

**Wiltshire Council**

**Environment Select Committee**

**13 January 2021**

**Agenda Item 11 – Report of the Warming & Climate Emergency Task Group (Part Two)**

**Statement from Christian Lange – Wiltshire Climate Alliance**

**Statement**

I am writing as a member of the Steering Group of the Wiltshire Climate Alliance which now has over 300 members and 30 associated interest and community environmental groups across Wiltshire.

I have now had time to review the report of the Global Warming and Climate Task Group reports (Both part 1 and 2). I would like to start by saying that the all the Task Group members and in particular the report author, Simon Bennett should be recognised for the immense amount of work that has been put into this report and they should all be congratulated for their efforts. The report is well put together and clearly draws on scientific evidence.

I am writing to the Select Committee to remind them that this is not the time to compromise on measures that need to be taken to address climate change and that some very tough and sometimes unpopular decisions need to be made. The consequences of failing to make these important decisions are clear to see and the pathway to getting us to where we need to be is detailed in the Task Group's reports. Present and future generations will look back in horror at leaders who fail to take action to put in place measures that will reduce carbon emissions.

I fear that we are already seeing signs that some elected members still do not understand the urgency of the issue and are seriously still considering the plan to build houses in locations that will lead to increased use of private cars. I still fail to understand the logic of allowing the building of homes that are not carbon neutral. Some politicians may argue that homes need to be 'affordable' but fail to recognise that running carbon neutral homes that will not require retrofitting in the near future ARE more affordable in the long run.

I would also urge the Select Committee to do all they can to ensure that plans for the Westbury Incinerator are NOT approved as research has shown that it will increase carbon emissions in Wiltshire by 15%. An approval to build the incinerator at a time

when the council have committed to making Wiltshire Carbon Neutral by 2030 would be clear evidence that Councillors fail to understand the issues surrounding climate change. We hope that the select committee will be able to use their influence to ensure that decisions that fully recognise the climate emergency are taken.

Wiltshire Council seems to be heading in the right direction and the production of these report along with the fact that a Carbon Reduction team has now been recruited is evidence that would support that impression. It is only by adopting all of the recommendations detailed in the Task Group reports that it will truly demonstrate that it is willing to take effective action. This is not the time to fudge the issue.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this statement.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Lange

Wiltshire Climate Alliance.