

Statement to 10.10.19 B&NES Council

Thank you chair.

As a business strategist and policy professional, and as an active citizen concerned about the enduring wellbeing of this locality, averting climate and ecological catastrophe now drives all my activities.

So much so that in May 2018, I publically called on the Council, to raise its ambition, accelerate and scale up its decarbonisation efforts in the light of the irrefutable evidence surrounding the perils of current GHG emissions.

And I was delighted that 9 months later this Council declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030.

But the bigger challenge lies in delivering the pledge.

So, I have scoured this first progress report for signs that the Council can and will deliver on its March 2019 pledge.

In this it is promising that the resolutions before you tonight

1. Affirm that a contextual, iterative, collaborative approach is critical to solving the truly systemic problem we face
2. Set up a more effective and inclusive governance and communications structures to enable this
3. Commit to ensuring a just transition
4. Focus on buildings, energy and transport as major arenas for impactful action.

and I urge you to wholeheartedly adopt these resolutions.

But don't then sit back, for this is just the beginning!

It's incumbent on all of us in diverse ways to get on with

- Creating a new low carbon vision for our locality
- Finding and traversing new pathways for getting there
- Engaging in myriad conversations on this collaborative venture.

For we are in this climate and ecological crisis together, and it is by acting together, that we have most chance of getting get out of it.

And the sooner we do so, the better it will be for all of us.

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