

# TRANSITION TOWN TONBRIDGE:

THE STORY SO FAR

# TRANSITION TOWNS

- *What is a Transition Town?*
- A town which takes responsibility for dealing with the implications of climate change and Peak Oil.
- Details of how other towns are doing can be found at:  
<http://www.transitiontowns.org/> There is also some group activity on Facebook concerning Transition Towns.
- There are 70 official Transition Towns in Britain and a total of over 600 communities globally have joined this

# What would a Transition Town Group Do?

- Film shows on peak oil and climate change (see handout)
- Develop appropriate policies for our area with clear targets for at least a 20 year period to change the of the Council, our public and private enterprises and household behaviour.
- This means creating an ENERGY DESCENT PLAN, with working groups preparing detailed policies to mitigate climate change, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

# THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING

- **Climate Change is occurring because human beings are adding to the natural greenhouse effect by putting more greenhouse gases into the environment – mainly:**
  - **CARBON DIOXIDE**
  - **METHANE**

# EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY USE - COAL



# EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY USE - TRAFFIC



# FEEDBACK

- **Temperatures and carbon dioxide and methane levels have risen steadily since 1970, breaking with previous normal patterns of climate fluctuation over the last 650,000 years**
- **This is creating FEEDBACK: soils are releasing more carbon dioxide, the melting tundra of North America and Siberia also releasing more methane**

# OIL SUPPLIES WILL PEAK



# PEAK OIL – NOW?

- Estimates of the global peak of oil supplies are mainly 2006-2012: which explains the hasty rush towards land-hungry biofuels, and contributes to higher energy bills
- Moving people and freight without oil requires rapid technological change
- The price of oil is beginning to prompt change, but very slowly

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

- **Play an active part in Transition Town Tonbridge – see handout**
- **Cut car use as much as possible – especially for short journeys**
- **Avoid flying as much as you can – fastest growing area of emissions**
- **Take most or all of your holidays in the your own country or region**