

Questions:

1. The FoE analysis of progress on addressing climate change in different local authority areas across England and Wales (Dec2020) says that EHDC has made **average progress on addressing climate change**. Researchers at the Tyndall Centre say that East Herts should reduce its carbon emissions by **at least 13% per year**. What would be your priorities in reaching the HCC target of zero emissions by 2030?

One of our main strategies for meeting that all important zero emissions target in 2030 is by overhauling our out of date, struggling public transport system. With the high ticket prices and piteous number of busses, it is of no surprise that people are reluctant to use public transport. The fact that for many it is cheaper to use your car is an absolute mockery of our transport system. We would work to ensure public transport is affordable to all and convenient enough to be a genuine alternative to cars.

In addition to this, we plan to make our buses far less polluting, with an aspiration to move to electric vehicles in the near future. Much like Harlow Town Council, we plan to move to also convert council vehicles to electric cars. Schools and council offices can greatly reduce the amount of plastics, allowing for a more sustainable future. Schools must also teach the importance of green issues and how to protect our environment.

2. Transport is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. **In E Herts 43% of emissions come from transport**. Here in Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth congested roads and poor air quality (in particular at Hockerill and in Sawbridgeworth) have become the norm. What would you do to address this issue which is so harmful to the health and well being of the population here as well as to that of the planet?

As mentioned before, sustainable, affordable and reliable public transport is key to solving this issue. This would also help to markedly reduce congestion – something which had led to illegal levels of pollution in the town.

In addition to this, 20 mph zones would also reduce carbon emissions as well as making Stortford and Sawbridgeworth a safer place to live. More pavements and safer cycling routes would also greatly reduce congestion and carbon emissions, as well as encouraging healthy living.

3. **Home heating:** In East Herts **33% of emissions come from housing**, only 44% of homes are well insulated, individual gas boilers continue to be installed in the new developments in Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth. A detailed Heat Decarbonisation strategy is essential. What would be your priorities here?

While housing is an issues for East Herts District Council, Hertfordshire County Council still needs a clear strategy. There are various town and district by elections coming up and this issue is very

much on our agenda. The idea that gas boilers are still being installed in new build homes is absolutely astonishing. Incentives must be put in place to ensure our homes are greener.

4. **Biodiversity:** The recent report by the **Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust (Hertfordshire's State of Nature)** calls for **30% of land in Hertfordshire to be restored for nature by 2030**. How would you address this?

Once our greenbelt is gone, it will be near impossible to get it back. Yet developments after developments are being built on our greenbelts. We understand that people need to live somewhere but using brownfield sites spread across the county would be a much better alternative. In addition to this, rewilding must be a priority in certain areas. Planting more trees than we cut down is the very least we can do.