

## Bishop's Stortford Climate Group – Local Elections 2023

### Colin Woodward, Independent

Colin has also sent us detailed comments in relation to the air quality issues at the Hockerill junction

EHDC has agreed a Climate Change Motion, which commits the Council to do everything it can in supporting the whole of East Herts District to become carbon neutral by 2030. Research by the Tyndall Centre shows that East Hertfordshire needs to achieve an average cut in carbon emissions from energy use of around 13.4% per year, through a rapid transition away from unabated fossil fuel use.

- *If elected, will you call for EHDC to reaffirm its commitment to its Climate Change Motion, review progress towards its target and strengthen its policies? **Yes, [at HCC I supported their Climate Emergency vote and the subsequent Action Plan]. I have long campaigned on improvements to AQMA's and attended the EHC meetings developing chapters on the current District Plan, making several interventions to toughen the content. I have proposed a nine point plan for Hockerill.***

EHDC needs to use its power as a local planning authority to drive area-wide net zero by 2030.

- *If elected, will you push for EHDC to undertake and complete, within one year of the election, a partial update of the Local Plan (LPPU) to require all new developments to be net zero? And to require net zero for domestic extensions when homes are modified? **Yes to updating and to seeking net zero where practicable within Planning legislation.***

BSCG considers that the EHDC/Cityheart proposals for regeneration of the Old River Lane site are not in line with EHDC's Climate Change motion. In particular, that demolishing the URC Hall and Charringtons House in favour of newly constructed buildings will result in significantly higher carbon emissions than refurbishing and reusing them.

- *If elected, will you push for a full review of the project to regenerate the Old River Lane site, to engage the community and deliver new and exemplary proposals fully in line with the Council's commitment to work towards carbon neutrality by 2030? **Absolutely. I have been a founder member of the core Friends of Water Lane Hall group that has been challenging EHC on its demolition proposals; funding surveys of the building and supporting a business plan for its retention as a community and arts venue as well as myself suggesting then helping secure its status as an Asset of Community Value, (also the Parish Poll). I have backed this with my local charity, Community Initiative (Bishops Stortford), to provide a financial vehicle if required given the limitations on BS Civic Federation, (also a FoWLH member). I have long advocated a pause on ORL rather than EHC pushing through a sub-optimal scheme due to its current finances. I also raised an FOI with the Herts LEP on the terms of its financial support to EHC for ORL. I attended and support the Better Vision as presented at the meeting at BSHS and signed the letter.***

In addition to the climate crises, we are also facing a collapse in our biodiversity, with unprecedented declines in the populations of many insect species. The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust are [calling for at least 30% of our land](#) to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030.

- *If elected, will you commit to enhance the management of parks and green space for wildlife, to continue 'No Mow May', and to develop green corridors throughout East Herts? **Yes, (pl also refer to my earlier email). Incidentally I'm the founder of Waterside Stortford (originally Stort Waterways Partnership); a long term trustee of Birchanger Wood; a member of the Lea & Stort Catchment Partnership, and a committee member/volunteer on Friends of Castle Park, (both environmental and archaeological teams).***

There is increasing concern about the impacts of pesticides on human and environmental health. The use of pesticides is also contaminating natural resources in urban areas that are increasingly important for wildlife. A number of local authorities around the UK have already made a commitment to [phase out pesticide use](#).

- *If elected, will you follow the Pesticide Action Network UK three-year phase-out plan for pesticides? **Yes. I am particularly keen as an active beekeeper.***