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News in brief

Campaigner forced out

A housing campaigner whose legal challenges held up a controversial road-widening scheme has finally been forced from her home.

Elizabeth Pascoe's house is one of about 400 Victorian terraces due to be flattened under Liverpool's long delayed Edge Lane project.

The first three phases were completed without many problems but part four, Edge Lane West, was beset by delays as Pascoe's group Bevel fought a compulsory purchase order through two public inquiries and several High Court appeals, before finally losing its case.

Those behind the £350 million project say the demolitions are an essential part of transforming the corridor from the M62 to the city centre into an "urban boulevard befitting a major European city".

In return, Kensington, one of England's most deprived areas, is promised 290 new homes, environmental improvements and a health centre.

Pascoe took on the authorities – arguing that there was no need to demolish homes 100 metres back from each side of the road.

The former architect, who is



Pascoe outside the home she has just left. Photo: Ciara Leeming

disabled and managed to get legal aid, said: "This scheme's about profiteering at the expense of a poor community who can't or won't fight back."

The original CPO, brought by English Partnerships, was quashed following an appeal by Pascoe's lawyers.

A judge ruled that errors had been made during the confirmation process, and an almost identical order was brought the following year. By the time the second public inquiry took place in 2008, the city council owned more than

300 of the properties.

Bevel finally lost its court challenge last year, and Pascoe has been forced to leave her house on Adderley Street and move a few miles away. Soon, the bulldozers will obliterate her old neighbourhood.

Pascoe said: "Because they trusted me, because they thought they had a chance, people hung on, and I feel bad about that."

"I know the harm this has done people."

CIARA LEEMING

asty stuff

International Panel on Climate Change, showed that climate scientists were trying to use their influence to suppress information.

"Unfortunately, there was some nasty stuff going on. It became a two tribes things – just a war where they didn't care who was right or wrong," said Pearce. "The dispute was actually about measuring how much global warming there's been, and how reliable that measuring process is, about how reliable it was to build a record

of past temperatures through things like tree rings. But the basic science of global warming is sound and the evidence about how much warming there's been is pretty robust."

Pearce has some sympathy for Jones but added: "I'm not a climate change sceptic, and some of these scientists I've been dealing with and writing about for years. But science has to open up. In the age of the internet and freedom of

"There were some malicious people using this material."

information, there is a much greater ability for people outside science to engage.

"Scientists must get used to the idea they'll be under greater scrutiny and open to criticism."

A recent BBC poll found that 25 per cent of people no longer believe in global warming. Pearce said the emails could be one reason for the drop.

"But I've been writing about this for 25 years. We know greenhouse gases are

accumulating because we're putting them there. We know the world is warming."



ADAM FORREST

HAITI CHARITY MATCH

Greater Manchester Police's Week of Action in Openshaw will include an afternoon of activities on 24 February, including a smoothie bar, sports day, tug of war, raffle, graffiti artist, and charity football match. Ricky Lockett, 14, currently on the Nacro Youth Inclusion Project, organised the match between young people and police officers to raise money for Haiti. The match is at 5pm, at Sporting Edge, Droylsden.

MERSEY TUNNEL ABSEIL

Christian Aid is organising a Mega Mersey Abseil in Birkenhead, where adrenaline junkies will abseil 50 metre down the Mersey Tunnel ventilation shaft. The event aims to raise £10,000 to fight global poverty by asking participants to secure sponsorship. Hollyoaks actor Junade Khan is endorsing the event, adding: "Christian Aid does some amazing work." To find out more or take the plunge on 27 February, visit www.christianaid.org.uk/events.

FREE STARS LECTURE

Café Scientifique is a free event at Halifax's Dean Clough featuring a talk by Dr Paul Ruffle, research fellow in astrophysics at the University of Manchester. Dr Ruffle will explain how stars form, evolve, synthesise elements that make life possible, and die, showing fascinating images. How I Wonder What You Are: The Birth, Life And Death Of Stars is at 7:30pm on 24 February in Viaduct Café. See www.paulruffle.com.

LOW CARBON FUNDING

Cheshire village Ashton Hayes has secured government funding worth up to £500,000 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Low Carbon Community Challenge, a two-year investment helping 20 communities become carbon neutral. The funding will transform the village school into a mini renewable energy power plant. Ashton Hayes has been striving for carbon neutrality since 2006 and has previously received funding from DEFRA.