Fighting roads since 2003
But how do you win something positive

How campaigning has dramatically changed

What works and key lessons

How to campaign with no time
We raised £8000 to pay for a barrister and transport expert, started using the laws on wildlife, especially on bats.
Lesson 1. Don’t forget the detail,

CPRE opposed a line of lampposts on the proposed bypass

“What a waste of time we will stop the whole bypass” said South Beds FoE
Despite transport experts, barristers, £60 million was granted for a bypass, while buses were cut due to lack of funding.

Anti-bypass protests got articles in the Guardian, Evening Standard & Daily Telegraph, documentary on BBC2 and it cost Bucks CC £900,000.
CBT to the Rescue
A Joint Transport strategy between Buckinghamshire County Council and Bedfordshire County Council for Leighton Linslade and surrounding villages.

Result: two years later the village of Wing got a pedestrian crossing and Leighton Buzzard got no money for buses.
We Had Lost

• had won national media

• but terrible feeling locally

• so we set out change things.
• All you need to know about transport!

• lack of revenue funding

• lack of staff

• smarter choices work
• Learning from officers,
• Talking to councillors,
• Connection to community,
• Just helping the council
• Doing things the council does not have the time to do.
• General liaison, catalysts, negotiators
• Getting funding
How do we want the Council to spend our money?

Bedfordshire has £50 million to spend over the next five years. Two thirds is currently spent on road maintenance.

How do we want to spend our money?

More on roads, or more on good public transport?

Public Consultation
The Baptist Church
Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard
8th December
7.30pm

Please ring Beds CC: 01234 276 028 beforehand or turn up on the door. Visit Leighton Buzzard Library to see the display from 5th – 7th December.

- Congestion is set to increase by 65% by 2010 (from 1996 levels).
- Road traffic is expected to grow by 40% by 2025 (from 2000 levels).
- Public transport and reducing the school run can reduce congestion by one fifth.

For more information contact Victoria Harvey, South Beds Friends of the Earth, on (01525) 385097.
80 people can to this consultation,

Other consultations had only 12 people

Be prepared to do the work in advance
LET DOWN BY LOCAL BUS SERVICES?

Do you rely on unreliable Public Transport?

Are you becoming isolated because of the lack of services?

You need to e-mail or speak to your ward councillor as soon as possible. Your councillor has ultimate power over getting better buses.

Leighton/Linslade
Brian Spurr - 01525 385917
brian.spurr@southbeds.gov.uk

Southcott Ward
Brian Sadler - 01525 382130
Brian.sadler@bedscc.gov.uk

Grovebury
Paul Record - 01442 383 529
paul.record@bedscc.gov.uk

All Saints and Planets
Roy Johnstone - 01525 385 854
Roy.Johnston@bedscc.gov.uk

Billington, Eaton Bray
Brian Piggott - 01525 222 805
Brian.piggott@bedscc.gov.uk

Toddington, Hockliffe
Rhys Goodwin - 01525 210 629
Rhys.Goodwin@bedscc.gov.uk

If you’re not sure which ward you’re in phone the County Council offices and they will tell you or put you through 01234 363222

Your councillor needs to know if you’re not getting the services you need.

Only they can really do something about it.

It's your choice ~ put up with it or phone today!
We raised the funding for this, only £1000 and Arriva and councillor both present.
We raised the funding for another display
At last timetables of the buses at the main bus stop
Real Change needs money

We challenged Henry Cleary, Head of the New Growth areas for John Prescott’s department.

“The only sustainable thing about Sustainable Communities, is the re-launch of the anti-road movement.”

He offered to meet with our council. Due to previous work the officers really helped us.
“Yes Minister”

is transparent and straightforward compared with local officers trying to get sustainable transport past councillors through the planning system.
Key Facts on Campaigning

Speed of change in local government
Key Techniques

Hundreds of phone calls

Chocolate cake always works at meetings!!!

Make people feel special
News Release
4 October 2007

£1M BOOST FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN BEDFORDSHIRE GROWTH AREA.

The money completes a £7m public-private package

“The project, taken forward with South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth, “

Junior Housing Minister, Iain Wright MP said:
“This project…will help revitalise the town centre” “I hope to see many more such collaborations between central and local government and house builders and would encourage others to follow” Leighton Buzzard’s lead”.

Victoria Harvey of South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth says
“The aim is that it will be easier to jump on a bus or walk and cycle into the town centre than to get in a car and drive to an out of town retail park.”

South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth
1. “Civilise” the main link road between town centre and the new estate ¾ of a mile, so that it is pleasanter to walk, cycle or hop on a bus into town than drive.
2. High Quality Bus service every 15 mins

New estate to town centre and railway station

Mon to Saturday from 6.00am to 11.30pm
3. Real time information screens in the kitchens of all new houses, so you can check train and bus times while having breakfast, or doing the lunchboxes for the children.
Never Prioritise
Show you are involved with the community
What did this win us

Leighton Linslade is a cycling town
Alternatives reports for the Wing Bypass
And the Luton Northern Bypass

Bus and smart travel package ‘could eliminate need for Luton bypass’

A consultancy study for Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council into alternatives to the proposed Luton North Bypass has concluded that a lower cost package of alternatives could offer the same congestion relief benefits as the road scheme.

“On balance, it is evident that the bypass will not offer advantages over a package of alternative measures in relieving or limiting town centre congestion,” says consultant Peter Brett Associates.

PBA’s report recommends that two types of scheme – a high quality, high frequency public transport system (centred on a bus rapid transit scheme) and the development and application of tailored travel behaviour change programmes – should be seriously considered as alternatives to the proposed bypass. “Both of these schemes are tried and tested and there is considerable empirical evidence to suggest that they may be viable applied to Luton,” the consultant says.

Tim Allen, the PBA partner who led the work, told LTT that the report into alternatives to the bypass came about because a consultation last year into the Joint Local Development Framework for the South Bedfordshire/Luton sub-region produced an even three-way split of opinion between building an ‘inner’ bypass, building an ‘outer’ bypass and not building a bypass at all.

“The councils appear to have been rather taken by surprise by the response to this consultation,” he said. “But they do deserve considerable credit for taking the public’s response on the chin and starting to think about alternatives.”

Victoria Harvey, from campaign group South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth, also praised Bedfordshire and Luton for commissioning the work. “They are the very first local authorities to actually follow Government guidance on this,” she claimed. “The councils deserve credit.” The proposed bypass is not due to be considered for RFA funding until after 2013/14 but Harvey said the new road could still be built with funding coming largely from housing developers who, she said, were bucking the scheme.

Halcrow has been undertaking traffic modelling work on the bypass options for almost three years but Allen said there has not yet been time to develop an alternative package of proposals in detail.

Glenn Barcham, assistant director of planning and transport policy at Bedfordshire County Council, said the next stage in the process was for a set of recommendations based on the responses to a consultation on the bypass and the alternatives to be put before a meeting of the joint planning and transport committee on 20 March.

Barcham said Bedfordshire and Luton took the decision to look at alternatives to the bypass following a similar study undertaken by Buckinghamshire County Council into alternatives to the Wing bypass (LTT 24 Jan 08).

“There are similar issues,” he said. “Both are long-standing road schemes that go back donkeys’ years.”

Luton Northern bypass/non-bypass report summary is available at www.transportxtra.com/ltt
Dealing with congestion in Leighton Buzzard

Real Community involvement
“We are normal and we agree with them”

Work with Residents Groups.
Removal of traffic lights, end of congestion and pleasant for walkers
You are dealing with People