

Energy we can all afford?



Public Meeting and Question Time

Chair and Speaker Biographies

Chair

Jo Butcher - Director, Save the World Club

Jo has held leadership roles within the local and national voluntary sector, including 14 years at the National Children's Bureau growing and leading its work on health and sustainable development. Her work has generated commitment to improving children's well-being nationally, championing the needs of the most vulnerable and supporting their active participation in national policy and practice. She is passionate about mainstreaming and connecting health and environmental agendas. She advises Friends of the Earth on health and fuel poverty issues and is volunteering as Director of Kingston based environmental charity, Save the World Club.

Jo is a London Leader, flagship programme of the London Sustainable Development Commission. She was the sole youth sector representative on the joint Ministerial and Third Sector Taskforce on Climate Change. She has also led initiatives in the London Boroughs of Sutton and Richmond on substance misuse education and prevention with young people.

Keynote speaker

The Rt Hon Edward Davey – MP for Kingston and Surbiton and Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

Edward Davey won his seat as MP for Kingston and Surbiton at the 1997 General Election. Once elected, he was appointed as the Economics Affairs Spokesman by Paddy Ashdown. Following re-election in 2005, Charles Kennedy appointed him Shadow Education and Skills Secretary, a post that he held until the election of Menzies Campbell as new leader of the Liberal Democrats in March 2006. When Nick Clegg became the Leader, he appointed Ed as Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary. In May 2010 he became Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs in the Coalition Government. Ed was appointed to his current position on the Cabinet as Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in February 2012.

For the wider community in Kingston and Surbiton, Ed has waged a series of high profile campaigns over the years on issues such as saving Surbiton Hospital to increasing Kingston's share of London's police officers. He has a background as an economist (gaining an MSc in Economics) and a management consultant. He lives in Surbiton with his wife, Emily, and young son, John.

Expert panellists

Benjamin Farnes – Young media champion, National Children’s Bureau (NCB)

Benjamin Farnes finds time alongside studying for A-levels for extensive campaigning on children and young people’s issues. He works with the National Children’s Bureau as part of its Young NCB membership network and as a young research adviser focusing on transport and active travel, health and personal finance education. Ben is also Member of Youth Parliament for Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Winchester and within this role Ben has served Parliament’s first Youth Select Committee looking at the issue of public transport.

Shane Brennan - Chief Executive, Age Concern Kingston

Shane Brennan has been Chief Executive of Age Concern Kingston since 2005. Before joining Age Concern, he gained over 20 years’ experience of working in both the private and non-profit sectors. He lives locally and is passionately committed to developing quality and innovative services which address inequalities and make a difference. He plays a prominent role within the charity and non-profit sector both regionally and nationally.

In 2011 he was shortlisted for the Outstanding Individual Achievement category of the 2011 Charity Times Awards, awarded to a person who has demonstrated dedication, professionalism and integrity throughout their career, and who has produced an identifiably profound effect on the charity sector through their work and/or management.

Martyn Williams – Head of Parliamentary Campaigns, Transform UK

Martyn Williams is the Head of Parliamentary campaigns at the Energy Bill Revolution. Prior to that he worked for Friends of the Earth for more than 15 years, running Parliamentary campaigns that led to new laws on recycling, energy efficiency and fuel poverty. Most significantly of all, Martyn drafted the first version of the Climate Change Bill, and ran the very successful campaign that led to what we now know as the Climate Change Act.

Andrew Pendleton – Head of Campaigns, Friends of the Earth

Andrew Pendleton is Head of Campaigns at Friends of the Earth, which he joined from the IPPR where he was Associate Director of Climate Change and Energy. Andrew is a journalist by profession and spent 10 years at the BBC before joining Christian Aid where he campaigned on issues from debt relief and aid to fairer trade rules. He has a lifelong commitment to issues of environmental protection and social justice.