



## Transition Town Deal ?

During 2010 an authoritative report '*Zero Carbon Britain: 2030*' was published.

*"Peak Oil and climate change are two of the greatest challenges we face today; the Transition Town movement is firmly rooted in the idea that people taking action now in their communities can not only tackle these environmental threats but also, in the process of doing so, lead more fulfilling lives."*

Caroline Lucas, MP, Green Party



This is a vision of practical steps which our society can take to transform itself from a society producing 637 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2007 to one which produces **none** by 2030.

The **Transition Towns** movement around the country is a response to that vision built from a local and community perspective.

The ideas which link these initiatives is a belief that communities can make themselves more able to navigate a 21<sup>st</sup> Century increasingly effected by climate change and the end of an economy based on cheap oil (hence, the *Transition*).

In doing so, not only do we make our local community more **resilient** to these changes but also a better community.

# What are Transition Towns ?

**In less than 5 years the transition movement has spread virally across the UK and the world.**

There are now over 400 'transition communities' across the UK and thousands worldwide from small rural hamlets, inner city boroughs like Brixton, to cities like Norwich and even county councils such as Somerset.

In Kent there are six towns working towards full transition town status: Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Medway, Faversham, Whitstable and Canterbury. We hope to get **Deal** on that list.

The primary focus of Transition Initiatives is not campaigning **against** things but rather on positive, empowering possibilities and opportunities.

Our role is not to come up with all the answers but to act as a **catalyst** for the community to come up with its own unique way of gradually returning to sustainability.



# What is Involved?

A Transition Town community works to look peak oil and climate change squarely in the eye and address this question: for all those aspects of life that this community needs in order to sustain itself and thrive, how do we significantly increase resilience to lessen the effects of peak oil and drastically reduce carbon emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change?

The question is answered by going through a comprehensive and creative process of:

- **raising awareness** of peak oil, climate change and the need to undertake a community led process to rebuild resilience and reduce carbon;
- connecting with **existing groups** in the community;
- building bridges to local government;
- connecting with other transition initiatives;
- forming groups to look at all the key areas of life, e.g. food, energy, transport, health and livelihoods;
- starting projects aimed at building people's understanding of resilience, carbon issues and community engagement; and
- eventually launching a community defined and implemented "**Energy Descent Action Plan**" over a 15 to 20 year time scale.

# Deal With It

our local transition initiative

In the last year Deal's local community green group, '**Deal With It**', has launched several initiatives in the town. These included a recycling campaign for batteries, Beach cleans, campaigns on local transport, a Green Energy Forum, meetings on the impact of climate change on local wildlife, a 'Garden Share' Scheme, a district wide urban 'Chicken Count' and one of the world wide 'Zero Carbon Concerts'.



**The Local Food Group- 'Delicious Deal'** is encouraging both the consumption and production of local food: this will reduce food miles and improve security of supply.

In 2011 we plan to work on:

- developing a community garden
- an food co-operative that will help small suppliers and deal with wasteful gluts.
- A food waste campaign
- Encouraging people to regain the skills of gardening, baking, cooking, preserving, and repairing.

**The Energy Forum** will continue to encourage up-take of micro-generation, and the insulation of homes. We are looking at ways to help those in fuel poverty. We will work towards community owned renewable energy generation, either in conjunction with another local community, or on our own.

**The Transport Group** is already campaigning to improve the local train and bus services



and exploring car share schemes as many residents are going to be increasingly hit by the rising cost of oil.

**The Waste Group** will look for imaginative ways to turn waste into opportunity by means of recycling, re-use and repair.

**What we are proposing, many other communities are already making a reality**

## Zero Carbon Deal in 2030?



[www.dealwithit.org](http://www.dealwithit.org)

- Award winning Green Tourist Destination
- Mix of active healthy pursuits, rich wildlife and bio-diverse countryside and seaside
- Local 'Deal Pound' supporting the local economy
- A 'Zero Carbon community' thanks to locally owned tidal power generation with profits invested in residential solar power
- Vibrant local food scene with restaurants using locally sourced food
- Community farm and local food co-op

Today we are faced by three threatening challenges, Climate Change, Peak Oil and the Global Financial Crisis. Do we pretend we can't see any of these threats and let ourselves be engulfed by them? Or do we take a long hard look at what we as a community of informed people can do to prepare ourselves? We would like to help make our town a healthier, richer, more inclusive and resilient community; we believe by working together with local government, existing community groups and committed individuals, it can be done! Our objectives will be achieved much more easily with the active support of **Deal Town Council**. We would like to build a positive and productive relationship that will create **Transition Deal**, a more prosperous and resilient town, better prepared for the rigours of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.