

# A Place for Campaigning?



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

## A Case Study

David Crawshaw

27<sup>th</sup> June 2011

# Current Campaigns



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Save Chat Moss Campaign
  - Planning hearing 30<sup>th</sup> June
  
- Mersey Estuary Renewables Project
  - Project shelved 21<sup>st</sup> June for financial reasons

# Context for Chat Moss



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- 99% of lowland raised bogs in our area have been lost or damaged
- Over 50% of those that remain are threatened by peat extraction including Chat Moss
- Requires additional action to change this

Peat Extraction Site



12 Yards Road Restoration Site

Image by Matthew Roberts

# What the Trust has been doing



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Managing sites that we own, or on other's behalf
- Acquiring threatened sites and restoring them
  - Natural England Wetland Vision
  - Heritage Lottery
- Some direct dialogue with peat extractors
- Campaigning

# Sites Acquired by the Trust



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside



- *Cadishead Moss*
  - 8 ha former peat extraction site
- *Cockerham Moss SSSI*
  - 15ha + 10ha lag fen buffer zone

- *Abram Flash*
  - 1 ha mossland +
  - 7 ha wetland



# Why Chat Moss (1)?



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Peat extraction for horticultural use since 1961
- Three large sites on Chat Moss
- History of ignoring planning conditions
- Extraction sites offer the best potential for restoration to lowland raised bog

# Why Chat Moss (2)?



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Planning Permission expired Dec 2010
- LWT would like to restore the site
- National case study
- Objective to stop peat extraction on Chat Moss

# Campaign Actions



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Rocking the boat
- Raising the profile
- Local to national
- Lobbying ministers
- Co-ordinating with others

# Rocking the Boat



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Calling for a full EIA
- Challenging the degree of enforcement

# Raising the Profile



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Presentations to councillors
- Articles in newsletters
- Local media
- Harnessing the volunteers
- Lobbying local MPs

# Lobbying Ministers



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Failure to meet targets to reduce peat use to zero by 2010
- Failure to recognise the significance of peat bogs for climate change
- Failure to update planning guidance

# Co-ordinating with others



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Resurrection of peat levy idea
- National action group – RSPB, TWT, NT etc
- Secured meetings with Richard Benyon
- IUCN Peatlands Inquiry
  - Carbon fluxes

# What would we like?



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Refusal of permission at Chat Moss
- Tough local policies enshrined in the Unitary Development Plan
- Clear national planning guidance
- Statutory protection for peat

# What did we get?



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Recommendation for refusal (Thursday!)
  - Open to appeal
- Very slow process for developing the UDP
- Planning guidance effectively abandoned
- No mention of peat in the NE White Paper
- Voluntary target to abandon use of peat by 2020

# Unauthorised peat milling at Chat Moss



17.06.2011 13:57

# Lessons for the future



Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside

- Can't ignore the national context
- Co-ordination and communication
- Role of Statutory Agencies