

tected Shotover Country Park, behind the old Nielson site and two, either side of the Bayswater Brook in Barton. One a site close to Oxford's Crematorium and though originally even closer, is still worryingly nearby a Triple SSI, internationally known for its protection and conservation of wildlife. The last and smaller site in Sandhills is on Bayswater Farm Field, where sheltered under a canopy of ancient trees, the Bayswater Brook is home to water voles, badgers, deer and owls.

There, for example, developers propose to cut down a huge mature tree, home to established bat colonies, to provide road access for construction vehicles and for the site.

The sites selected, as with others throughout Oxfordshire, host extensive fragile wildlife habitats, with often rare, complex and irreplaceable biodiversity.

They will be irreparably damaged by bull dozers, pile drivers, concrete mixers, tarmac spreaders and other traffic.

The Bayswater Brook is designated as a Site of Local Importance to Nature Conservation in the Oxford City Local Plan that states: "Existing habitats associated with the brook should be protected and opportunities for enhancement should be pursued" Governments and Local Authorities pledge one thing and do another.

No amount of glib talk of compensatory biodiversity gain elsewhere, green lollipop trees on site plans or happy herons on glossy brochures from developers will prevent the serious devastation of these vital natural assets. We need to act both nationally and locally to protect our ecology: We neglect to act at our peril!

**Dr David Adams**  
**Anne-Marie Sweeney**  
**Oxfordshire**

## Climate consensus

THE UK is about to host make or break climate talks. There is overwhelming evidence of the need to act now and a growing consensus for action, as the recent local and national Great Big Green Week showed.

In September, Demos published a report concluding that the UK public is united in support of a climate policy package that could exceed the Government's existing target for reducing emissions – but that it requires speedy government action.

Yet we hear of disagreements with the Treasury over spending on the green recovery, even

though the Stern review told us back in 2006 that delaying action makes no economic sense and it will cost much more. The Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week in Eynsham demonstrated the breadth and strength of feeling and the range of people and skills already taking on the challenge at local level.

The people of Eynsham and beyond came together to show and celebrate ways of tackling climate change and protecting the environment to realise the many benefits of a greener future. We wanted to inspire locals and strengthen the resolve of our politicians to do better in the lead up to COP 26. It was a resounding success. 200 people put on over 60 events over the week. An estimated 2,000 people engaged in activities ranging from music, art, games, nature recovery to future energy and a reflective talk tent which tackled the big issues of the climate and ecological emergency.

The expertise and vision of the community showed what is possible right now.

This was part of a national pattern that saw over 5,000 events uniting people across the country. An even greater response is planned for the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice on November 6th including a march in Oxford.

We know what needs to be done and how to do it, but are held back by inadequate national policy. Now we need our leaders to lead, to take note of all this energy on the ground and redouble its COP 26 efforts. As the Demos report states: 'the public has spoken and it's time for the government to act.'

**Eynsham Great Big Green Week Team**  
**(includes Tony Bovey, Sarah Couch, Lucy Dickinson, Ros Kent, Sue Raikes, Laura Stringer, Angie Titchen)**

## Stay masked

COVID cases in Oxfordshire continue at a disastrously high level.

Yet fewer and fewer people seem to be wearing face-masks in shops and buses (at least around here – apparently the Scots are doing rather better). I can hardly be the only person whose reaction is that the more maskless people there are in shops, the less likely I am to go into those shops. If the Government wants to restore confidence and encourage us to be out and about spending money and supporting the economy, then re-introduce mandatory face-coverings on public transport and in all shops and other indoor gathering-places. The cur-