CAMPAIGNING IN THE UK

John Stewart

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Campaigning on transport issues for 30 years

30 years ago!

John Stewart – today

- Chair of AirportWatch national network of groups opposed to airport expansion
- Chair of the Heathrow coalition which stopped a 3rd runway

Opposing Road Building in London

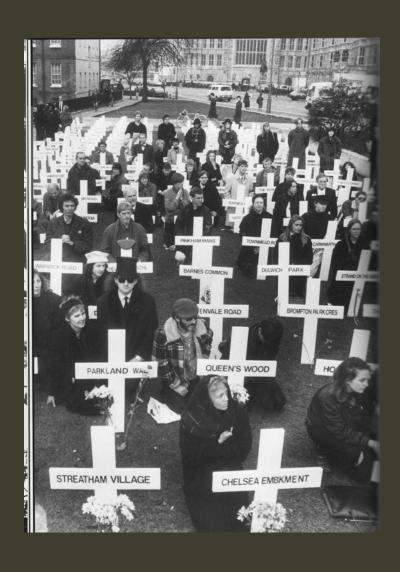
 1980s - Government had 15 billion euro plan for motorways in London

The 'road building lobby' was very powerful

But we defeated them for the first time

- We were a united coalition of 250 residents' and environmental organisations
- We put forward alternatives public transport, walking and cycling
- We used unconventional methods of campaigning

Unconventional Methods



Opposing Road Building in the UK

- 1990: 30 billion euro national road building programme planned by Government
- The biggest road building programme in UK history: 600 road schemes proposed
- 1997: Government forced to drop nearly all the road schemes; only 150 left
- We won again!

- 1. A coalition of over 200 residents' and environmental groups
- The importance of national environmental organisations working with local residents' groups

- 2. We made solid academic and economic arguments against road building
- We were able to put the Government on then defensive by making these arguments.

- **3.** We used unconventional methods, including civil disobedience
- This attracted much media attention and put the Government on the defensive

Unconventional methods



We Became a National Movement

"Protesting about new roads has become that rarest of British phenomena, a truly populist movement drawing supporters from all walks of life." The Economist, 1994

Policy Was Changed

□Roads are still built in the UK

■But new roads are no longer seen as the answer to mobility problems and prosperity

■Major campaigns can change policy

Heathrow Third Runway

- **2003: Plans for a third runway at Heathrow**
- The big prize the all-powerful aviation industry wanted
- Major campaign launched
- 2010: New Government scraps plans for new runway

The Campaign's Tactics

Same as before:

Coalition

Make the arguments

Unconventional campaigning

We became a Movement

"The coalition assembled is extraordinarily wide. It runs from radical eco-warriors to middle-class mothers in west London, hedge fund managers in Richmond, to pensioners and parents in Brentford." Daily Telegraph, 14/1/09

Policy change: New Government drops all new runways and invests in high-speed rail

Gracias!

