

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COUNCIL HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2020

Item 9: MOTION - DERBYSHIRE DALES CLIMATE HUB QUESTION

QUESTION from Wendy Bullar, Resident

The Derbyshire Dales Climate Hub (the Hub) is made up of Dales residents who are concerned about the twin crises of the climate and the decline of the natural world. The Hub congratulates the District Council on its progress in addressing the Climate Crisis. The authority has developed a detailed Action Plan with an estimated budget of £2.7m, and in a move keenly anticipated by the wider community, will soon appoint a new Climate Change Officer.

Despite this progress, the magnitude of reducing millions of tonnes of CO₂ across the Derbyshire Dales year on year is a task well beyond the capacity of the District Council as a sole actor. While the community and commerce will clearly wish to play their part, some of the 'heavy lifting' in policy and funding terms must be accepted by central Government. The Hub is asking the Council to support the CEE motion and to use its utmost influence to encourage our constituency MP, Ms Sarah Dines, to take this same message to central Government. If the CEE Bill is enshrined in law, it will provide the powers and resources necessary to make the net-zero carbon target and nature's recovery possible.

The Government's Ten Point Plan for the climate emergency sets aside a budget of £12bn for renewable energy, nuclear power and countryside restoration. The Government's own estimate is that the plan will save more than 180m tonnes of CO₂ emissions during the period 2023 to 2032. However, this is only slightly more than half the UK's current annual emissions.

The respected journal The New Scientist has said that the Plan represents a very positive step. However, if the government wants to be taken seriously as the host of this year's vital Conference of Partners (COP) 26 International Climate Summit, the Plan needs to be the first of many big moves by the UK.

The CEE bill represents that Big Move. It will ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C (alarmingly we are not even on track to limit rising temperatures to 2°C). It will take account of the UK's entire greenhouse gas footprint. It will actively conserve our natural world by mitigating the damage to nature caused by our vast supply chains.

Communities, Councils and Government must all work together to take concerted action towards far-reaching cultural, technological and environmental change. Otherwise, we will be heading towards a tipping-point with unknown consequences for present and future generations. The CEE Bill will be brought to Parliament in March for its second reading. Once ratified by legislation, the CEE Bill will be empowering. It will be a significant move towards a robust green recovery plan while restoring and protecting wildlife, nature and soil health. It will offer new funding to benefit cash-

strapped local authorities which are currently unable to meet public expectations for a post-pandemic green recovery and climate resilience.

I am asking the Council whether it will be prepared to safeguard future generations in the Derbyshire Dales community by supporting the CEE Bill? It would signal to our MP that the UK is a standard-bearer for serious climate and ecological action on the world stage and will be worthy of presentation at the (COP) 26, to be held in Glasgow in November.

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question. The issue of the CEE Bill is the subject of a motion to be debated later on this agenda. I can't pre-empt the outcome of that debate, but it will be interesting to hear the views of Members on the matter.