

Towards a Zero Carbon South Brent: Declaring an Environment and Climate Emergency

South Brent Parish Council
20/05/2019 (Agenda item 29-2)

John Rawlinson
on behalf of Sustainable South Brent



Context

- Greta Thunberg: “You did not act in time”
- School Strikes for the Climate
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on Global Warming
- Extinction Rebellion protests
- David Attenborough: ‘Climate Change: The Facts’ documentary in April 2019
- IPBES report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in May 2019.
- Parliament declared an Environment and Climate Emergency on 1st May 2019.



South Brent

Parish Plan 2016+

“The community will take steps to sustain itself, socially and economically and with opportunities for all who wish to make their lives here. This will include affordable and environmentally friendly homes to enable families and individuals with low to moderate incomes to continue to live and work within South Brent. It is also about our broader impact on the environment, which in turn impacts on us, economically and socially. We will play our part in the global efforts to mitigate climate change and resource scarcity, in ways that are compatible with the need to maintain and improve the quality of life in the community for all. We will therefore include locally produced energy solutions such as hydro, wind and other renewables, encourage more domestic recycling and in so doing strengthening the local community and protecting the long term economic, social and environmental health of the village.”

Carbon Reduction: “Work to assess the Parish’s carbon footprint and identify and incentivise a programme to reduce it to an agreed series of targets compatible with UK goals and the need to achieve sustainability across the community.”

Environment & Renewable Energy: “Identify opportunities to protect the local natural environment and minimise negative impacts to ensure that a healthy and vibrant natural environment underpins the quality of life and health of the community. Support community and household renewable energy projects that complement our distinctive environment. Locally owned renewable energy schemes will support the local economy and provide job opportunities, reduce the reliance of fossil fuels and cut carbon emissions. Reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency. Provide help in reducing fuel poverty and the carbon footprint of the community and to reduce domestic and commercial water consumption.”

- ERE 1. Encourage and commission surveys to record and monitor wildlife, and management plans to promote and sustain our natural environment and biodiversity.
- ERE 2. Encourage domestic, agricultural and industrial renewable energy use. Raise awareness of the benefits, and encourage the inclusion of such systems in new buildings. Support for community owned renewable energy generation schemes and social enterprises. [SSB]
- ERE 3. Encourage and promote energy schemes which reduce the carbon footprint of the parish, including retrofitting, the collection of rain and waste water for garden and grey water usage. Support local micro-hydro schemes where appropriate. [SBCES; SSB]

Traffic & Transport: “...maintain recent improvements in public transport serving South Brent and a reduction in the need for car usage to encourage other means of travel, to minimise the need for individual car use and thereby reduce congestion and the community carbon footprint.”

- TT 3. Maintain, and where possible lobby to improve, public transport, local ring-and-ride services and develop community transport options [PC; SSB]
- TT 4. Improve the cycling experience: increase cycle walk lanes; shared use signage, develop SB bike bank project; e-bike charging points. [SSB]

Housing

- H 3. Favour planning applications which provide sustainable and energy efficient housing using sustainable materials and renewable technologies [PC]



Zero Carbon South Brent

Sustainable South Brent has created a Zero Carbon South Brent sub-group and will now look to pursue further local measures/projects that help to reduce the carbon footprint of the parish as a matter of urgency.

SSB Trustees urge South Brent Parish Council to discuss any measures that they can take to recognise and mitigate against climate change and loss of biodiversity, and to declare an **Environment and Climate Emergency** (as has already been done by [Devon County Council](#) (February 2019) and several other local parishes and towns including [Totnes](#) (December 2018), [Buckfastleigh](#) (March 2019), [Rattery](#) (pending).

SSB would welcome the opportunity to help establish a meaningful form of words for the declaration and to work alongside the Parish Council to reinvigorate joint work streams already in the Parish Plan with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

By declaring an Environment and Climate Emergency SBPC would

1. Pledge to do whatever is in its power to make South Brent carbon neutral by 2030
2. When making other decisions, including planning decisions, take into account the effect on the progress towards the carbon neutral target and increasing biodiversity
3. Where necessary consider a partial diversion of funds to reinvigorate the actions in the Parish Plan that help achieve the target
4. Place this issue on Council and Committee agendas to agree strategies and action plans
5. Work with other local authorities, neighbouring local councils, appropriate government departments and other organisations to determine, implement and deliver best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels
6. Regularly review progress, taking action on recommendations to address this emergency
7. Explain and inform people in the Parish and beyond through the Newsletter and the website, about the implications of the emergency, about the measures we are supporting, and actions individuals can take themselves to mitigate the crisis
8. Support the SSB Zero Carbon Group and include an SBPC office/role to provide a link Councillor as point of contact

Devon organisations work together on a county-wide carbon plan

Devon County Council [bulletin](#) 16-05-2019

This week, our Cabinet agreed to set aside £250,000 towards encouraging organisations, communities and people generally to do more to reduce global warming.

Our Council Leader, [John Hart, would like to see a Devon Carbon Plan produced](#) that sets out how we are all going to reduce emissions, from the largest organisations through to committed individuals.

And also this week, Chief executives and Directors from nearly 20 public and private sector organisations in Devon have given their commitment to tackling the climate emergency.

They've [unanimously agreed to collaborate, committing each organisation to reviewing their own carbon reduction plans](#), and to work together on a Devon-wide carbon plan.

This is the first time that these organisations have collectively agreed to act now.

Declaration by Parliament on 1 May 2019

Resolved: That this House

declares an environment and climate emergency following the finding of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change that to avoid a more than 1.5°C rise in global warming, global emissions would need to fall by around 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero by around 2050;

recognises the devastating impact that volatile and extreme weather will have on UK food production, water availability, public health and through flooding and wildfire damage;

notes that the UK is currently missing almost all of its biodiversity targets, with an alarming trend in species decline, and that cuts of 50 per cent to the funding of Natural England are counterproductive to tackling those problems;

calls on the Government to increase the ambition of the UK's climate change targets under the Climate Change Act 2008 to achieve net zero emissions before 2050, to increase support for and set ambitious, short-term targets for the roll-out of renewable and low carbon energy and transport, and to move swiftly to capture economic opportunities and green jobs in the low carbon economy while managing risks for workers and communities currently reliant on carbon intensive sectors;

and further calls on the Government to lay before the House within the next six months urgent proposals to restore the UK's natural environment and to deliver a circular, zero waste economy."

[Hansard, 01/05/2019 column 318](#)