

The devastation of Armada Way, where, on March 14th, 110 mature trees were chopped down overnight by agents of Plymouth City Council, has shocked Plymouth and gained national interest from media and environmental activists. The High Court hearing on 24th March won a reprieve for the 19 remaining trees, but the battle continues for their survival and the future redevelopment of our city centre.

Democratic Crisis

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Ali and Mark and the STRAW campaigners, writes *Tony Staunton of Plymouth Climate Council*. And there are associated issues that must continue to be confronted. Firstly, the low level of understanding and lack of priority given to the declared Climate Emergency is weak if not simple lip-service by Plymouth Council. And vitally, the lack of democracy presented by executive orders and political party "games" gives evidence of the need to take back control and assert the will of the people into all decision-making.

Take Back Power!

Various individuals and parties are pledging fresh alliances to reassert democracy in the May local elections. But we have to consider the current structures that need wholesale change. Suggestions for Citizens Assemblies have been shunned by those likely to gain control next month. What we have seen is a condition of local "dual-power" created by the STRAW campaign, and this needs to be transferred into a participatory democracy - a Climate Council of delegates from all local groups, routinely scrutinising official decisions and holding them to account in this climate emergency. Whose streets? Our Streets!

"Climate Jobs: Building a workforce for the climate emergency" provides a detailed and in-depth update of the One Million Climate Jobs report, demonstrating that there are many more than a million good, well paid, skilled jobs that could be created if we get serious and urgently tackle the climate emergency, as the science demands. Get it online free or hardcopy £5.



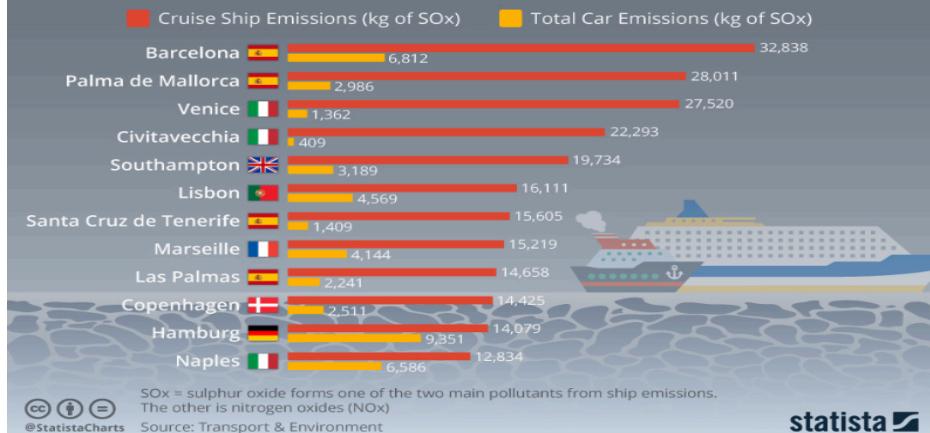
Cruise Control!

The MS Rotterdam is due to drop anchor in the Sound for 8-hours on April 16th, bringing 2,668 passengers to see Plymouth, the diesel engines choking the Sound. With the city centre devastation, half-finished buildings and boarded-up shops abandoned to bankruptcy, and road works maintaining traffic chaos, we're not sure what they're expected to admire. The government is now seeking to recommission old cruise ships as detention centres for refugees.

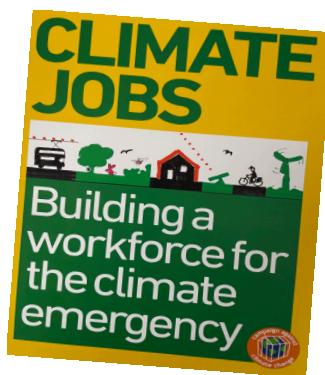
Climate activists will be on the Hoe to protest against cruise ships, the MS Rotterdam being the first of ten expected this summer. Most crucially, cruise ships burn the most filthy of fossil fuels, spewing CO₂, sulphur oxide and nitrogen oxide as a toxic mix of greenhouse gas emissions and carcinogenic particles across our City and beyond. In this era of climate catastrophe and ecological destruction there can be no rational or reasonable argument in favour of these ships. They have to go.

How Cruise Ship Pollution Compares To Cars

SOx emissions from cruise ships and cars in European port cities in 2017 (kg)



The Campaign against Climate Change is supported by leading trade unions across the UK. In Plymouth we are part of the Plymouth Climate Council and supported by the Plymouth Trades Union Council. We organise for a sustainable future with climate justice, building Solidarity between climate and trade union activists.



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