

Notice of Motion – Rule 12

Councillor Gwynne will move that:

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1.2°C from pre-industrial levels and the natural world has reached crisis point, with [28% of plants and animals](#) currently threatened with extinction.

Unless we drastically change course, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's safe 1.5°C limit. Pledges like the Paris Agreement and updated emissions targets are not legally binding. The gap between pledges and policies leaves the world on course for catastrophic warming of [near 3%](#) (or more). As the [2018 report](#) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear, every half a degree makes a world of difference: severe climate impacts with 1.5°C of warming, such as extreme weather patterns causing flooding and heat waves, get significantly worse with 2°C. According to the IPCC's 2021 report, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still just be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.

The UK is [one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world](#) and more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline. As an example, we have lost [95% of our hedgehog population](#). The UK needs a legally-enforceable nature target so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery, in line with the [Global Goal for Nature](#) and the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#) .

Council notes that:

- I. Many local authorities are playing an important role in the UK taking action to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and to protect and revitalise local wildlife and natural habitats.*
- II. Parliament in May 2019 declared an Environment and Climate Emergency. This Council declared a Climate Emergency in the same year and has had a Biodiversity Action Plan in place since 2008.*
- III. There is a Bill before Parliament—the [Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill](#) (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”), which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure:*
 - A. **the ecological emergency is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis** in a joined-up approach;*

- B. the **Paris Agreement** is enshrined into law to ensure that UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement -1.5°C.
- C. the **Leaders Pledge for Nature** is enshrined into law to ensure that the **UK's ecosystems are protected and restored** with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;
- D. the UK takes **full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint** (ie consumption emissions plus shipping, flights and land-based transport) by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume;
- E. the UK takes **full responsibility for our ecological footprint** so that we protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and our global supply chains;
- F. an **independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly** is set-up, representative of the UK's population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the **emergency strategy**.

Council therefore resolves to:

- I. **Support** the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;
- II. **Inform the local media** of this decision;
- III. **Write an open letter to Kit Malthouse MP and Mrs Caroline Nokes MP** (shared with our residents through local and social media) urging them to sign up to support the Bill; and
- IV. Write to the [CEE Bill Alliance](#), (now known as Zero Hour), the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (joinus@ceebill.uk).

Councillor C Dowden will second the motion.