

Questions for candidates for HCC, elections May 6th 2021

Q1: The FoE analysis of progress on addressing climate change in different local authority areas across England and Wales (Dec 2020) 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?

- Address carbon emissions deficiency in council buildings such as roof, loft, floor and cavity insulation & where possible replacement of any remaining single glazed windows subject of course to planning limitations.(Planning already initiated for some)
- Increased lighting automation/motion sensors and time controls. Reconsider street lighting upgrades to LED and safety issues.
- We need to Promote greater recycling targets and progress
- Food waste management - ie.anaerobic digestion
- New developments - construction to exceed mandatory standards - BREEAM & promotion towards PASSIVHAUS.
- Implementation of LibDem 4year HCC tree planting target.
- Wildflower verges(rapid low cost) meadows and promotion of ecology focussed projects.
- Research increased use of wind power (mills/vertical helix)
- Water power / hydro river use, canal side ponds etc
- Reduce commercial tip charges and increase fines for fly tipping.
- School, voluntary contracts for recycling and litter prevention & further promote environmental education.

Q2: 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?

AQM is an exceptionally important issue that demands a multifaceted approach. With the rapidly increasing population here and the residents love/need for personal transport on roads running far beyond their intended capacity, we must discourage non-essential journeys, slow the moving traffic to minimise buffering and queues of idling cars and incentivise walking, cycling and low/zero emission vehicles. Further

reductions could result from increased work from home practice and improving the existing footpaths and cycleways Plus expanding the network available to users.

Q3: 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?

- Min cat A condensing boilers if no other viable option.
- Photovoltaics where viable and as detailed above,
- Progression towards BREEAM & PASSIVHAUS standards
- Support education & CC Projects inc. Charities towards sustainability.
- Ground /Air source heat pumps
- Community heating system upgrades
- Stored water runoff (Grey) inc. Use of permeable parking areas.

Q4: 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.

I would address this (following ecology studies) by varying mowing regimes, length/time/location, planting or seeding native trees and indigenous shrub species, implement occasional soil disturbance.

Other considerations would be to:

- Restore some natural wetlands, Restore waterways flow
- Utilise expansion "side" ponds by Locks & Bywash management
- Use Location appropriate species
- Only One side - waterways management

In addition, well-known options such as the following, warrant detailed consideration:

- Wildlife Corridors /links between Green Spaces
- Organic Maintenance/less Lawns
- Use a Native Plant Palette and Plant Appropriately
- Utilize Existing Green Space Connections
- Mindful of Non-Native Predators
- Encourage native predation species, birds, insects to destroy "pests"

In summary I don't claim to be an expert in these issues however I would strongly support policies that direct us towards more sustainable and future proof development.

I trust this answers some of your questions and look forward to consulting with you in the future.