

8<sup>th</sup> January 2020



Dear Cllrs

I write on behalf of the Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN). As you may know, we are a collective of local environmental organisations that work towards making Basingstoke a cleaner and greener place to work and live.

We are heavily involved in planning and delivering the Basingstoke Green Week and are active in campaigning for action on climate change.

You, and your colleagues, are to be congratulated on declaring a climate emergency in the Borough and accepting the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 is laudable. However it is now time for action. Much of the carbon emissions from our borough are directly linked to our buildings and our transport. Approximately 70% of all of our carbon emissions come from these two sources.

Through the planning process we (as a borough, a county council and voters) have significant influence over how transport is developed and our buildings are designed and built. Planning policy is at the heart of the battle against climate change.

Our current local plan was adopted in 2016 and will not be amended until 2023. We do have a supplementary planning document on Design and Sustainability; but that was adopted in 2017 and it only mentions climate change in 3 places.

Given the emergency we face, the need for urgent action, the impact planning decisions have on our carbon emissions and the slow progress in updating the local plan, we believe there is an urgent need for the Council to adopt an SPD focussed on responding to the climate emergency.

We would like to have an early meeting with you both to work out how such a document can be developed and adopted. BTN has a great deal of expertise in energy policy, climate change and campaigning and we would be delighted to work with you both in developing such a SPD.

To that end can you suggest some convenient times when we could meet?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Martin Heath  
On Behalf of BTN

Basingstoke Transition  
Working for a better Basingstoke  
Twitter us @ ecoBasingstoke  
Face Book us @ <<http://on.fb.me/pX8AHN>> <http://on.fb.me/pX8AHN>.  
<<http://www.basingstoketransition.org/>> [www.basingstoketransition.org](http://www.basingstoketransition.org).