



TIDAL, SCC Leeds take a leading role opposing plans to develop Leeds Bradford Airport

Planning proposals have been submitted to the Council to extend the terminal building at Leeds Bradford Airport, which would create a huge amount of extra retail and circulation space. The aim is to increase the number of passengers going through the airport from 3 million to 5 million a year by 2012 – an increase of 66% in just four years, and over 200% in a decade. This huge increase is even faster than that supported by the Government's expansionist Aviation White Paper, and the airport says there'll be more to follow.

All 2 million extra passengers a year will have to use the local road network, and the airport is not proposing any solution except evermore surface parking on greenfield sites. The Leeds Development Plan and the Government say the airport needs to respond to this real problem, and that the airport should pay.

Following the actual increase by 10,000 in recent years, the surge in passenger

numbers could push flights up to around 70,000 every year, if load factors and plane occupancy continue as in recent years. That must mean more noise for residents under the flight path, but – above all – a massive increase in carbon emissions.

Following the Climate Change Act 2008, all businesses and households in Leeds will have to reduce their CO2 emissions by challenging amounts every year, whilst the airport greedily eats into the city's ever reducing 'carbon budget'. By 2050 the airport could be grabbing 100% of that carbon budget, leaving nothing for anybody else. And they're doing this just in order to provide more leisure flights not essential for



the Leeds economy and community, and to benefit their shareholders.

The public consultation so far has been a sham, with the critical growth figures and their adverse impacts not disclosed to consultees, or hidden in inaccessible consultants' reports. Leeds City Council has signed an agreement with the Airport 'which commits both sides to work together to ensure all the information is provided and considered in a timely and co-operative way'. That just leaves the public in the dark.

What you can do...

ACTION

Send a letter or email of objection to the Planning Department. To submit your comments on the proposal, visit <http://tinyurl.com/leedsbradfordaction>

Contact the councillors on Plans Panel West. Your voice is even more powerful if you live in any of the Councillors' constituencies. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/planspanelwest> for a list.

Stay informed about the campaign by visiting www.nolbaexpansion.org



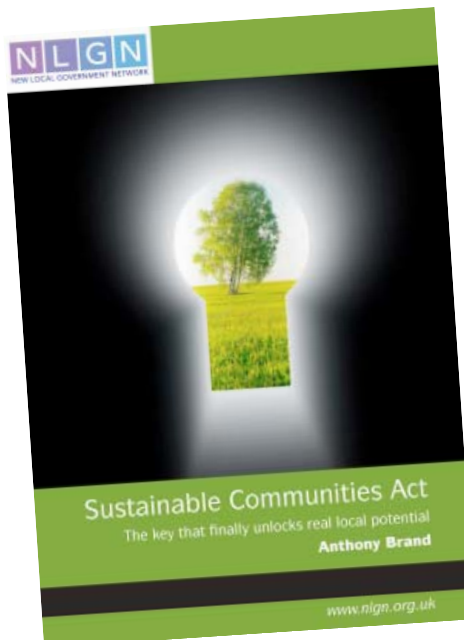
Hello again!

*Despite decades of warnings from scientists and civil society, it is only now that our politicians are engaging with the issue of climate change. But despite the rhetoric, catastrophic climate change will be all but guaranteed unless our Government takes unprecedented action **now** to stop it.*

We've taken action locally to help make this happen, from marching against local coal and supporting climate feature films to running an airport anti-expansion campaign. But all this and more will be necessary to force our decision-makers to be bold in their actions and prevent the unimaginable from happening.

There's never been a more important year to fight for the world's poorest. Ordinary people worldwide are organising like never before to prevent this crisis – let's make sure Leeds is on the frontline with them.

*With hope
Lizzie & Chris*



You're never alone with a Fairtrade banana

TIDAL activists helped Leeds City Council give away 1,200 Fairtrade bananas to members of the public as part of our campaigning during Fairtrade Fortnight. Members of the public also lent enthusiastic support to our trade justice campaign by sending pledge cards to the region's MEP candidates.



Sustainable Communities Act

It's been a long battle, but the Sustainable Communities Act is finally here, enabling local people to shape their own future and create the conditions of a sustainable world. If we're going to tackle climate change, this is where the rubber is going to hit the road.

According to the Local Works campaign, 'The Sustainable Communities Act is possibly the most radical new law that our country has seen in over a century. This is because it establishes, for the first time in our nation's history, a new 'bottom up' process where councils are in the driving seat on what government does locally.

If you'd like to find out more about the opportunities afforded by the Sustainable Communities Act, The New Local Government Network – an independent think tank – has produced this document which can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/c8pwr6>

The Act became law on 23 October 2007 with full cross party support. Local Works, a coalition of over 90 national organisations, had campaigned for five years to see this happen. The campaign was a great victory in recognising the important and valuable roles that councils have in our system of governance.'

However...

The Act itself requires local councillors to vote for it in their own councils. They have until 31 July to submit proposals to Hazel Blears. If they don't, then local people will not benefit from the new laws.

Please write to your councillor to say you want them to 'opt in'



to the Sustainable Communities Act locally, by the deadline of 31 July. You can even make it a five-minute job by going to www.writetothem.com.

Matt Carmichael

Copenhagen The Last Chance

New Scientist has produced a map, based on computer models, showing what the world would look like if it warmed by 4°C. It presents a truly apocalyptic vision, with about 50% of the total land area uninhabitable.

The problem with the map, as is acknowledged at the end of the article which it accompanies, is that if we get to 4°C degrees, it's highly unlikely that temperature rises will stop there. Feedbacks will have been started which will have put the planet on its own trajectory, and we'll be able to do nothing about it. In the past, Earth has been up to 6°C warmer than it is today, with sea levels 100m higher.

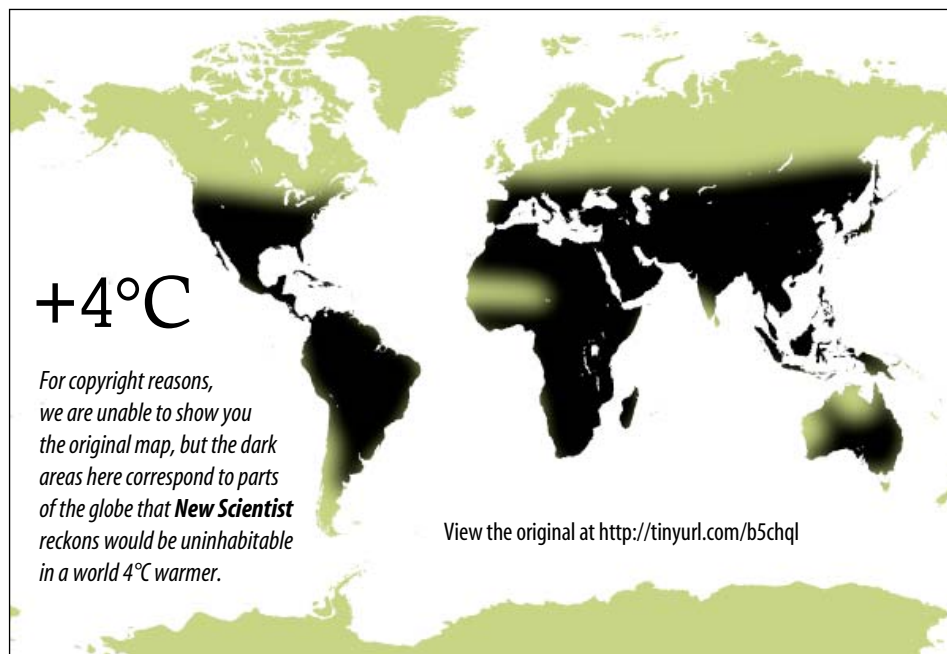
The map illustrates why climate change is the number one issue for the world's poorest people. Unless we tackle climate change, all our other efforts will be in vain. We could feed everyone, provide water and sanitation, housing and education for everyone on the planet, only to discover that because of

climate change, the whole of Africa, India, China and South and Central America – not to mention the USA, Australia, Southern Europe and much of Russia – would be unfit for human habitation. With most of the farmland wiped out and no rivers to supply most of the world's land, the loss of life would be unparalleled in human history.

We at TIDAL/SCC Leeds believe that allowing this to happen would be morally outrageous. The science tells us that this December's meeting in Copenhagen is likely to be the last opportunity that world leaders have to agree the necessary changes.

Please join us to fight for them.

Matt Carmichael



COUNTDOWN TO CO₂PENHAGEN

Time to make a difference

The crucial UN climate summit in Copenhagen is fast approaching. Scheduled for 7–18 December, this international conference to agree a successor to the Kyoto Protocol is viewed by many as a 'last chance saloon' for securing an adequate global climate deal. As Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Maldives, said as he announced his country's intention to become carbon neutral by 2020, 'Copenhagen can be one of two things; it can be a historic event where the world unites against carbon pollution... or it can be a suicide pact. The choice is that stark.'

Much is still being planned in the lead-up to this conference, but hold one date in the diary now; on 5 December, the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition will be holding a massive march in London as part of a day of international action. We'll almost certainly be putting on coaches so, if you can, please join us on the most important march of the year.

ACTION



What we've been up to

When not furiously campaigning against expanding airports, TIDAL and Stop Climate Chaos Leeds have been busy organising and supporting a whole range of activities, both in the city and round the country.

Since you last heard from us we've taken a coachload of people to the Climate March to demand Government action on climate change, then supported publicity for a march and rally in Ledston against plans to build an open cast coal mine near Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve. To help make Leeds activists look the part on the march we co-hosted a special Climate Chaos Café for prop-making, and our efforts clearly paid off, as pictures of our creations have since cropped up on several different websites. Our thanks to LUU People and Planet for making the Café such a success.

February saw us take part in Leeds University Union's Social Forum Film Festival. We screened *The Yes Men*, a film about a collective of prankster activists exposing the corrupt policies of the WTO and multinational corporations. We've also held stalls at a number of events including the launch of the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, the University of Leeds Fairtrade Fair and Leeds International Development Conference.

March saw another successful Fairtrade Fortnight, and on one sunny afternoon on Briggate we helped give away 1,200 Fairtrade bananas to members of the



public. Our stall on trade justice (above) was swamped, and as a result we collected lots of signatures for our new trade justice campaign.

Our most recent activity has been to help publicise and coordinate stalls for the People's Premiere of *The Age of Stupid*, a critically acclaimed new documentary about the human impacts of climate change. Both screenings at Vue Kirkstall and The Light were very well attended – The Light even sold out! – and all present were inspired to redouble efforts to tackle the greatest development issue of our time.



What's on – 2009

April

Thurs 16 **No Leeds Bradford Airport Expansion**
Plans Panel West meeting to decide yes or no. Check www.nolbaexpansion.org nearer the time for info on possible event at Leeds Civic Hall, 1.30pm.

Thurs 16 **DFID White Paper Consultation Event**
Members of the public are invited to an open meeting in Sheffield to contribute to the discussion. Book your place at tinyurl.com/DFIDconsultation

May

Sat 9 **Be The Change: interactive symposium**
Workshop, training, ideas, discussion and inspiration for all concerned about climate change, peak oil, financial meltdown etc. Contact 0113 262 7914, info@schumacher-north.co.uk or www.bethechange.org.uk

10–16 **Christian Aid Week**
Fundraising, awareness-raising and campaigning. More details nearer the time: www.christian-aid.org or contact lpearson@christian-aid.org

Sun 31 **3rd runway demo at Heathrow**
organised by Campaign Against Climate Change. See tinyurl.com/heathrowdemo

June

Thurs 4 **European Parliament Elections**
Look out for candidates who have signed the Trade Justice Movement pledge!

July

Wed 1 **Leeds Oxfam Group: Changing the way poverty is understood and challenged in the UK** – a talk by Sue Balcomb. All welcome. Leeds Civic Hall, 7:30pm.

December

Sat 5 **National Climate March**
A massive demonstration calling on a bold climate deal at Copenhagen. Watch this space for transport details.

7–18 **Copenhagen Climate Talks**
Thousands from the UK will descend on Copenhagen to demand action.

See also www.leadstidal.org and our email updates

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