs* - lain by battery hens.

*Country fresh eggs* - laid by battery hens.

*Barn eggs* - laid by hen who, though not caged, never see daylight and are often "debeaked".

*Free range eggs* - laid by hens with continuous access to outdoors, but may still live up to 7,000 per barn (some free-range hens are actually exposed to extra daylight by artificial means).

For more information, read *What the Label Doesn't Tell You* by Sue Dibb (Thorsons, £8.99).

## CLEMENS STREET FARMERS MARKET GETS GO-AHEAD

Following a meeting between Warwickshire Police, James Plaskitt MP and Warwick District Council, it has been agreed that Clemens Street in Leamington Spa's Old Town can have a Farmers Market at some time in the future.

The next Farmers Market is due to take place In Regent Street East on Saturday the 13th of November. Ian Coker, Town Centre Manager, said "

## RONALD McDONALD IS GOING GREEN

McDonald's Sweden say that they "shall steadily work to minimise the use of energy and natural resources and to adapt all parts of our operation according to the cyclic principle.

McDonald's Sweden's progress to date includes a distribution service progressively directed towards the rail system; the trial introduction of bio fuels of 90% ethyl alcohol derived from forest waste; a 'McRecycle' programme for buying recycled materials; and a prototype 'Sustainable Restaurant' which incorporates not only wind and solar power and water recovery systems but can also be relocated to new sites.

McDonald's customers are asked to separate their waste in the restaurants, each of which is fitted with 6 separate bins and has achieved a 98% level for recycling so far. It has also introduced organic milk into all its Swedish restaurants.

## FREE INTERNET HOME SHOPPING & DELIVERY SERVICE

Iceland supermarket chain upstages it's rivals with the launch of what it claim is the first FREE Internet home-shopping service. From 4th October, the chain will take orders from 97% of British homes over the internet for free grocery deliveries providing the total value of the order is greater than £40. The chain already has a home delivery network with 1,000 vans and currently takes orders through telephone call centre for shoppers without cars.

Daily Telegraph 8 September 1999

## FRESH PRODUCE MOVEMENT IS GROWING

All over the country there are small producers and gardeners who have a seasonal surplus of fruit and vegetables, yet do not produce a saleable quantity to warrant the expense of registering with existing symbol agencies such as the Soil Association organic symbol.

Now a new "Small and Local" symbol is being launched by a group of enthusiastic organic growers based in Devon.

The new Small and Local symbol, part of the 'Wholesome Food Association', aims to provide support for local growers using organic methods in the form of a certification symbol and a locally managed set of standards that covers growers and commercial outlets, and includes marketing support.

For further information or a starter pack contact: Phil Chandler. ISEC, Tel: 01803-868650/Fax: 01803-868651.

## WHAT IS AGENDA 21?

*"Our world is in a deplorable state of decay. Money, greed and power come before the natural world, upon which we all depend for survival. Personal interest outweigh the interests of the whole."*

In the words of David Attenborough

## Agenda 21

*is about empowerment so that everyone can actively take part in our own communities at the decision making level.*

## YOUR LETTERS

### SUSSING OUT SUSTRANS?

Readers of TRANSACTION may well be aware of the proposal by SUSTRANS for a long-distance cycleway between Leamington and Rugby, along the line of the old railway. This was given outline planning permission by the local authority last year.

What people may be less aware of are some of the environmental issues raised. We know the proposed route well. Of course, the advantages of the project are genuine. But the problem is, there are downsides. The most important of these is that the old railway track currently functions as a long distance footpath, and has also become an unofficial nature reserve. The SUSTRANS proposal will drive a heavily trafficked cycle-motorway through this, with a wide surfaced cycleway covering most of the old trackway, with predictable effects on the wildlife, and the virtually complete elimination of the grassy areas along the bed

In 1992 all the countries at the Rio Earth Summit signed a blueprint for the future, this was called Agenda 21 because it sets an agenda for the 21st century. 178 countries signed this historic document.

This United Nations document shows that major changes are needed to save our communities and our environment which is in decline.

Since 1992, countries around the world have been working to bring about necessary change.

Agenda 21 is being carried out right now across the country to enable you and I to live in a world of 'sustainable development.'

Sustainable development is about developing a way of living within this world

of the old railway. Nor are cyclists and walkers actually very compatible, so pedestrians will also lose out.

There are alternatives, If we were to accept that (long distance) cycleways should be created at the expense of roads, it would be possible for a long distance cycleway to leave at least parts of the railway track in peace. This could either be done by closing stretches of road to cars entirely, by converting wide roadside verges into protected cycleways or making car traffic one way only and using the other side of the road for cycling. Isn't this the kind of choice we need to be making if we're serious about sustainability?

We understand the local authority is still looking at important aspects of the cycleway proposal. So is it too late to put the sustainability back into SUSTRANS?

Madeleine Wahlberg and Mike Geddes

### Yellow Pages?

As a family, we are all in favour of any measures that can aid our precious planet. However, one thing deeply concerns us - the disposal, each year, of the out-of-date yellow Pages.

We know that some local authorities do accept these for reuse in various ways, but as far as we know, not Warwick District Council. Can this situation be looked at and perhaps rectified?

Elaine and Lawrence Clare

which is sustainable for the future, and this means acting responsibly and selflessly now.

Agenda 21 is also about empowerment. Everyone is now empowered with the support of Agenda 21, so that we can actively take part in our own communities at the decision making level.

The decisions we make now may mean the communities we live in have to break habits of a lifetime of self-interest and convenience, in favour of the greater good.

It's an historic challenge for us both locally and globally to apply Agenda 21 to the Warwick District, and the long journey ahead can only be made with your involvement starting right now with the first few steps...