

Wiltshire Council

Council

26 February 2019

From Bill Jarvis

To Councillor Jerry Wickham, Cabinet Member for Adult Social care, Public Health and Public Protection

Question (19-2)

Statement and Question by Bill Jarvis on Motion 12b,
“Acknowledging a Climate Emergency and proposing the way forward”

Chair and Councillors

Let me set the scene;
in the 1980s a small group of climate scientists, working for the oil majors, realised that burning fossil fuels was having a dangerous impact on the climate. This information was suppressed, and worse.

Over the next almost 40 years, more and more evidence was gathered and, against significant resistance, actions have been taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, the evidence shows we are failing big time.

Move on to October 2018; the International Panel on Climate Change issued another report on the impacts of greenhouse gases on the planet.

This time it's a stark warning; if we don't stop the increase in the next 12 years, we won't keep global warming under 4 Deg.

Early in 2019, at the annual Davos meeting, new warnings were issued that the world is now likely to see a temperature rise of 1.5deg by 2025 and that this, in itself, will be enough to break the 2deg limit set in Paris by 2030.

The Earth is now gripped in a climate crisis never seen at any time in the past.

Climate change knows NO borders

We are already in a Climate Emergency.

The crisis is real, getting worse and it's frightening.

Central Government is doing nothing and is paralysed by Brexit, so people are turning to their local representatives to solve this problem.

We, the people of Wiltshire, urgently need your help and commitment to do our part in addressing the problem.

Councillors Brian Mathew and Gavin Grants Motion both acknowledges the Climate Emergency and proposes a positive way forward.

It's comprehensive, providing clear reasoning as to why we are in a Climate Emergency, considers the implications and the fact that this emergency is beyond politics.

Finally, it proposes a clear set of measurable actions to achieve the goal. It must be supported by this Council.

will you confirm:

- **That, as Councillors are not experts, they will be supported by expert advice and guidance in their journey,**
- **That you will consult widely with people and all businesses in the County,**
- **That you will join the growing network of Councils who are declaring Climate**

Emergencies throughout the country, sharing knowledge and solutions

If you ignore the evidence and take no action you will be as guilty as the likes of Exxon, at present in court trying to defend the indefensible about hiding their knowledge of this problem in the 1980s

We're all involved in the causes of climate change and, if we do not ALL act NOW, we are complicit in the destruction of life as we know it.

Response

Notice of Motion 15 on today's agenda from Cllr P Whitehead and Cllr J Wickham on the Environment and Global Warming demonstrates that this administration takes very seriously the evidence for Global warming and the threat this poses to society. The motion proposes working collaboratively with scrutiny through the Environment Select Committee and sets out eight parameters around which to review the evidence and shape future council policy. We will of course consult widely on future Council policies with both individuals and business organisations. We will ensure that scrutiny is able to access expert witnesses so that all elected members can understand the science and evidence."