

Motion 2 – To Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill

To be moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Brett.

Preamble:

Many Councils have declared climate emergencies in response to a special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change pointing out that ambitious action is needed to keep temperatures within 1.5°C.

The Environment Bill and other supporting legislation provides the context for government action on climate change but it has been delayed for a third time and will not now pass through Parliament until at least Autumn 2021. This is unacceptable given the urgency of tackling climate change.

In August 2020, the CEE Bill Alliance launched the campaign for the CEE Bill and presented it to Parliament.

The Bill sets out an emergency path for the UK to follow. It suggests the creation of a Citizens' Assembly that will contribute to the work of the Government in delivering a climate and ecological emergency strategy. Objectives of the Bill are to:

Ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C by:

- taking account of the UK's entire greenhouse gas footprint domestically and internationally, necessitating real action on emissions reductions; and
- circumscribing any proposed reliance on speculative future carbon capture technologies.

Actively conserve the natural world by:

- protecting and restoring the UK's ecosystems, with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;
- mitigating the damage to nature caused by supply chains, domestically and internationally; and
- accounting for the UK's ecological footprint.

This Council facilitated a Citizen's Assembly in the form of the Community Climate Action Forum. This will hold the Council to account on actions and proposals outlined in Lewes District Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

This Council did not declare an Ecological Emergency in July 2019; supporting the CEE Bill gives the Council the opportunity to publicly declare that it recognise the threats facing nature.

Motion:

We call on the Council to:

Lend its support to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill that was presented to Government on the 2 September 2020 as follows:

1. To welcome and supports the Bill and ask the Leader of the Council to write to all local MPs asking them to support the CEE Bill in Parliament and in public.
2. Where not already happening, to seek to align the Council's strategies (when new or reviewed) with the aims and goals of the CEE Bill.