

Richard Daniel

4 march talk to Banes on carbon management plan.

I talk as a member of the steering group for Transition Bath, and also as a father wishing the best for my children, as I am sure every parent does.

Do you believe in consequences of your actions? presumably you do because you have taken positions of responsibility. Well the consequence of burning fossil fuels is release of Carbon Dioxide [CO₂]. What was once stored carbon as oil or coal or gas is released into the atmosphere, and once released it stays in the atmosphere for decades. Now almost everything we do these days is dependent on fossil fuels, the food we eat, the computers we use, the cars we drive.

Well done for producing this document, it is a start.
I have read the proposal, it is a good start.

New Scientist last week said,
'A warmer world won't be just inconvenient. Huge swathes of it, including most of Europe, the us and Australian as well as all of Africa and china will actually be uninhabitable – to hot, dry or stormy to sustain a human population'.
'It could materialise if the world warms by an average of just 4oC, which some models predict could happen as soon as 2050'.
'So what are the alternatives? The most obvious answer is to radically reduce carbon dioxide levels now, by fast tracking green technologies and urgently implementing energy efficiency measures'. 'But the changes aren't coming nearly quickly enough.....'

A year ago if I had said to you 'this time next year the banking industry will had collapsed and had to be bailed out by the government' you would not have taken it seriously. I suggest that there are more voices now speaking out about climate change than there were about the banks.

The 3 points I wish to make are:

1 – there is an incredible urgency, it can not wait.

2 what is needed is to start transformational changes across the whole of society, this will take NI 186, not just NI 185. All else will be fiddling.
Change our live styles now voluntarily or we will be forced to later.

3- there are benefits – costs / health / social & personal well being

Highly insulated buildings will mean cheaper fuel bills.
If we all walk and cycle more there will be less obesity, healthier children, safer streets as more people are out on them.
Buying locally will support our local shops, jobs and suppliers etc.

Banes could be a vision for 21st century carbon free living.

The time for words over, it is now time for action, climate change is happening and will go

on happening anyway. There are many many people who will welcome & support this.
the government wants councils to set a lead,

. I have a request, more a demanded / plea, that you commit Banes to NI 186 by 7
December 2009, which is when the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen starts.

We can not wait 5 years for the NI 185 measures to take effect and then turn to the
everyone else

This will take courage and confidence, the data is there, now action.

I quote David Cameron

'Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing the world and we must have a much
greater sense of urgency about tackling it'.

Notes

Joint Science Academies statement : Global response to Climate change

<http://royalsociety.org/displaypagedoc.asp?id=20742>

There will always be uncertainty in understanding a system as complex as the world's climate. However there is now strong evidence that significant global warming is occurring¹. The evidence comes from direct measurements of rising surface air temperatures and subsurface ocean temperatures and from phenomena such as increases in average global sea levels, retreating glaciers, and changes to many physical and biological systems. It is likely that most of the warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities (IPCC 2001)². This warming has already led to changes in the Earth's climate.

Carbon dioxide levels have increased from 280 ppm in 1750 to over 375 ppm today – higher than any previous levels that can be reliably measured (i.e. in the last 420,000 years). Increasing greenhouse gases are causing temperatures to rise; the Earth's surface warmed by approximately 0.6 centigrade degrees over the twentieth century. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that the average global surface temperatures will continue to increase to between 1.4 centigrade degrees and 5.8 centigrade degrees above 1990 levels, by 2100.