

# **Loders Parish Council Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Draft Policy**

## **Why is this policy needed?**

Loders Parish Council formally adopted the Dorset Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in May. Many other UK town and parish councils have declared the same. Actions at a community level are recognised as a key element in successfully tackling this crisis. This draft policy is our first step to identify ways in which our local community can make a positive difference.

The climate and ecological crisis facing the world is unprecedented, and now is the time to act. This urgency has been widely recognised, with the head of the UN Antonio Guterres recently stating that humanity is heading 'towards the edge of an abyss'.

The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. Limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible, but it would take rapid and far-reaching action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities. It could also help build a fairer and more sustainable society.

Meanwhile the crisis in biodiversity is arguably more severe. In 2019, the international review of biodiversity by the UN, the IPBES report (compiled by over 450 scientists and diplomats), found 1 million species to be at risk of extinction. Nature is being destroyed at an unprecedented rate. As Greta Thunberg has said, "We are cutting off the branch we are living on."

Our children's future completely depends on what we do now.

## **How will our policy be implemented?**

We should like our policy to reflect the views of the whole community in Loders and Uploders. We will need to bring together the skills, experience and expertise of everyone in the parish, as well as to find out people's needs, priorities and interests to shape the policy.

Our first step will be to organise a public meeting.