

## **Climate Change Energy Production**

### Parish Ideas

No mention has been made by the Parish Council of alternative means of producing energy other than condemning Nuclear Power Stations. These are much 'cleaner' than those generated by coal or oil, though admittedly very expensive to build. I see no mention of Wind Farms, which are being built extensively in other parts of the country, but hardly at all in West Dorset. The same goes for Solar Power stations which, though unsightly, could be built in strategic places out of sight of villages or towns.

The two options above will not produce all the electricity we need, so Nuclear Power is essential but could be kept to the minimum required.

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## APPENDIX 2

### **Litter on the A35**

The two mile stretch of the A35 between Cuckolds Corner and the Walditch turning lies within the Parish of Loders. Can the Parish be more proactive in clearing the appalling mess lying along the verges of this road. For most residents of West Dorset, and travellers through the area, this is the only part of Loders they see.

This is a local issue we could all do something about.

*I appreciate the work that has gone into producing this questionnaire, but how much of it is practical?*

In answer to the questionnaire, I put pen to paper as I feel some explanations might be helpful, and suggestions might be too. But first of all thank you for taking this initiative.

In November 2019, DCC's document on Climate Emergency was updated to a Climate and Ecological Emergency so that the protection and enhancement of Dorset's natural environment and wildlife biodiversity could also be considered in climate emergency mitigation work. It is appreciated therefore that the questionnaire's title follows on from that which is used by DCC in their draft 'Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy'. I wish however the ecological aspect was NOT included in DCC's doc and the questionnaire, and section 3 as it did not exist. The ecological aspect was added by DCC as an afterthought. It is a distraction from by far the most pressing issue that we all face today. Even from November 2019, we have been increasingly more aware of the dangers we face. If we do not concentrate on tackling climate change the natural world will suffer any rate. There is a considerable existing desire and capability dealing with our ecological problems. It is insufficient but at this time all resources ought to be directed to addressing climate change.

*"Right now, we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale. Our greatest threat in thousands of years... Climate Change" Sir David Attenborough*

However section 3 does exist and I have responded to it as well as sections 2 and 3!

What I would have liked to have seen is a section 3 entitled 'doing your bit' as set out Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Consultation, asking the questions that the Parish Council were asked - what residents might feel they can do now now to reduce carbon emissions.

I fully support the Parish Council urging the DCC as it does in a number of matters to be more ambitious. Promotions of good leadership will hopefully energised grass roots. The more public support there is for greener policies, the easier it is for planners to insist on greener policies. I hope members of the public can be persuaded to consider environmental impacts on their purchases – not to buy more than they need despite financial incentive offered. This especially applies to food, the waste of which as we know makes a huge contribution to climate change. Similarly, our tourism food providers might be persuaded to be reduced climate change impacts by offering meals that compete on quality, value and price rather than on quantity of food on the plate. If we all eat a little less meat, but not go vegetarian or vegan, farmers would still stay in business but the carbon foot print would be hugely reduced and that could be one of the best ways in which we could help increase our nature conservation assets. If we all eat a little less there are other important benefits too!

I think we must accept that the production of renewable energy should take precedence. We should not expect our inland coastal waters alone to produce the energy we need. We may have to degrade our AONB and village conservation areas with, for example, solar panels on buildings and even solar farms in our fields and wind turbines (they need not necessarily be huge) just as we have accepted pylons and telegraph poles. If some of our old and attractive homes have to be impacted then so be it. It is understood that Dorset's supply of electricity is being stretched and we will need more for our electric cars – so let's really press on with the production of renewable energy.

Anybody reading this may well think that it's alright for me living cosily in a lovely area with sufficient pension to enjoy life to pontificate on what others should do. Whilst I try to do my 'green best' I know I should and could do more. I think many of us are a little frightened to be seen to be green. It would be easier for all of us if we thought we were all trying a bit more and that taking individual steps towards reducing the impact of climate change was more publicly acceptable. Hopefully the questionnaire and subsequent action plans will go a long way to promoting the need

to deal with climate change as individuals which in turn will help the powers above to take the appropriate steps.

Good luck Parish Council, and thanks again.

### 1. Transport

- A. Unlikely to succeed – too complicated and there is generally reluctance for people from different households to mix and though the threat of Covid 19 recedes it will be even greater.
- B. A non-road route to Bridport? There is an existing fairly direct public footpath. A continuous bridleway/BOAT route would be beneficial. However achieving changes in right-of-way – engaging with the public and local authorities and perhaps enquiries and then the funding would take years?
- C. An increase in the number and friendliness of electric vehicle charging points is a good project subject of course to the ability to supply it and the provenance of it.
- D. Getting an appropriate bus service in the parish would probably be impossible. If taxis could be subsidised say once a week to carry out individual needs for the elderly and others without access to cars that would be a good service and increase the number of jobs for taxi drivers. Electric vehicles only of course!

### 2. Renewable energy

- A. Most important. PV and solar panels should be a compulsory part of new build. Wind energy should be harnessed even at the expense of a possible degrading the AONB here and there in the more appropriate places.
- B. I think we recycle very well generally and this is helped by the excellent collection service we receive and the excellent recycling centre we have. In the home I don't switch off electric facilities enough and perhaps others don't too but we might with some clever encouragement.

### 3. Natural assets

- A. It is believed that initially the organisations involved in the river project were there primarily to set it up and after a period of time hand it over to the community with guidance. It all seems a bit quiet due to Covid 19 probably. The river is such a wonderful feature for us residents but its water quality is good and I don't think this is a pressing matter.
- B. Investigating tree planting and bio-diversity improvements and formulating a community action plan is a good idea but again this will take time and energy which as far as climate emergency is concerned we have not got.
- C. Natural England and Dorset Wildlife Trust have already identified national and locally important sites in the parish. Maybe more exist but time to discover and designate them would again take time and energy away from dealing with the more important aspect of dealing with climate change.
- D. These policies exist and it would be good to draw attention to a summary of them but surely there has already been community feedback via structure plans?